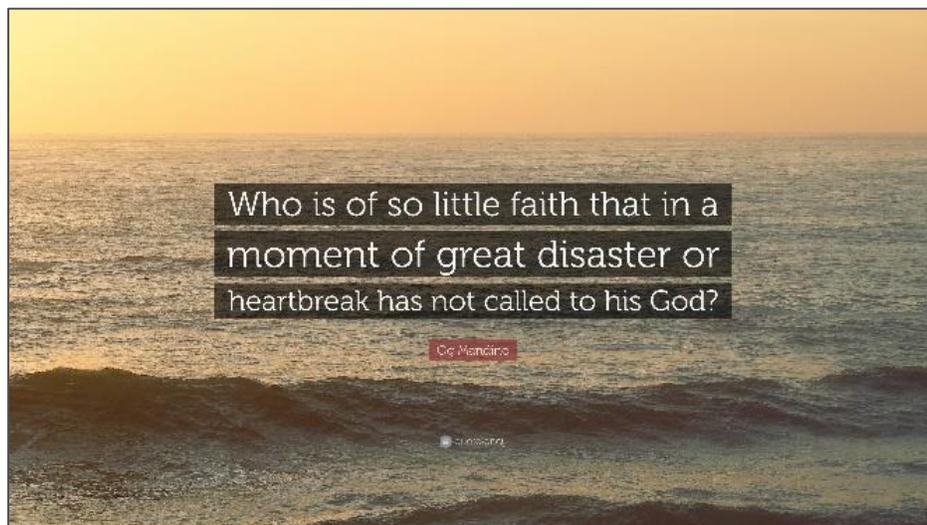


# Introduction

The longer I live, the more I wonder if I really understand the big three: Faith, Hope, and Love (1 Cor.13:13). Right now, God is convicting me about faith. It happens when I read the lives of others who seem so much more advanced than I am in these wonderful traits. The cloud of witnesses who surround me are indeed great, and the race they ran before me inspires me to trust God more-daily, precisely, intensely, expectantly, and humbly. Many who have gone before, and some among me as I live, have proven by their faith that the world is not worthy of their presence. Next to them I seem like a wimp. I am a light-weight. It is not that I do not lift often, but I wonder if I should graduate from the 10--lb. to at least the 20--lb barbells. Am I somehow blocking the testing of my faith, being satisfied with where I am? Do I even want to live a more faith-filled life, learning to depend on God for everything? I have it pretty good. My comforts and securities are never very far away. My little boat rarely goes beyond sight of land. I normally have a plan and can stay somewhat within it. But do I go in faith beyond the point of a plan, into the wilderness without my compass or chart, in simple reliance on Him? Do I go without knowing what is going to happen or how I am going to live? Must I always test the ground before I put my full weight down? Does God want me to live more daringly? Doesn't He want me to make rational and reasonable decisions showing myself to be a wise man? Does He want me to be more of a fool rushing in where angels fear to tread? Do I walk the beaten path too often and too far while missing the faith-adventure of the bush? I hesitate to even talk about how all of this is reflected in my prayer life! If my faith were judged totally on how I pray, I fear passing the test. Have I gotten comfortable walking by sight but saying it is faith? Do I need to become blind to be able to see? Do I even dare to ask God to increase my faith and help my unbelief? He might just take me up on that one.



# Reflection and Discussion



Do you ever, and if so how, struggle with faith, hope and love?

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Read Hebrews 11:1-12:3. Who do you consider to be in your cloud of witnesses, and why did you choose this person?

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Have you ever sailed in faith beyond sight of land? If not, why not? If so, when?

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What faith-challenge do you need to accept?

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Are you willing to pray right now for God to increase your faith?

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Memory Verse: Matthew 8:10

*“Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.”*