

Homily for Sunday 19 August 2017

by Rev. Enrique Granados

Associate Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Brothers and Sisters, God in his word invites us to reflect on our faith.

The faith we profess every day and what faith is that?

The faith of miracles

Faith of healing

The faith of problem solving

The faith of having a good job

The faith of having stability in the family

The faith of not going through difficult situations

The faith of living in a bubble of comfort and protection

The faith that bread is never missing on the table

The faith that everything works out

What is my faith?

Let's look at two biblical figures, Elijah and Peter. And we affirm that both obeyed the Lord because they had faith

What happened to Elijah?

He entered a cave on Mount Horeb and waited there to hear the Lord. And the Lord said to him, *"Go outside and stand on the mountain before the Lord, the Lord will pass by."*

What happened to Peter?

He said to Jesus: *"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."*

These two great figures but very different from each other, show us that faith is not for something simple and everyday, like wanting to remove a headache, but faith is for the impossible that can be for us. Like waiting on a mountain and experiencing a strong and heavy wind, and crushing rocks, was an earthquake, there was fire, but not tempt the Lord wanting to walk on the water, That is why Jesus says to Peter, *"O you little faith, why did you doubt?"*

Instead Elijah, after passing through tornadoes, earthquakes, fire, could hear the soft murmur of the breeze and praised the Lord.

What message can we have?

Faith is not to act according to our interests or needs, faith is to pass through the most difficult and impossible tests in many cases, faith is the certainty that God never abandons us, but prepares us to have that personal encounter (face to face).

So, every Sunday we profess our faith, and in what part of the profession of faith do you say and believe that God will work miraculously and fill me with so many blessings, that I will not go through the fire? Nowhere, right?

But if we says, I believe in God the Father, I believe in the Son who rescues me from eternal death, I believe in the Holy Spirit who leads me to the full truth, I believe in the Church community of Jesus Christ where he makes himself present, I believe in the Saints Who are blessed by the Lord after going through the fire, I believe that God forgives me because he loves me and his love is eternal and merciful, I believe in the resurrection of the flesh that is our hope and that is why we are not afraid of Death, I believe in eternal life. And then he says in greater words, this is our faith is the faith of the church that we rejoice to profess in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The question again: What is my faith?

St. Paul is very concerned about the Jewish community, because being the people chosen by God to put faith, becomes the most unbelieving people a people who still waiting for the fulfillment of the promise and salvation. But if Paul, today was among us and watched as we live our faith, I think that would double his pain. Because not only the people of Israel do not want to recognize Jesus Christ but also the church of Jesus Christ, it lives as if it were believing.

Today the Word of God invites us to work on the meaning of our faith, which is true, pure, unconditional faith and stop trying to God. I conclude with these words of St. Augustine, in his letter 120, 2.8. *The believer must believe what he does not yet see, but expect and love the future vision.*