

Friday, February 22, 2013

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

But I prayed, tithed, and did all the right things! What happened, God?

If you' ve walked with the Lord for any length of time, you' ve most likely heard well-meaning people talk about how if one gives themselves completely (money, time, and talents) to the service of God, then He will bless and protect them. The implication of these statements is that we might somehow obligate God to reciprocate our efforts. This idea is subtle and somewhat insidious, because it does bear an element of truth – God does honor and reward our acts of faith. We can sometimes fall into the trap of looking at our acts of service as some divine insurance policy that we can rely on to protect us from future catastrophe. When the hard times come, one who is immature in their faith and subscribes to this view can often have their faith shaken to its core, especially when they expected the Lord' s deliverance.

Hebrews 11 is often referred to as the “ Faith Hall of Fame” . We read of saints who went before us, and how they truly suffered in the face of doing all the right things. They were hunted down, tortured, and even killed for their faith. They were never able to cash in a “ divine insurance policy” , and instead suffered immensely right up to the time of their deaths. However, God never forgot them and He doesn' t forget us today. The faith of these early saints clung tenaciously to God' s promises, ultimately fulfilled by Christ. We must remember that God honor' s our faith, and, that our faith is to look forward to its fulfillment in Christ – a new life and new resurrection that may never be acknowledged in our life on this earth.

You are cordially invited to the following activities at CCCFW this weekend:

Friday (2/22) Bible study will be skipped due to the celebration of Lantern Festival on Saturday. The event will be held in the church (rooms 45A/B/C) from 4:30-8:00 p.m. , February 23 Saturday. There will be food, performance and lots of fun. Please come to join us.

Sunday (2/24): Worship starts at 10:45 AM. Brother Frank Yang will speak a message on “ Radical Illogical Faith (Hebrews 11:39-40). Julia Zhu will lead the worship; Cheu-jey and Shu-hui will be our ushers; Dong our interpreter. Children can attend the age appropriate programs at the First Assembly of God. Sister Nai-ce Sheng will be adult Sunday school discussion leader.

We look forward to seeing you this weekend!

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