



By Rabbi Moshe Wolf

"Having Faith Means Letting Go"

Standing on the streets one evening with a group of our troops, I was asked the following question. "Does G-d really listen when we pray?"

Also "How does one cope in trying times with the feeling of "I just feel like giving up". And I responded to the question, "Maybe it's time to have faith and let go".

Let me explain with a short parable....."Having Faith Sometimes Means Letting Go".....

A traveler walking down a lonely road was set upon a group of bandits who robbed him of all he had. They then led him into the depths of the forest. There in the darkness they tied a rope to the limb of a huge tree, and bade him to hold the other end of the rope.

Swinging him out into the blackness of the surrounding space [and not being able to see anything], they told him he was hanging over the brink of the very steep mountain. The moment he let go he would be dashed to pieces on the rocks below, and then they took off. His soul was filled with horror at the awful doom impending. He clutched despairingly the end of the swaying rope.

But each dreadful moment only made his fate more sure. His strength steadily failed. At last he could hold on no longer. The end had come. His clenched fingers relaxed their compulsive grip.

He fell — six inches, to the solid earth at his feet! It was only a ruse of the bandits, to gain time in escaping. And when he let go it was not to death, but to the safety which had been waiting him through all his time of terror.....

Clutching will not save anyone from their hopelessness. It is only a trick used by evil forces to keep them from being afforded security and peace in the solid promises of our loving G-d. And all the while you are swinging over the supposed precipice of fear and mistrust.

Having Faith Means Let go! It is G-d's plan that you fall — not to defeat, but into His arms, the solid Rock. As soon as you recognize your sheer helplessness and you're failing strength, you let go. And then you realize that true faith, true peace of mind comes not from holding on to a situation but letting go and having faith. But remember just don't misinterpret G-d assistance and gifts just because it came wrapped differently than you expected, like what happened during a recent rain storm.....

It had been raining for days and days, and a terrible flood had come over the town. The waters rose so high that one man was forced to climb onto the roof of his house.

As the waters rose higher and higher, a man in a rowboat appeared, and told him to get in. "No," replied the man on the roof. "I have faith in the Lord; the Lord will save me." So the man in the rowboat went away. The man on the roof prayed for G-d to save him.

The waters rose higher and higher, and suddenly a speedboat appeared. "Climb in!" shouted a man in the boat. "No," replied the man on the roof. "I have faith in the Lord; the Lord will save me." So the man in the speedboat went away. The man on the roof prayed for G-d to save him.

The waters continued to rise. A helicopter appeared and over the loudspeaker, the pilot announced he would lower a rope to the man on the roof. "No," replied the man on the roof. "I have faith in the Lord; the Lord will save me." So the helicopter went away. The man on the roof prayed for G-d to save him.

The waters rose higher and higher, and eventually they rose so high that the man on the roof was washed away, and alas, the poor man drowned.

Upon arriving in heaven, the man marched straight over to G-d. "Heavenly Father," he said, "I had faith in you, I prayed to you to save me, and yet you did nothing. Why?" G-d gave him a puzzled look, and replied "I sent you two boats and a helicopter, what more did you expect?".....

The moral of the story" G-d hears and answers our prayers", but the question is, "are we listening"?

Thanks to each of you for doing G-d work, our city couldn't do without you.

On behalf of ALL your Chaplains, may G-d bless you and keep you safe. Amen.

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