

## ARE YOU SURE?

2 Timothy 4:6-8 ... “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only for also to all who have loved His appearing.”

Our previous devotional was about tested faith. We said tests are important to be sure that when we really need strong faith, it will not fail us. Today I ask “Are you sure that your faith is enough?” If you can say “YES, my faith is absolutely enough. I am ready for whatever happens,” then your faith probably is enough. But, if you are not sure; if you say, “I hope my faith is strong enough,” or “I worry about that all the time,” then your faith may not be strong enough. In that case, you need to work more on your faith – study the Word, pray and listen to the Holy Spirit.

Today’s scripture is from a letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to his friend Timothy. Paul was a prisoner in Rome. He would soon be a martyr (the reference to his blood “being poured out”). His execution was “at hand.” No one had to visit Paul in prison to assure him he had done a good job and that he had been faithful. Paul knew that already because the Holy Spirit was reassuring him. Paul was able to say with absolute certainty that he had “finished the race” that Jesus assigned him to, which was planting churches and training pastors. Paul knew he had “kept the faith,” meaning he had never doubted God’s plan for his life and that God had always led the way before him. Paul is able to testify to Timothy and the millions upon millions of people who have read this letter after Paul’s death, that he will soon be blessed by God and called “righteous,” which is necessary to enter heaven. Lastly, Paul tells us that we, too, will have the same blessing when it is our turn to die...IF...we have welcomed Christ into our hearts and lives.

Are you sure your faith is enough to survive persecution? Millions of Christians around the world are persecuted and tested every day. Many die for their faith, refusing to bow to other gods or dictators. Others give up Christ to save their lives, which will assign them to hell when they die.

Even if you escape persecution and die a peaceful death, are you sure you will go to heaven? I’ve met people who think they are believers, but are unsure about their future. I must tell them that “If you are not sure you are saved, then you are not.” When you are saved, the Holy Spirit of God comes to live in your soul and minister to you constantly for the rest of your life. That is your assurance you are saved. If you are not sure about your salvation or your faith, you need to talk to God right now and confess your sins, ask his forgiveness, and then start walking the path he wants you to walk. That is the only way to be sure.

Copyright © 2019 Datu Wali Mission Foundation