A Leap of Faith!

Summary

What if faith isn't a heavy burden to carry, but the most natural, joyful use of the mind Yahweh gave humanity? This essay reframes faith as an active, hope-filled leap rather than passive belief, and invites readers to enjoy believing rather than merely enduring it.

- Faith described as "leaping" across the gaps between the known and unknown, the achieved and the pursued, sickness and health, sin and forgiveness, life and death.
- Faith framed as the mark of a truly "normal" person, since only mankind is gifted with the creative imagination needed to dream and pursue goals.
- The abundant life Yah'shua promised (John 10:10) presented as faith's natural fruit, not a reward reserved for the fearful or the timid.
- A practical, everyday approach to faith offered as a discipline any believer, student, or seeker can put into daily practice.

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A Leap of Faith!

Have faith! Enjoy having faith – it truly is a lot of fun! And it is so very simple to do!. . . "be renewed in the spirit of your mind" *(Eph. 4:23).*

What's the purpose of life anyway? Only to eat, drink, play, make love? Or do you have a mind, designed to dream? Can you imagine beautiful accomplishments? Think of this. Man is the only creature in the universe that has capacity for exercising creative imagination. This divine quality of dreaming – what you want to be, where you want to go, what you'd love to do, projects you hope to achieve, goals you'd like to reach – all of this makes us the most unique creatures in all creation.

We really are "made in the image" of our Creator! So you are fulfilling your destiny as a child of Yahweh when you dream the beautiful dreams Yahweh inspires in your mind. That's exciting! That's faith! Faith is dreaming Yahweh's dreams!

. . . "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" *(John 10:10).*

It's terribly important to understand that a believer is a normal person. Faith is in fact, the mark of normality. A persistently negative and cynical attitude is a mark of emotional illness – the results of unbelief, or "mis"-belief.

Birds are designed to fly. Fish to swim. Humans to live by faith! It is normal to have faith. It is abnormal to be cynical. When you practice positive belief, you are controlled by positive emotions – love, joy, courage, enthusiasm – faith! These are the qualities of an emotionally happy person; one able to think clearly, creatively, as he was designed to do. You were created to be a believer! That's why you feel so great when you are optimistic!

. . . "Delight yourself in Yahweh, and He shall give you the desires of your heart" *(Ps. 37:4).*

Faith is a choice not an argument. Faith is a decision, not a debate. It is a commitment, not a controversy. Faith fulfills a need in your heart. It can be defined as wanting more out of life. Everyone, even the super affluent, at some time or other, realize a void in their lives. We suspect that out there, somewhere, there is always something more. Where does this intuition for something more come from? It is built right into our very nature – man has been called an incurably religious spiritual animal – by instinct and by nature.

Wanting is believing and believing produces results – so be careful what you want – you'll get it! No doubts! Strong faith is the expression of deep desire. Likewise doubt is the lack of desire. A host of conscious and subconscious forces can keep you from wanting to believe. Fears of what Yahweh might do

to your life or in your life can keep you from wanting to believe. Internalized guilt can make the possibility of an Almighty, All Knowing God a threatening concept. Deep-seated negative emotions can kill the desire to believe, leaving you with a negative inclination to doubt. Having trouble believing? Well, why don't YOU want to believe?

Yahweh promises to bless the person who has strong desires. This is because in Yahweh's eyes, desire and faith are one and the same: "He shall give you the desires of your heart".

. . . "There lives more faith in honest doubt, than in half the *[religious]* creeds", wrote Alfred Lord Tennyson, in his "In Memoriam".

I find that many who have serious questions about the existence of Yahweh, want desperately to believe in something. Their probing inquiry and creative alternatives, reflect thoughtful doubt. Actually they are for the most part, far more responsible and serious in their pursuit of a "faith" – in something, or anything, than they realize. Even more so than those who blindly recite religious creeds without really daring to know or to explore the really tough questions.

Doubt can be a very positive force when we learn to doubt our doubts! And to have faith in our faith! It is apparent that the believer in Yahweh and His Word, has as strong of a foundation for a rational system of belief as does any doubter for his philosophy of irreligion he has fabricated or been victimized by.

If your doubts collide and clash with the viewpoint of faith, it is the better part of wisdom to believe the believer in you and doubt the doubter within you. Then you are on your way to a great life.

. . . "and when Yah'shua went out He saw a great multitude, and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick" *(Matt. 14:14).*

In the Broadway play, "The Man of La Mancha", Don Quixote was mocked and scorned for being such a positive thinker! Finally, in a splendid self-defense, he asks the ultimate question, "who is crazy? Am I crazy because I see the world as it could become? Or is the world crazy because it only sees itself as it is?"

Who is normal, the cynic or the believer? The positive thinker or the negative thinker? The man of Godly faith or the atheist? The despairing pessimist or the hopeful optimist? By now we all know the answer. We must affirm that health is normal and sickness is abnormal. That very basic value judgment is beyond controversy. Unbelief is a sickness, and skepticism is damnably dangerous. It gives birth to a multitude of spiritual demons that can destroy your mental health and spread an epidemic of despair wherever you go. As soon as you surrender to negative thoughts, you become host to an infectious spiritual disease and become the carrier of an epidemic of doom and gloom.

It is normal for a child to laugh and play and dance. It is not normal for a child to be downcast, to withdraw, or to sulk in isolation. It is normal to be a happy believer! Who is crazy? The realist or the idealist? Obviously, the beautiful dreamer, with his exalted visions of glorious possibilities, is the uplifting

force in society. He comes bringing solutions. He is the great problem solver. He is the great physician, the healing source, the hopeful friend. He follows Yah'shua the Messiah! He imitates the perfect example to the best of his ability and is proud of it! After all, it was commanded of him! His optimism is his faith, the faith that recognizes the value of being the very best you can be, which truly only comes from following the very best example that has ever been. And it is easy! You don't even have to work out any new ideas – just "imitate" what has already been perfectly done!

. . . "for I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says Yahweh, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" *(Jer. 29:11).*

Each new year is an appointment to become an authentic optimist. Each new day is justification for being enthusiastic about life. Each dawning is Yahweh's invitation to begin with the present moment, to make new and noble resolutions. Every day you have a standing appointment to meet new opportunities.

Faith is such a positive opportunity. It is a positive idea. A positive idea is the greatest power in the world. Godly faith opens your mind for Yahweh's thoughts to enter in. The most powerful positive idea is one that comes directly from the God who created you, who fathered you and who broke sunshine through the darkness of night.

You were created to think Yahweh's thoughts! You are set free, liberated, listening to the desires of your heart. Be excited about them – they are Yahweh's promised gifts to you! Be excited about today and be excited about your future – it is in Yahweh's hands! A truly rewarding knowledge!

. . . "show me your ways, O Lord, Teach me your paths, Lead me in your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation" *(Ps. 25:4).*

The walk of faith is an adventure. In the depth of your heart, you know with an unflinching certainty and with an invincible awareness, the course of action your life must take. This is Yahweh's answer to your purpose in life.

. . . "One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of Yahweh" *(Phil. 3:13,14).*

Faith is not merely thinking happy and holy thoughts. Faith takes the form of good and Godly goals. No act of faith is more dynamic, more constructive, than setting incredible goals! Ever notice how negative thinkers avoid setting goals? "Goals – who needs them? Or, I'll just wing it thank you. Or, I prefer to roll with the punches. I don't want to get trapped by a commitment, etc.".

Failure is not a matter of failing to meet your goals. Failure is in not making goals or in not making the most of your possibilities, seen and unseen, known and unknown, in the present and in the future! Use faith to set positive goals and you'll be sure to rise to higher plateaus – I guarantee it! You'll be happier,

healthier, wealthier and wiser! You'll be farther ahead tomorrow than today – even a little can turn out to be a lot.

Someone recently asked me why I most often seem to be happy and to see the positive side of things. My answer; "Because I've always got a lot of unfulfilled goals, just waiting to be achieved, and this pleasantly distracts me from anything I might otherwise worry about!"

If you use faith to set and strive for positive goals you will always inspire those around you. Imitate Yah'shua the Messiah! He inspired millions to believe Yahweh! What a positive goal! What are positive goals? They are the impossible problems just waiting to be solved by someone with this incredible and miraculous power called faith!

. . . "Go your way, and as you have believed, so let it be done for you" *(Matt. 8:13).*

We truly are a manifestation of our beliefs! Miracles never happen just through meditation, but by mighty action – the result of belief! Read carefully the words of Yah'shua and notice the verbs: "follow, go, seek, do, ask, knock". The walk of faith is not merely the serene, silent, spiritual, unspeaking stroll of a holy man in the stillness or silence of day. Faith is the mental activity that draws Yahweh into our mind and our imagination, until a passion inflames our will and motivates us into action!

It is then that commitments are made! What are commitments? They are entering into an honourable contract, pledging oneself to the task well before the problems are solved. Every commitment generates by definition, a new set of problems. If we waited for the solutions to the problems before we made the commitments, the commitments would never get made. This is not the walk of faith! It is for this reason that commitments in anything, in marriage, in fulfilling a project, in business, in family, in whatever, are self-inspiring!

. . . "I can do all things through Yah'shua the Messiah who strengthens me" *(Phil. 4:13).*

Faith is the inner conviction, the unshakable assurance, the profound knowing that becomes the reality before the event. It is what we choose to believe in before we can start to act as if it were true! It is a sense of destiny – of knowing you can. Walking by faith is knowing you can solve any problem!

. . . "so he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them – walking, leaping, and praising Yahweh" *(Acts 3:8).*

Faith is often a leap. How appropriate! How else could you possibly move from one place to another where there were no direct links? The healed man had no experience with standing or walking, there was no direct link, yet by faith, he "leaped" up, stood and walked!

Faith is leaping across the chasms that exist between the:

- known and the unknown

- proven and unproven
- actual and possible
- the grasp and the reach
- the I've got it and the I'll get it
- knowledge and mystery
- material and spiritual
- achieved and pursued
- sickness and health
- sin and forgiveness
- life and death.

Yes there are chasms between today and tomorrow. I cannot be sure I can cope with tomorrow, but by faith I'll leap into it with expectation. There is always a chasm between my present and my unfulfilled hopes and dreams, and by faith I'll make the leap toward their achievement – and grow – and have fun doing it!

I believe in faith, I believe in believers, I believe in hope for believers, I believe believers are happier and more fulfilled, I believe in Yahweh and I believe in fun-filled tomorrows.

I believe I am always in a leap of faith! And I have faith that you will be inspired to enjoy that same leap!

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