

# Polly's Pondering

## Faith's Response

The world answers back to our faith. It trusts when we trust it. It responds to our confidence. It says to the farmer, "Sow your seed"; to the aviator, "Spread your wings"; to the miner, "Sink your shaft" to the sailor, "hoist your sail"; to the engineer, "Swing your bridge"; to the scientist, "Trust your hypothesis"; to the financier, "Make your investment"; to the explorer, "Follow the gleam." Faith is man's highest venture. The poet Whitman puts it thus: "The steps of faith fall on the seeming void and find the rock beneath." It is a "seeming void" on which we set our faith; beneath us, however, is the unseen reality, and faith gives it substance. Hugh Thompson Kerr

Last Sunday we shared together the portion of the letter from Paul to Timothy in which Paul was expressing gratitude to God for Timothy and speaking a word of faith-seeking inspiration over him.

"I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. Therefore, I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

I am grateful for my mother, who, while greatly harmed by the church of her Father, allowed me still to seek and practice faith. She allowed me to answer Christ's call to follow him. And as Kerr stated above sometimes those "steps of faith fall on the seeming void." But those steps of faith have always lead me to a solid foundation upon which I have continued to build. That doesn't mean the path was easy, or without struggle, or disappointment. Faith takes courage. That in spite of the fear you might be feeling, you choose to move anyway.

There have been so many other women along the way who have encouraged me to keep moving forward and to stand firm when I might have chosen to turn and run. And for all of those people I am so grateful. They have reminded me to stir up faith. But this month of Mother's Day I am grateful for a mother who trusted in the rock behind the religions of man to let me move forward in my own faith journey. And I stand now on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ because she gave me the freedom to lean into faith.

And so I want to encourage all women to be encourages of one another, to share your stories of faith, to call the children and youth adults in your lives to stir up the faith within them. Remind them that even when everything around them would point to a "seeming void" that Christ, himself, is the solid rock on which they will find sure footing for the journey.

Let us pray this prayer of David found in Psalm 31 1&2

"In You, O Lord, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me. For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me." Amen