

TOTAL DEPENDENCE

Faith and Reason are two travellers who happened to meet and set off together. When they came to a deep river, Reason said, "I can never cross this." However, Faith rolled up her sleeves and waded through the river, all the while singing. Seeing Faith being successful in her crossing, Reason followed. When they reached a high mountain, Reason, like a child who can only muster enough strength to walk a mile, despaired of ever climbing over it. Faith simply threw Reason over her back and carried her.



Do you think that Reason is dependent on Faith?

At times I am like Reason, specially at the point of writing this article. I feel some anxiety and then I started going along my line of reasoning. According to logic, certain things will never work. Too hard, too tough, too much effort, it will never work...the list goes on and on. Soon, I began acting on my reasoning. To my dismay, I had acted before I prayed. I have not been totally dependent on God.

Once again, my reason interfered with my faith.

What did the bible say?

Ezra 8:22-23

22 I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to protect us from enemies on the road, because we had told the king, "The gracious hand of our God is



on everyone who looks to him, but his great anger is against all who forsake him.” 23 So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.

Ezra set a great example for anyone facing an unknown future. Before he led a group of returning exiles to begin their long trek back towards Jerusalem, they all **fasted** and **prayed** for a safe journey, trusting the hand of God to guide them. Indeed, it would be a great sorrow if they had prayed after acting on the plan of action instead of before. I am reminded that my prayers should not be an afterthought. I should continue acknowledging Him in all ways, that His Will, not my will be done. Prioritising prayer in my life should be a defining factor in preparing me in my faith journey. I am sure that He will guide me to my next step...and the next...and the next... that faith in Him will lead me to places where reason may not.

Through my reflections, I also noted that God moved the hearts of secular rulers (Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes) to allow, encourage and even help, the Jewish people to return home. He used these unlikely allies to fulfil His promises of restoration for His chosen people. Reading Ezra reminded me that in my journey, I have encountered unlikely sources of blessings. I am filled with wonder at how God can really work all things together for the good of those who are called by His name (Romans 8:28). Why has God made faith such an indispensable part of our journey? Perhaps it is so we will learn to be totally dependent on Him. Reason tells us to stay put. Faith calls on us to step out of our comfort zone. After all, with God, all things are possible. (Matthew 19:26).

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