

Confident in God's Character: He is infinite and immutable

By Major Phyllis Pease

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible, Hebrews 11:1-3 (ESV)

Recently, I read a story from “Preaching Today” that was written a few years ago, called, “Skier Trusts His Father’s Voice.” After I read the article, it stayed with me. The article reads like this, “Jacob Smith, is a 15-year-old legally blind freeride skier. Jacob has extreme tunnel vision—and no depth perception on top of that. What he does see is blurry. His visual acuity is rated 20/800, four times the level of legal blindness. Think of the big E on the eye chart. He would need it to be blown up four times to see it from 20 feet away.

So how does Jacob ski like this? His family keeps him on course. On competition days, Jacob’s little brother, Preston, patiently helps him hike to the top of the venue. It’s so high, the lifts won’t take you there. Then his father, Nathan, helps him get down. Jacob has a two-way radio turned up high in his pocket. His dad is on the other end at the base, somehow, calmly, guiding him down.

His father Nathan said: ‘It’s on me to make sure I don’t let him down. I must guide him through narrower chutes or not go off a cliff. Jacob is not reckless. He knows his limitations. I think he could ski anything on the mountain, but he’s not gonna try to do it by himself. Like, he wants to be with somebody he trusts. He won’t ski with people he doesn’t trust.’

When Jacob was asked how much he trusted his father, he replied, ‘I mean, enough to turn right when he tells me to.’

When I first read this story, I thought, “How amazing!” That thought was immediately followed by a conviction, “Do I trust my Heavenly Father that much?” To be honest, my answer would have to be, “Only sometimes.” It was a reminder to me that if a child can trust their flawed earthly parent that much, how much more should we, as children of God, COMPLETELY trust our heavenly Father; the Creator of everything, the only one who is without limits, the one who has no beginning and no end, who existed before all things, and

never changes. Because our God is all these things and more, He is the only one completely worthy of our trust.

Nobody likes to feel out of control. But, when we fully put our trust in God alone, we don't need to feel out of control because He's got us! Even when things do not work out according to how we think things should go, we can know that His way is better. Even when we can't see beyond, sometimes physical, emotional or spiritual pain, we can know and count on God's goodness and love. Because He is unchanging. As we are reminded in God's Word, in Malachi 3:6, "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed." And in James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

In whatever stage we are at in life, we can all flourish in our confident faith, because God is unchanging in who He is.