

TOUGH FAITH

By Verna Kwiatkowski. A Sky View poem.

Faith is always meant to be tough –
Made of strong, endurable stuff –
In contrast with faith inherently weak
That falters whenever times look bleak.

Faith that is tough here on the earth is our goal;
It's good for the body, the spirit, and the soul.
Rather than exposing those with faith that is weak,
Let's look at those with tough faith; let's hear *them* speak.

Job's faith was strong, right from the beginning.
Righteous and upright, faith kept him from sinning.
When Satan did his best to crush him to the ground,
Job almost caved in! Then God brought him around.

Tough faith is what Job had at the *end* of his ordeal,
When the rhetoric was over and his heart began to kneel.
No doubt after that who was first in Job's life!
He was God's dear servant, regardless of the strife.

Tough faith is the kind that Daniel's friends had.
Their circumstances were exceedingly bad!
Would they die in the furnace, or live to tell the story?
It didn't matter to them! Their faith gave God the glory.

Hebrews eleven lists name after name
Of people whose faith *still* brings them fame.
The challenges they faced are much the same today:
In a given situation, will we trust God and obey?

Tough faith is sufficient to bring God's people *through*.
It does not avoid the assignments that God gives to you.
It trusts the Lord implicitly, though it may not understand.
The love of God grows sweeter as we walk hand in hand.

The Bible gives an image of what God thinks faith is worth:
"The eyes of the Lord range throughout the whole wide earth
To strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."
God knows where we are, and will keep us from growing dim.

Just remember God is GOD, and people are people.
We may worship in a house, or in a building with a steeple.
We all need to humble ourselves before our loving Lord,
And God will lift us up, as he promised in his Word.

As he did with Job, Daniel's friends, and many others,
God will meet with us, my sisters and my brothers.
Faith that is tough brings praise to God, my friends,
And peace and joy to us! The Adventure never ends!

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