

Finding Faith ... A Search for the Holy

Sally Hamlin, Telos Whitfield & John Wright

On March 15, 2005, Whitfield, a third-year student, Hamlin and Wright, second-year students, organized and led one of the weekly Starr King chapel services. As part of that service, they shared some thoughts on faith contributed by students, staff and friends of the school.

Faith is the willingness to be whole, to embrace wholeness, to embody the Holy. Faith is an invitation, a window into the Divine. Faith is knowing you have to step off the cliff and doing it anyway. It is stepping into the unknown and letting yourself fall. Faith is traveling in the dark and feeling the touch of wings against your face. It is being willing to have a change of heart. Faith is hearing the world speaking to you, and listening. It is listening to all those voices, including your own small voice whispering...

Telos Whitfield, Student



I struggle daily with my own faith and understanding of the world around me. It is this daily struggle that makes me a unique individual and lets me move forward into the unknown reaches of the world. I believe that there is nothing so sacred in life that you can't make fun of it.

Thomas W. Smith, Vice President for Finance and Administration



Faith is one of the tools we use to navigate this great territory of the unknown. It might be a little like the chicken and the egg, though. It might be that the purpose of so much of life being unknowable is to allow us, encourage us, to use our faith, or it might be that faith is one of God's mercies, given to us to soften our discomfort with all that is unknowable. One thing is for certain though faith is necessary – not necessarily faith in God, but at least faith in something.

CJ Hast, Student



For me, faith means confidence in things unseen. Not in practical applications – like trusting an airplane will fly, but trust. That there is power in the universe more vast than we can possibly ever comprehend. Trusting in this power and connecting with it leads to being in healthy balance with all existence – an equilibrium of recognizing where we fit and seeing ourselves as an integrated part of the larger whole. An Indra's Net.

Theadora Davitt-Cornyn, Student

Oh, Faith, that elusive one at times! Faith is one of those Cartesian kind of things that is sometimes more definable by its absence than by its presence. The funny thing about it, though, is that when you lack faith, it is not because faith has left your side, left you in the lurch, left you hanging, alone, despondent or wanting. It is because you moved off the mark, away from what you know to be true for yourself. I feel this loss of faith most acutely when I act outside of what I know is right, or, rather, when I have **not** acted in accord with the spiritual law that calls me to my own unique aspect of Divinity.

Sally Hamlin, Student



What is faith? I define it as the ability to be with a belief, despite the lack of evidence that the belief works. My faith comes out of my interaction with G*d, and, for me, G*d is in relationship. G*d manifests for me in those intimate, personal conversations where both parties are invested fully and present to each other. That is also why I work at Starr King. I find it easiest to have G*d manifest in my life here because I have these types of conversations here all the time. In times when I can't access this level of depth or intimacy, I find my life slipping into the mundane, chasing my tail, not about the deep questions of life but about the busyness of life and its day-to-day-ness.

Becky Leyser, Student Services Director