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Donald A. Wilson G.12
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faith

noun \ˈfath\

:strong belief or trust in someone or something

:belief in the existence of God :strong religious feelings or beliefs

:a system of religious beliefs

In my life, faith is a belief and trust in the God of creation, the God of the Bible, the Creator of the universe. Faith gives me confidence and trust. It means I have hope for the future. I can have peace for today. I can have joy in difficult situations. Faith revolves around relationship. I am a Christian, not in the way I was born in a "non-Christian" country or believe in God. I'm a Christian because I have a strong belief and personal relationship with God through His gift of Jesus. Jesus died so I could have forgiveness. I have a secure future knowing I have His unconditional love. I choose to become a Christian. I was not born one.

I attend school and live in a community where many people around me have their own faith and belief. For example, my neighbors across the street are wonderful people and they are of a Hindu faith. Our school also has students who are Jewish, Muslim, and Catholic. These groups also have a strong belief and trust in a higher power. The Buddhist practice meditation, the Hindu worship Trimurti, Muslims worship Allah, The Sikh worship Hari, Jewish worship the same God of creation as I do. There are many who also first appear to have no faith, although I believe they base their faith in themselves. They base their life on self-satisfaction and whatever feels right to them.

Personally, as a teenager in Canada, I have my iPhone on me at all times and with this I can have anything at my fingertips. From apps, which include my Bible and devotionals to Christian music that calms and encourages me, I can have instant access. I also have access to social media, which can be Pinterest, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube. I am able to find pictures of verses and devotionals on all of these and I can see what other family members are posting. On YouTube I am able to listen to worship music and watch other videos that teach lessons that I would hear at my youth group on faith and relationships that can help me grow in a positive way as a young Christian. While having my cell phone, my family can easily message me Bible verses and other inspirational text before a test or when I'm feeling down. With my phone I have my music so although I have my mainstream music, I am also able to have a whole playlist of Christian music.

Interestingly any other people of any faith can have their music that encourages them with their faith as well.

All parents can choose media that supports the values of their faith to teach their children the truths and values. For example, Christian parents can purchase series like "Veggie Tales" rather than shows where children have no rules and restrictions. As teenagers we can watch "God's Not Dead" or "Heaven Is For Real" rather than scary Movie or "Insidious" that do not help anyone become a better person. It is great that there is technology that allows parents to control what their children are able to access on internet, TV. It keeps children safe and away from the garbage.

In Canada we are a multi-cultural society. By having access to resources about other faiths we are able to have a better understanding and relationship with people of different faiths than us. We can understand what they believe. When my Muslim friend has a problem I can tell them I will pray. However as a Christian, I will pray to my God. If I learn about the Jewish faith I can encourage a Jewish friend because I understand a part of where they are coming from. We believe the same Old Testament in the Bible. By learning about Buddhism I understand they treasure honesty and friendship just like Christians even though they have many gods. A community is a better place when we understand and accept the person even though we can have our own beliefs.

Technology is also powerful for someone who wants to learn about Christianity, who is curious about the meaning of life, who is looking for answers and waiting for something to be proven. This is typically done when people are searching for something more. This could be people who are agnostic or are unsatisfied with their own faith. If my Uncle Dave who is agnostic, was to look at my brother's Facebook he would see the posts my brother has made about his personal in faith in Jesus. My Oma in Winnipeg is able to email me about God's blessings in her life and encourage me with my faith. If someone missed church or is investigating Christianity and really wanted to hear a sermon from a pastor then they are able to hear it on podcast on many church websites later that day or any day of the week.

Technology has been a catalyst for change in our multi-faith world. A catalyst is "a person or event that quickly causes change or action" (Webster, 2014). Technology has increased the ability to spread Faith. We are exposed to many resources such as our cell phones, the Internet, production of movies, the music industry, and social media. "All media is a means of mass communication" (Webster, 2014). If we did not have media then learning about the typhoon in the Philippines, the war in Middle East, the Ebola crisis in Africa and the Earthquake in Haiti would be next to impossible and might take months longer to hear and help. Through technology like internet, families can learn about devastation around the world and can learn about making a difference. We are able to fill Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes at school, church and home. Families are able to sponsor children around the world through organizations such as World Vision, and, in addition to the church, parents are able to show children examples of helping others like Jesus did. Research by the Barna group shows that "a greater number of adults experience the Christian faith through Christian media, such as radio, television or books, than attend

Christian churches... 132 million adults have been to a church service compared to 141 million using Christian median (Barna, 2002). Overall I believe that technology has had a positive impact on faith and fuith has provided a positive impact on technology all over the world.

References

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