

Evidence of a Strong Connection

Lately there seem to have been a lot of messages about how the Lord operates in building our faith. Most of them have talked about how trials and struggles get the job done by bringing us to new levels of overcoming things, etc. But I really think there's another side to the equation. I think He builds us up sometimes without the hardships.

Over the past few months, I have made some rather basic prayer requests, the likes of which I don't remember ever having to do before. In bringing my prayers to fruition, the Lord covered multiple bases simultaneously, which reinforced the you-know-what out of my belief system.

Some of my requests were personal. Some of them were professional, and some of my requests were outrageous. I asked for certain resources, things I'd left behind in storage I was in need of, for example, and they showed up (not the things from my storage in Atlanta, just replacement stuff, but near-perfect replacements). I asked that my eyes, ears & senses be opened up so that I could be sensitive to other people's needs, as well as to new opportunities to move things forward, and they showed up.

A few times I made very basic requests, and the things I needed just began to show-up, but that's not what makes the experiences so special. The most interesting thing is the way they showed-up, ways I could not even begin to explain. That, combined with my studies, and some recent messages, really helped me know their fulfillment could have only come from above, and they could not possibly have been coincidence.

The biggest problem in all this is that unless I'd been "tapped-in" to the ways & means by which the Lord operates, and I'm sure I don't yet even know the half of it, I would have missed realizing where all my blessings were coming from. I think this is true of most people, and I think one thing that really helps us grow in faith is when we count our blessings daily.

When it comes to building our Faith, one step at a time, noone does it better than the Lord Himself. I know it's important to weather storms and stay in faith whenever they come, I know that builds and reinforces character. But I also think there are multiple ways to do that, and I know the Lord's ways are always amazing. He knows exactly how to build up our faith. And I believe He does it differently for each one of us. That's how much He loves us!

It's remarkable how when we keep a thankful perspective, it changes everything.

I hope you have such and amazing, incredible day!!

- Jack

James 1:18-25 (MSG)

¹⁸ He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures. ¹⁹ Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. ²⁰ God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. ²¹ So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life. ²² Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener

when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! ²³ Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, ²⁴ walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like. ²⁵ But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God - the free life! - even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action.