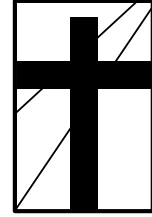


The Chaplain's Chapter



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FAITH

Okay, so am I really presumptuous enough to write on this subject? Can I offer anything new? How about I just offer something you might think is a little crazy? God just gave this to me last night. I know...people who start out that way scare me sometimes, too. I know, as sure as I am using a keyboard right now, that each intelligent human being has asked the question "If there is a hereafter, if my Mom (or whatever loved one you want to substitute) loves me so much, and God loves us all, and He wants us to be happy and know Him, *know* that we will be with him (and Mom or ?) for eternity...then why doesn't Mom (or ?) come back to tell me about heaven? Why isn't _____ able to communicate with me from the other side?" I don't know if this answer will give you any comfort, but as it was revealed to me it sure gave me some. The answer folks, is FAITH.

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace by which we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." - Romans 5:1,2 "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." - John 14:27 To remove our fear without us having faith, would be cheating us of the grace of God! Do you get it? I did! Perhaps I am not able to adequately describe to the reader the same kind of understanding that came over me as I was lead to these scriptures after this heightened realization. This tick up on the soul meter that measures the filling of one's heart and core as they mature spiritually in this lifetime. In other words, if God were to make it that easy for us, if each of us were given this knowledge by someone coming to each of us as a matter of course after their passing, then there would be no need for us to exercise faith. Free will would be wasted on the human race. He could have just "hard-wired" us with the certainty that we would receive a revelation from a loved one who had crossed, rather than having to go through the time and trouble of establishing a personal relationship with Christ, learning and believing about God, living our lives as Christians, following the commandments, etc, etc. Wouldn't that be a lot easier? Sure, and He could've skipped the whole "begotten son" deal, too. He didn't have to bring a piece of Himself to us in flesh, living among us, facing temptation and suffering the human equivalent of death and showing a little faith in His creation at the same time. But, God so loved the world - didn't He? Hopefully, you'll never look at John 3:16 the same. I know I won't. It has a much deeper, richer meaning to me, just since yesterday. I pray this Chaplain's Chapter helps you to feel even a little of the increased wonder and glory that I do. Write to me and let me know at alex_brandon@msn.com

May His love and peace, which passeth all understanding, be of special comfort to you today, and all the rest of your days. AMEN.

Chaplain Alex Brandon
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"AID...HONOR...COMFORT"

Chaplain Brandon is the Staff Chaplain and Brigade Personnel Officer for the California Brigade, 5th Division of the United States Corps of Chaplains. Please visit their website www.USCOCHQ.com and think about joining.