

FOR THE GOOD OF THE HOUSEHOLD

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February 15, 2010

FAITH MEANS TRUST

As I write this, we have dug ourselves out of around 20 inches of snow, thousands in the East have been without power, the West is dealing with mudslides, and Haiti is still reeling from the recent earthquakes. Since I did not have to shovel the snow, it did not affect me all that much. I did, however, live for several days without power after an ice storm, while serving as Secretary to the Bishop of Saginaw. The other two experiences I can only imagine.

Invariably, many blame God (even those who do not believe in a Supreme Force). God does not “punish” in this way. What He does is allow the laws of nature that He set up to take their natural course.

Human beings, at times, are the ones that cause an unbalance, for which we suffer. Mudslides are a good example. Perhaps, weather is another. (Of course, that is not always the case.) I would think that the Lord our God wishes humans to take notice and realize that observing the natural law is to their benefit.

I was greatly edified by the Haitian people, particularly those that we saw rescued days after being buried in the rubble. Rather than blaming God, they praised him for giving them the strength to survive. Several expressed their undying trust in their relationship with the Lord. That goes beyond simple faith.

Faith plays a role in all aspects of our lives. To praise God in the wake of what we might consider success is easy. To give glory to the Lord in the midst of difficulty takes courage and is the proof of real faith.

As I draw to the end of this column, the New Orleans Saints just beat the Indianapolis Colts in the Super Bowl with a score of 31-17. I am not into football. But, I was curious enough before the game to check out some predictions. All of the ones that I saw forecast the Colts to win. And, yet, it was the Saints who won, - apparently, against odds.

I think that I heard Drew Brees say, “God is great,” when he held up the Lombardi Trophy after the game. He gave credit to his team, to his city of New Orleans, and to the motivation that his young son gave him. But, he had the courage also to praise his God on national television and say, “God is great.”

That prompted me to do some research. In an interview several days before the game, he made the following comments: "It means that you trust in the Lord, you trust that He has a plan for your life. You trust that He's never going to put anything in front of you that's too hard for you...so no matter what comes your way, you'll overcome it and it will make you stronger."

That is a very good description of faith, - not only to believe that there is a God who loves you but also to entrust your life to him. Apparently, that is what Drew Brees has done after having suffered some setbacks. That is what the Haitians are doing. That is what all of us are called to do. God does not change his plans to suit ours. He does give us the strength and courage to endure and to overcome. Did God predestine the victory for the Saints? Of course, not. Nevertheless, it appears that trusting in God motivated at least one player to be the very best that the Lord intended him to be.

And, that is how the game of life is won.