



## DEVOTIONAL TIME

06-23-2015 @ 0900

**"To Live Enduring Life, Build Enduring Faith!"**

Isaiah 7:7-9

### OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART!

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord! Open the eyes of my heart!  
I want to see You! I want to see You... 2X's  
To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your Glory!  
Pour out Your Power and Love as we sing, "Holy! Holy! Holy!"

#### Isaiah 7:7-9

"I, the LORD, declare: This [plot of your foes] will never happen! Why? Because Syria is no stronger than Damascus, its capital city, and Damascus is no stronger than King Rezin! As for Israel, within sixty-five years, it will be too shattered to survive as a nation! Israel is no stronger than Samaria, its capital city, and Samaria is no stronger than King Pekah! If your faith is not enduring, you will not endure!"

### QUESTIONS FOR TODAY

- Have you ever sensed massive forces arrayed against you, only to discover later that all the "hype", "sound", and "fury" had no real power to harm you?
- Did you ever try to address an issue that involved more opponents than you imagined, finding later that you really needed to deal with one individual...who was the real "core of the Cause"?
- In what way(s) have you experienced "enduring" faith as a key element in your completion of any challenge/task/project that was critically important to *you*? How did you engage it?

Real faith moves mountains; enduring faith whirls worlds! Holy Scriptures celebrate example after example of unlikely people in impossible situations whom God used in unimaginable ways. Today's "Promise" came from the Lord to a king who was of the Line of David, yet who lacked the luster of David's simple but profound faith. King Ahaz was no giant-slayer, but he was on the throne in Jerusalem during Isaiah's prophetic ministry. So Isaiah "played the hand" God had "dealt" him, and worked with a weakling king. When Ahaz was "trembling like a tree shaking in the wind" at the prospect of facing opposing kings in battle, Isaiah "stepped up" to promise that God would sustain him and his people. If there was to be battle, it was God who would bring the victory. If there was to be a siege, it was God who would lift it. If Jerusalem's enemies threatened the Holy City of the Lord, it was God who would nullify their vaunted "might", and shatter them like brittle clay. All the "servants of the Lord" had to do was "hold their ground"! They had to ENDURE! God would see to the rest. As it was in Isaiah's time, so it is today. Many "friends of the Lord" fret over loss of "spiritual center" in our society. Other "children of God" mourn the miserable state of morality in the prevailing culture. When the "pillars" are overthrown, what's a "disciple" to do? Deepen belief! Ground your soul in the Word of the Lord! Mold your mind around the Promise(s) of the Lord! Set your heart to seek the Holy Presence of the Lord! If there is to be a "renewal of faith" in your world, let such "renewal" begin with you... Pray your work, and work your prayer! But above all, ENDURE! Through the silent hours... through the lonely days... through weeks of worry... ENDURE! Though months may pass into years, and years into decades, hold to your God for dear life. The God who delivered Ahaz still works in the lives of "imperfect believers" today! God's "delays" are not God's denials, and the Lord's deliveries are never late! God, grant us the Grace of Enduring Faith! When the rest of our world arrays against us, help us rediscover Your Presence in the stillness of our souls. When the winds of adversity blow frigidly across the landscapes of our lives, focus our minds on Your Enduring Word! Let the "Son-Shine" of Your Love warm our hearts 'til its "inner glow" powers the faith that ENDURES! In You, and with You, and through You, we have all the Grace we need to "stand fast" on Your Promise(s) and go "all-in" as Your true servants and "world-whirlers"!