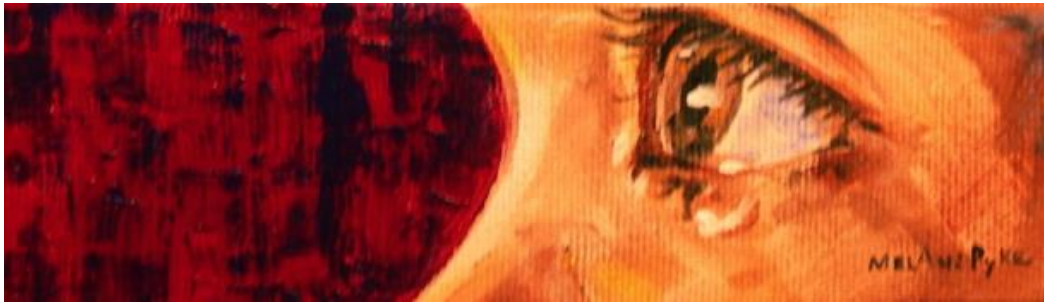


WHEN FAITH BECOMES SUPERSTITION



And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God."

Mark 11

Jesus never stopped calling people to faith.

When he found faith, he rejoiced.

"Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed," said the Centurion.

And Jesus marveled. ***"Nowhere in Israel have I found such faith."***

Jesus had little patience with doubt.

"Believe! All things are possible to him who believes," he said to the anguished father.

How many times we hear Jesus say, ***"Your faith has made you well."***

"Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

The faith Jesus calls us to is always simple.

He calls us to faith in God.

He calls us to faith in Jesus himself.

Jesus never calls us to faith in an idea, or faith in a set of doctrines.

He does not call us to faith in a lifestyle.

He does not call us to faith in faith.

Jesus is looking for people who will trust him.

Who will trust what he says.

Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

John 11

Mary and Martha stood by the tomb with Jesus and simply trusted him.

They were not burdened with a system of beliefs.

Their faith in Jesus was not tainted with politics or religion or opinions about what to wear or what to eat.

Their faith was focused on Jesus only.

So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

I knew that thou hearest me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me."

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Laz'arus, come out."

The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

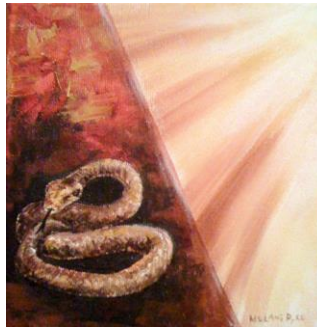
John 11



Satan knows all about faith.

Satan has ways of inspiring faith in himself.

Satan inspires faith in himself, just as he did in the Garden.



*"What do you mean, you cannot eat from that tree?
God is holding out on you!"*

He knows that the minute you eat from that tree you will be as gods, knowing good and evil.

God is unreliable. I'm the one to trust!"

Faith in Satan's promises is nothing but superstition.

Faith in Satan's warnings is pure superstition.

Satan sprinkles a little superstition into our faith and smiles his sinister smile.

Now it's no longer clear faith in Jesus.

Now it's faith in an opinion, in matters of health, politics, "spirituality".

The deceiver who spoke to Eve now speaks to us.

“True Christians assert their constitutional rights.”

“True Christians exercise their freedom.”

“True Christians rise up and fight pagan values!”

Satan leans back in his recliner and smiles his sinister smile.

The instant faith in God is mixed with additives, it is no longer faith in God.

It is superstition.

It is as useless as refusal to walk under a ladder.

As ridiculous as fear of breaking a mirror.

As childish as wearing our “lucky shoes.”

Christendom is loaded with superstition masquerading as faith.

Faith is God is always simple.

Faith in Jesus is always simple.

Lord God, bring us back to the cross!

Enable us to know Jesus in the power of his resurrection!

Keep us focused on the words spoken through the Master’s mouth!

Enable us to clear away the clutter and simply walk in the steps of our Shepherd!



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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN