

# Committee Reflection (January)



## Opening Prayer

Gracious God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

We are here to serve you, opening our hearts and minds to your guidance.

Help us to have the meekness of mind  
to seek your thoughts over our own thoughts;  
to have the humility of heart to seek one will—Your will;  
to have the Serenity of the Spirit to let your peace be our peace,  
no matter what transpires.

Help us to be your servants in this time.

Hear us as we pray the prayer Christ taught us:

*Our Father, who art in heaven...*

---

## CATHERINE MARSHALL, *Something More*

Were we to use the muscles of our legs as little as we do the muscles of our faith, most of us would be unable to stand.

Then what can we do to strengthen them?

*First*, we cannot trust God until we know something about Him. The way to begin is by reading His word and thinking about it. The Bible acquaints us with the nature and character of God: His power; His unselfish, unchangeable love; His infinite wisdom. We read instance after instance in which God has exercised His power and wisdom in helping and delivering His people.

*Second*, faith is strengthened only as we ourselves exercise it. We have to apply it to our problems: poverty, bodily ills, bereavement, job troubles, tangled human relationships.

*Third*, faith has to be in the present tense – now. A vague prospect that what we want will transpire in the future is not faith, but hope.

*Fourth*, absolute honesty is necessary. We cannot have faith and a guilty conscience at the same time. Every time faith will fade away.

*Fifth*, the strengthening of faith comes through staying with it in the hour of trial. We should not shrink from tests of our faith. Only when we are depending on God alone are we in a position to see God's help and deliverance, and thus have our faith strengthened for the next time.

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What does it teach you about the role faith plays in leading others?