



E-Read



The General Conference of the New Church **Articles and Letters**

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Let your faith be stronger than your fear

Murial Morgan writes:

“Let your faith be stronger than your fear” - a few years ago, I bought a t-shirt with these words printed on. To this day, it is still my favourite as the words are so important to me if not to all of us.

How often do we worry? I know I certainly worry a lot about everything and nothing. This constant worrying creates a level of stress in our body, releasing

hormones that can have negative effects if produced long term. One of these hormones is cortisol, which is produced to protect your body from the stress factor, but constantly being stressed and creating higher levels of cortisol affect many parts of the body, the nervous system, your immunity, heart, lungs, etc.

So, physically, our bodies are not meant to feel stressed all the time; but what about our spiritual health?

We don't even realise it, but all this stress can make us feel like Atlas with the weight of the world on his shoulders!

Mark Twain famously wrote, "I am an old man and have known a great many troubles, but most of them never happened."

How does this stress affect us and our relationship with the Lord?

This is where faith comes in, but to be more precise, Divine Providence!

Swedenborg writes in "Divine Providence": *"The Lord's divine providence works things out so that what is both evil and false promotes balance, evaluation, and purification, which means that it promotes the union of what is good and true in others."*

F.E.A.R. - False Evidence Appearing Real

Fear is generated by the hells; these very convincing spirits want to trip you up, they want you to take the easy road and they tell you that you are not good enough, or that you will fail or that everything is going to go wrong.

I have personally just been in a situation where fear could have stopped me, and my faith in the Lord and his divine providence was so solid that it did not phase me, the hells could not get through this barrier of faith I had built up and it felt LIBERATING, it felt that I was not on my own, the Lord was walking this path with me, guiding me, showing me the way, and all I had to do was listen and follow Him. There were no "what ifs", I was resolute that if the Lord wanted me to follow this path, it was for the best, no matter the outcome. I have faith in the Lord and His Providence.

I am going to share with you my recent path, and I can tell you for certain that if my faith had not been so unwavering, I would have had a breakdown or could not have done it; instead I feel safe, secure and loved, and I would love to share this with you, so that you too can feel the warmth of the Lord's arms around you.

As most of you know, my husband Paul was studying with SOLCe and I was the Marketing and Media Coordinator for Conference. This was a job I LOVED, at home, I had Emile and Clara who had recently moved out but who was living

nearby. We had friends and family around and three pets, two dogs and a cat. Life was plodding along and I was not able to foresee what the Lord had in store for us.

Paul was offered a place at Bryn Athyn College to do a Masters in Divinity to be ordained with the General Church. Bryn Athyn is in Pennsylvania, USA. I originally thought that I could keep my job as I only needed a computer and internet to deliver my work, but due to VISA laws, I cannot work, so I had to resign from my job; furthermore, due to delays with the visas and finding out whether we were accepted or not, I had to take a leap of faith and resign from my job and hand in notice with our house **before** we even knew if the visas had been accepted! This was a chance of a lifetime for Paul and we had to make sure that whatever decision we made, it was the best one for each other as each other's other half. I talked to the Lord and asked him for a sign to make sure that we were doing what He wanted us to do. Within two hours He responded, in a not too subtle way, which I will keep private between Him and I. But I **KNEW** that this was what He wanted, and my faith did the rest. We emptied the house, re-homed the three pets, said goodbye to our adult children, spent some time with my Mum in Belgium before flying to New York for a new part of our lives, with two suitcases each!

My point here is that if it had not been for my faith in the Lord and his Providence, I do not believe I could have taken this path. Is it going to be an easy ride? Most likely not; we have to face evils and temptations to regenerate, that's what it's all about. And if you take the wrong turn, the Lord will work in His Divine Providence to put you back on the right road.

So remember, as Paul once mentioned in one of his sermons, we are NOT in the driving seat, **the Lord is**, ALWAYS.

Amen.