

Hebrews 11:1-2 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. For by it, the elders obtained a good testimony.

I think that many of us memorized this biblical definition of faith long ago, "the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen." But the other day, the eyes of my heart were opened to greater revelation as one of our chaplains shared Hebrews 11:2 with me: "For by faith, the elders obtained a good testimony."

I had just told David that I was scheduled for a medical test, an abdominal CT scan, that my doctor had ordered after he felt something abnormal during my annual physical last week. But instead of feeling panicked and fearful, I had a sense of anticipation that God was going to reveal a whole new aspect of His glory as I waited.

My husband was traveling all of last week, so at night I kept Christian radio playing softly next to my bed. At 3:33 last Thursday morning, I was awakened - perhaps by the Holy Spirit or by the angels of the Lord - at the precise moment that Isaiah 53:5 was being read: "The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

As those holy words - the Word that was sent forth to heal - were pronounced, my body jolted as if struck by lightning! I began to laugh and cry and rejoice, for the Word of God that is quick and powerful and sharper than any double-edged sword had penetrated my body!

Even the hour at which these words were delivered, 3:33, spoke of God's sovereign design, for it is Jeremiah 33:3 that is sometimes called "God's phone number" because it reads, "Call on Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

It is also the prophet Jeremiah to whom the Lord spoke these words: "I am watching over My Word to perform it" (Jeremiah 1:12). The apostle Paul was inspired to write in 2 Corinthians 1:20, "For no matter how many promises God has spoken, they are 'yes' in Christ. And so through Him, the 'amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God."

By His stripes, I am healed. By His stripes, you are healed. Will you agree with me on this promise of God? Will you say "Amen!" to His finished work? "Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen. For by it, the elders obtained a good testimony." To God be the glory!

