

1 PETER 1:20-21 EVERLASTING FAITH

²⁰ *He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.* ²¹ *Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.*

It is one thing to do something out of the ordinary on impulse and quite another to perform an act after having had time to think about it. A number of years ago in Richmond, a UPS delivery man was driving his route when he saw a house on fire. He jumped from his truck and raced into the house to save the older lady who lived there. For his efforts he was proclaimed a hero and experienced multiple surgeries, and extensive rehabilitation due to his burns. Contrast that scenario with that of the police captain in Littleton, Colorado who didn't dispatch his SWAT team into Columbine High School because he feared the danger that awaited them.

The incarnation and death of Jesus Christ was not the product of impulse. "Things" just didn't happen and then God made the best of it. The crucifixion of Jesus was known to God before the world was created. God knew for unnumbered millennia that his Son would be tortured and killed by sinful human beings for sinful human beings. God knew the terrible cost, but loves us so much that he did it anyway. That is true heroism.

But wait, there's more! God told us through the prophets that this was his plan before it happened, so we might believe in Jesus. And then, God raised Jesus from the death after it happened so that we might be assured of his love and our redemption. How much more do we need to be convinced that God deserves our faith and is the unqualified source of our hope for eternity?

Father, as you counted the cost for redeeming me, and still followed through, help me to count the cost of following Jesus and still live by faith. Through the reminder of your awesome sacrifice, grow my impulsive and sporadic faith into a strong and enduring faith in you. Amen.