

What is faith?

Today I need to show up at 7:30 am to St Mary's, the main hospital at Mayo. The surgery is scheduled for 9:30, and they anticipate a 4-5 hour procedure.

They will take my right kidney, ureter, prostate, and infected lymph nodes - all of which have high-grade cancer tumors.

In the weeks leading up to the surgery, I have heard/read about all the possible side effects and what could go wrong with this procedure. Part of their job is to let you know the downside. They provide reassurances, but they still have to tell ya.

Regardless, I have hope.

- I hope that Mayo is as good as it's reputation
- I hope that my doctor is at his best
- I hope that the many prayers that have been prayed will positively affect the outcome
- I hope I get to keep my bladder
- I hope that the things I've been doing with health and fitness have set me up well for recovery
- I hope my family will be OK no matter what happens

... and this hope is real - not fleeting or ephemeral - it is part of what gives me confidence and peace.

But hope is not the same as faith.

Faith has to do with what you really know in the face of life-altering circumstances. And for me, there aren't many things I know know. Most of the stuff in my head fits in the hope category.

I find it interesting to think about this stuff before I know the outcome. There are not many times in life where we have these moments. Thankfully they are few and far between. But when they come they reveal a lot.

So I'm sitting here a few minutes before 5:00 am and what do I know know?

Very little...

But I do know this, and this is rock solid....the Lord is with me (even as an imperfect human) AND I can trust him... and today that is enough!

Here we go.



Pastor Piet