

that this is indicative of what His help will be in time to come. Shortsightedness on the part of believers will rob them of this blessing and in this area it does us all good to have a vigorous memory of the blessings of the Lord.

b. Faith is Strengthened by  
Observation

Luke 12:22-30

The challenge given by the Lord is the challenge to see how God has clothed the grass of the field, the lillies, etc., and to realize that He does not care less for us. All of the efforts of Solomon towards beauty and splendor were not to be compared with the directive work of the Lord. Seeing how marvellously He has executed His will in the world about us, our faith should be increased. That He cares for the fowl of the air, that He cares for the plants of the fields, none of which have immortal souls or are as close to His image as is man, should encourage us to be increasingly obedient and guided more directly by His great wisdom. Unfortunately we often do not look up, do not see, and so remain insecure with out trials and burdens. Naturally our best observations should center around the Word of God. But from the record of Scripture, observation of God's dealings in our world will encourage us in many other lines as well.

c. Faith is strengthened by association

Luke 9:1-6; 10:1-2

In commissioning His disciples for their important tasks, the Lord sent them forth together. The concept is simply that one strengthens another...much like the threefold cord of Ecclesiastes. We are encouraged by other Christians, given guidance in keeping with the word of God, and helped generally. This is one of the reasons why it is important for us