

6-11-2023 - Anxiety vs. Trust

With those things that have transpired, not just in the last few days, but also the last couple of years, there are many of us, including myself, that question what the future may hold for The American Legion in the Department of Washington. We find ourselves not sure and anxious about how it will affect us. For the Posts throughout the state, there will be little impact to our programs and our support of the Four Pillars, and that our Posts are still in full force. But, what about those things at the department level? Have we been lost in our thinking of what is the right path to take? Most certainly there is work to be done in updating our Constitution and Bi-Laws, and reeducating ourselves about what those Bi-Laws mean to us and how we can successfully function. But, we are not alone in that struggle and, as noted in the message from our National Advisory Team, we have their help. Then there becomes the issue of Trust. I would like to ask you all to let the anxiety go, and trust, that with God, the help we need is on its way.

Let us look then to where we can find help for, not only for the Department, but also for ourselves. There have been mistakes made and we have swayed away from the paths that were laid before us. That may very well be that we fell off of the path that God has put in front of us, as well. This is not something new, or original. Let me share a few lines from the book of Hosea, Chapter 15, where we read: *"I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me. Come, let us return to the Lord; for He has torn us, that He may heal us; He has struck us down, and He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise up, that we may live before Him. Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; His going out is sure as the dawn; He will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth."* We also read in 1 Peter 5:6 *"Humble yourselves, therefore under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time."* Have we, in fact, put ourselves before God and our neighbors? Is this how God is ready, willing and able to bring us back in His Glory and back to the glory of the Department of Washington that we once had?

I remember back in my first few days of Boot Camp that the first thing was to let us know where we stood in the eyes of (for me) the U.S. Coast Guard. It was somewhere below "Whale \$XXT" and less than a "Worm". From there, we were built up accomplishing things that we have never considered possible, physically and mentally. At this point, we are certainly not that "Low", but we do need some self-examination and guidance and get back to the "Path" that we should be on.

So now, we have alternatives. First, look to our National Team for guidance and follow their example; and second, look to God for his forgiveness for what has been done and/or what has NOT been done, and seek His love, wisdom, and direction in all we do. That is where the Trust comes in. Trust that our Team will guide us and, more importantly trust that

through God, we may achieve faith that in Him will find your path of righteousness to His Glory and our salvation.

Let me leave you all with the words that we find in the book of James 1:5-6: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt. Because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."* Further, by your own belief in Him, *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9)

By my Faith, I Pray: ***"Dear God, humbly we ask for Your forgiveness for what we have done and left undone. We ask for Your strength, guidance, and wisdom as we move forward in getting back to our foundations of The American Legion. Keep us ever mindful of our trust and commitment to You, our Veterans and this Great Country to Your Glory. Amen."***