



Topic: Faith That Moves Mountains

... I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it would move. Nothing would be impossible

~Matthew 17:20 (NLT)~

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INTRODUCTION

All throughout Bible Scripture, we are taught about faith and the power it brings to the life of the one who embraces it. The Bible teaches that faith stands at the forefront of our walking in the newness of life received through the shed blood or atonement of Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us of what faith is and of what faith does; how faith works and how the lack of faith can hinder us from receiving the fullness of the power and of the promises of God. Faith, though it can start off as small in size, carries with it the greatest power of change. Faith has the power to make things that would otherwise be impossible possible; faith has the ability to take us from a place of seemingly defeat (in the eyes of the man) to the place of ultimate victory (in the belief of Jesus Christ). The Bible tells us that without faith, nothing would be possible; in fact, without a true faith in God and in the things of God, it would be impossible for us to even please God, (*cf. Hebrews 11:6*). Faith is the catalyst that opens up to man the life the Creator God breathed in man to live and experience. This is because faith has its beginning not in who we are nor in what we have. Faith has its beginning in the very existence of God; who He is and what He does. When we truly have faith (belief) in God and all He is, this is when we release the limits off of faith allowing faith to move in our life in unlimited ways. Faith allows us to see God as it draws us closer to His presence.

OUR STUDY

Our reference Scripture comes from the Gospel of Matthew chapter 17. We open this chapter just six days after Jesus has shared predictions of His death with his disciples. He tells them it will be necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem where he would suffer many terrible things; where He would be put to death and where He will be raised from the dead. Perplexed at the sayings of His death, Peter takes Jesus aside and begin to say unto to Jesus...“This will never happen to you”. Jesus then addresses Peter letting him know that he is seeing things from a human point of view, not from God’s view. When we walk in a true faith in God, we will come to see things occurring in and around us from God’s perspective; we will come to see that even in our worst of times, God who is faithful will see us through. In fact, the Bible declares that with every temptation we face in this life, God will always provide for us a way of escape; God will always instill within us what we need to endure it until the way of escape is revealed.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (MSG)

No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.

Isn't it reassuring to know that we walk in relationship with the true and living God who is always faithful to His children?

Back to our text.

The events surrounding our text occurred just after Jesus along with Peter, James and John had come down from the mountain where Peter, James and John had experienced Jesus' transformation and the sudden appearance of Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus. When Jesus arrives at the foot of the mountain, He is greeted by a large crowd waiting. A man came and knelt before Jesus asking Jesus to have mercy on his son who has seizures and suffers terribly. The man goes on to tell Jesus that he brought his son to the disciples, but they couldn't heal him. At the hearing of this news, Jesus begins rebuking the people calling them faithless and corrupt people. In Jesus' disappointment, He asks two burning questions... "How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you?" Here Jesus upbraids them with the length of time He had been with them, in which so many wonderful works had been done among them, and yet they remained unbelieving and incorrigible. Just like those Jesus made reference to, if we have been walking with the Lord for any length of time and have witnessed His mighty works in our life and in the life of those within our environment and yet still don't believe that He is able, we ought to be upbraided as well.

Jesus then calls for the boy to be brought to him where He rebukes the demon in the boy leaving the boy from that moment on healed. Afterwards, the disciples privately ask Jesus... "Why couldn't we cast out that demon?" to which Jesus replies... "You don't have enough faith". Saints, it takes us holding an unshakable and unwavering faith in the presence and in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ for us to combat the forces of the devil and his tactics in the world. It is not enough to say you know who Jesus is; it's not enough to attend church services; it's not even enough to claim you are saved, except you truly believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of His might and in His ability to work on your behalf, you will find yourself succumb to a life lived beneath your God given potential and ability.

At this point in our text, Jesus tells them a truth... "If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there, and it would move. Nothing would be impossible'". Faith is not a mustering of will or a power to wield. Faith comes from trusting in God and His will. Faith comes from taking God at His word and believing Him to do just as His word says regardless of our circumstances, regardless of our situations. Faith in God believes the things that may not be as things that are. Faith in God expects the impossible, feels the intangible, and sees the invisible. This is the faith that moves mountains.

Let's look at three keys to having faith that moves mountains.

Jesus obviously was not intending for His disciples literally to be tossing mountains into the sea. His use of the moving of mountains through faith was a metaphor to describe the depths and length our faith can take us. He wanted us to know that contained within our faith (belief) in God and His ability

to deliver those who trust Him from any situation or circumstances no matter how large, big, or involved things may be is the power to experience that deliverance. We all will face “mountains” in our life – obstacles, relational breakdowns, illnesses, and other seemingly unsurmountable barriers. We can have faith right in the midst that these mountains can and will move. The Bible tells of three keys to building our faith.

1. Hear. The Apostle Paul addresses, in his letter to the church at Rome, the process by which faith in God is produced in the heart.

Romans 10:17 (NLT)

So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

If faith comes by hearing, then what does Paul mean by “hearing”? In this context, it is not simply the physical receiving of sound by the ear; hearing here seems to designate something more. The nature of hearing that Paul is sharing here does not require the physical active hearing with the ear. The Greek root word from which we get “faith” is the noun “pistis” and “believe” the verb “pistueo”. So, faith literally means having a belief, firm persuasion, assurance, firm conviction. So where does our belief, firm persuasion, assurance and firm conviction come from? Paul tells us that it comes as we hear the good news about Christ. In a nutshell, as I hear (receive in my heart) the word of God (Christ), embrace it with the truth of what I know about God, my faith in God will be firm, assured leaving me with a conviction that what God has spoken (written in His Holy Word) is the absolute truth.

2. Believe. You have to believe God’s Word steadfastly, unshakably. Otherwise, all you have is a “head knowledge”. You can hear the Word of God and still fail God. How? By not believing that Word. True, faith comes by hearing the word of God, but that faith comes only if we hear that Word and believe it, trusting that God who spoke means what he speaks 100 percent of the time. Jesus emphasized the importance of believing. It’s faith that moves mountains.

Matthew 21:21-22 (NLT)

- 1. Then Jesus told them, “I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don’t doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea, and it will happen.**
- 2. You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.**

Here in this portion of Scripture, as Jesus was returning to Jerusalem, He was hungry. He noticed a fig tree along the roadside and He went over to see if the tree had any figs. Finding none on the tree, Jesus began to curse the fig tree saying “May you never bear fruit again”. Immediately, the fig tree withered up. The Bible tells us that the disciples were amazed at how quickly the fig tree had withered and asked the same of Jesus. It was at this time Jesus shared a truth about faith. When we are facing situations in our life or going through trying times, we mustn’t doubt God’s presence nor His ability to be with us and to see us through. When we have prayed asking our God to provide whatever is needed at the time, we must hold to the belief that our God hears our prayers and will answer them in His own time. Listen to what the book of James tells us.

James 1:6-7 (NIV)

6. *But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.*
7. *That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.*

We glean from this text in the book of James that the one who fails to believe in God and His abilities instead becomes the one who should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. It is our undoubting faith that brings the manifestation of the fullness of the blessings of God in the child of God's life.

3. Speak. Jesus taught us to speak the word of faith, to "say" what we are asking for, and not to doubt but to believe, and such a faith-speaking believe "shall have whatsoever he saith." With confidence in God and in the promises of His Word the Bible, we can speak to the mountains that arise in our life and watch the power of God through our faith move mightily on our behalf.

2 Corinthians 4:13 (NIV)

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken. Since we have the same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak."

The Bible tells us in the wisdom book (Proverbs 18:21) the tongue can bring forth death or life. From this text, we can come to understand that whatever we speak out of our mouth into the atmosphere can determine what we receive in return. This is a kingdom principle. There is power in the spoken word, and when we speak God's words as the truth even though we haven't seen it yet, we are speaking forth His power, His life-giving health, His strength. Remember, believing God is wonderful. But Jesus urged us to speak the word of faith, to verbalize what we are seeking from God. The believer who understands the power of speaking the Word of God with boldness and faith shall have whatsoever he saith.

Mark 11:22-23 (KJV)

22. *And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.*
23. *For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

Here again, we have Jesus using the analogy of a faith (belief) having the power to move mountains. This encourages my heart and my spirit in knowing that when I believe God and speak out of my mouth through my belief, there is nothing too big; nothing too large; nothing too hard that my faith in God can't bring me through; bring me over; bring me past. This is faith that move mountains.

CONCLUSION

Moving mountains is not accomplished by mustering up enough faith. It is done by trusting God to move the mountains by His power. However, it should be our desire to draw ever closer to God, to grow deeper in our faith. Growing in faith is not about studying or intellect, though these can help. It is not about rigor or discipline, though these also have their place in our growth. Rather, growing in faith is growing in relationship with our Savior Jesus Christ. As we spend time with Him, learn about

Him, talk with Him, walk with Him and follow His teaching, we will grow in relationship and grow in faith. If we are God's friends and children, will we not align with His will? And will not He, as our friend and Father, delight to move the mountains that rise up against us. My brother and my sister, let us set ourselves on the course to believe every word spoken unto us by our God; let us put our faith in the faithfulness of our God above any and every situation, circumstance, trial and trouble we encounter. Let us speak through our faith commanding the mountains in our life to be moved and as the word of our Lord says, with faith, they shall be moved.

God's peace and blessing be upon you...

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