

## *How To Have Faith To Move Mountains*



When Jesus's disciples failed to cast out a demon, He said it was because of their little faith. Then He told them, "For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20) Tiny faith, that's all it takes to move a mountain. What does that say about *our* faith? Why are we so stressed? Why are we harassed by financial problems, health problems, relationship problems? Have we trusted God enough to move mountains for us? Apparently not. That's not to say that if we lived the perfect Christian life we won't have problems at all. In fact, Jesus said to pick up our cross and follow Him. But if we knew how to live in tiny faith, we could navigate through those problems giving God the glory.

The baby steps to faith start with believing that God is who He says He is. He is the one who created everything. It's remembering that we have an enemy who lies and distorts the truth to make us believe that there is no God at all and that God's truth is ridiculous in this day in age. "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20) That is a warning to heed.

Remember who God is. Remember what His truth is. He is righteous and holy and cannot lie, so His word is true. He can do what no man can do. Simple faith is putting your trust in God. Do what you know to do, but stop stressing about it. Lay the stress down and ask the Lord to help you, then believe that He will. "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24) Most of the time we don't do this. Most of the time we pray *hoping* that God will answer. We hope He will, not quite sure that He will. Believing takes intent. Believing means waiting to see the answers come with expectancy. That's simple faith.

Faith can be astonishing. When Mary asked Jesus for help because the wedding feast ran out of wine, He told her no, it wasn't His time to start doing miracles in public. She pulled her mom card and walked away believing that He would do what she had asked, and He did. (John 2) Think about that. God had a timetable for when and how Jesus would begin His ministry on earth and Mary changed it because she believed He would. That's amazing.

Jesus tried to keep to God's outline of ministry when the Canaanite woman asked for help for her daughter. He said no. His ministry was to Israel only, but she pressed Him, knowing that He could help if only He would. "And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly." (Matthew 15:26-28) He called her faith great because she had no doubt at all that He could help.

A centurion had the best explanation for faith in the Bible. When he wanted Jesus to heal his servant, he described his own order of command. "But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well." (Luke 7:1-10) A centurion, not even a Jew. Jesus not only healed at an outsider's request, He marveled at it.

The centurion's logic says it all. When he gave an order to his soldiers, he didn't hope it was obeyed, he knew with every certainty that it would be. His military command was absolute. When he recognized similar power of command in Jesus, he had no doubt about the word of Jesus would do what He said it would do. What's impressive about this is that He didn't ask Jesus to come and *do* anything. All he asked was to say the word from where He was. The centurion knew that the power of God was so great that nothing had to be *done* to bring healing. God could do that long distance, so to speak. And He did.

As a side note, I love this centurion. He was too humble to approach Jesus himself, so he sent Jewish elders to speak for him. And they did because they loved him for helping them and building them a synagogue. He had such a kind heart to see his servant healed, and yet he moved with the command of authority. I think he epitomizes the kingdom of God showing us how to live humbly, lovingly, and full of authority and power.

Faith isn't hard once you realize that all you have to do is lay down your fear. It's a decision you make for yourself. And you can because the Bible says God has given each of us some measure of faith. (Romans 12:3) Tell yourself no, I will not fear, I will trust God, then thank Him for the work He will do for you and watch it happen. God delights, not only to answer prayer, but to help you build your faith to believe for miracles.

Jesus said we would do greater things than He did. How do we do that? Start by moving mountains.