



# Faith the Size of a Mustard Seed

Matthew 17: 14-21

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**I. The object of your faith is more important than the amount.**



## Hebrews 11:6

*Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him.*



## John 20:31

*But these things are written **so that you may believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God**, and by believing you may have life in His name.*



## Acts 16:31

*So they said, “**Believe on the Lord Jesus**, and you will be saved – you and your household.”*



**II. Only Jesus knows the quality  
and amount of faith you have.**



**oligopistia** – littleness of faith, lacking confidence in Christ – “of little faith”

(Always used to address a failure of the disciples to hear and understand His voice).



**oligopistia** – littleness of faith, lacking confidence in Christ – “of little faith”

**oligos** – slight, little, small amount

**pistis** – faith, believe to complete trust, state of complete dependability



## Matt. 6:30/Luke 12:28

– worrying about life’s necessities –  
*“But if God so clothes the grass in the field,  
which is alive today and tomorrow is  
thrown into the furnace, will He not much  
more clothe you? **You of little faith!**”*



## **Matt. 8:26**

– storm at sea –

*“Why are you afraid, **you men of little faith?**”*

## **Matt. 14:31**

– Peter walking on the water –

*“**You of little faith, why did you doubt?**”*



## Matt. 16:8

- When Jesus taught about false teachers –  
*“But Jesus, aware of this, said, **“You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread?”**”*



## Matt 17:20

And He said to them, ***“Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.”***



**Because of the poverty/ littleness/  
poor quality of your faith... (some  
translations say “unbelief”)**



**III. Faith, like a mustard seed,  
should grow over time.**



**Faith can and does grow**



1 Thes. 3:9-10

*For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, **and may complete what is lacking in your faith?***



## 2 Thes. 1:3

*We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, **because your faith is greatly enlarged,** and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater;*



Direct relationship between faith and knowledge of/trust in the word of God

Romans 10:17

***So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.***



Just as the Word of God is living and active, so also our faith should be something that is living and active.

Hebrews 4:12

***For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword...***



**IV. God will give us everything  
we need to serve Him**



## **Matt. 10:1, 8 v1**

*Jesus summoned His twelve disciples **and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness...**v8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, **cast out demons.** Freely you received, freely give.*



## **Matt. 17:14-21 Overview**

v.14-15 - A father of a demon-possessed boy asks for help. His son is ill and keeps hurting himself.



v. 16-17 - The nine disciples cannot perform the same miracle they saw Jesus perform, even though He specifically told them they could do the same thing.

“unbelieving and perverted generation” – included His disciples



v.18-19 – Jesus casts out the demon, and the disciples ask why they couldn't

v.20-21 – The problem was the weakness of their faith in Him. If they fully trusted in Him, then they could do anything He wanted them to do.



If our faith is in Christ, He will equip us to accomplish whatever it is He wants us to accomplish

Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, **which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**



Phil. 4:13

*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

**Conclusion**



**You don't need to have lots of faith, but in order for it to be of any value, it must be placed in Jesus Christ.**



**Your faith in Christ should be growing as you trust in Him daily and pursue a fuller understanding of Him in His word.**



**A small amount of faith in Jesus  
can enable you to accomplish  
whatever it is God wants you to  
accomplish.**