

FAITH

THE CURRENCY OF THE KINGDOM

PART 7 - NO FAITH

"Increase our faith!"

"Father gives us more faith!"

"If I just believe harder or say the Scriptures over and over I will have more faith!"

These 3 statements may appear biblical and we may find our selves saying one of them, or all three of them at some stage, but the challenge is this isn't how our faith grows and how we go from one measure of faith to another.

Let's have a look at Luke 17:5-6 and see what we can hear, see and understand.

Luke 17:5-6 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you.

What is becoming forever clearer to me in the Scriptures is just how often we can see the dynamic of 2 realities outworking themselves and these 2 verses are no different.

The 2 realities are found in what "we say" and in what "He says". Let's look at this.

The apostles said to the Lord "Increase our faith."

The Lord said to the apostles "If you had faith."

Right here is where there is a massive opportunity for learning or offence to occur. The disciples assume they have faith, while Jesus is telling them they don't. How often do we do that because maybe like them, we have assumed we know what faith is and have it, and yet what we say and how we live can represent something entirely different.

Do our very lives reflect a life of faith or just puffed up empty words with no substance or demonstration?

They say increase what we have, while Jesus says IF you had, you would be saying something completely different.

How would we respond if it was us He was speaking to?

Jesus even takes it up another level by saying, "faith the size of a mustard seed." Not only was Jesus saying they had no faith, but He was saying you don't even faith the size of a mustard seed, because if

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you did, you would have said something entirely different.

You would have said to this mulberry tree “Be uprooted and be planted in the sea”; and it would obey you.

The disciples are in panic mode because of what Jesus has just said to them in verses 1-4 about stumbling blocks, sin and forgiveness. They are grasping at things in their response to Him.

What we speak when we are being our authentic self, and not trying to put on a religious act, is a good reflection of our true spiritual state. Jesus loves us in this true state, just like He loved His disciples and He is believing all things for us in this state, but He desires His love to be implanted in us. He desires His love to empower us into the true reality of faith in Him, so our lives are a demonstration of faith in Him on earth, and not some mystical abstract belief we have which is ultimately false.

As we have said already in this resource on faith, that faith of a spiritual kind comes from a spiritual hearing, and that spiritual hearing hears a spiritual word, the Word of Christ, which built creation and builds the church of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

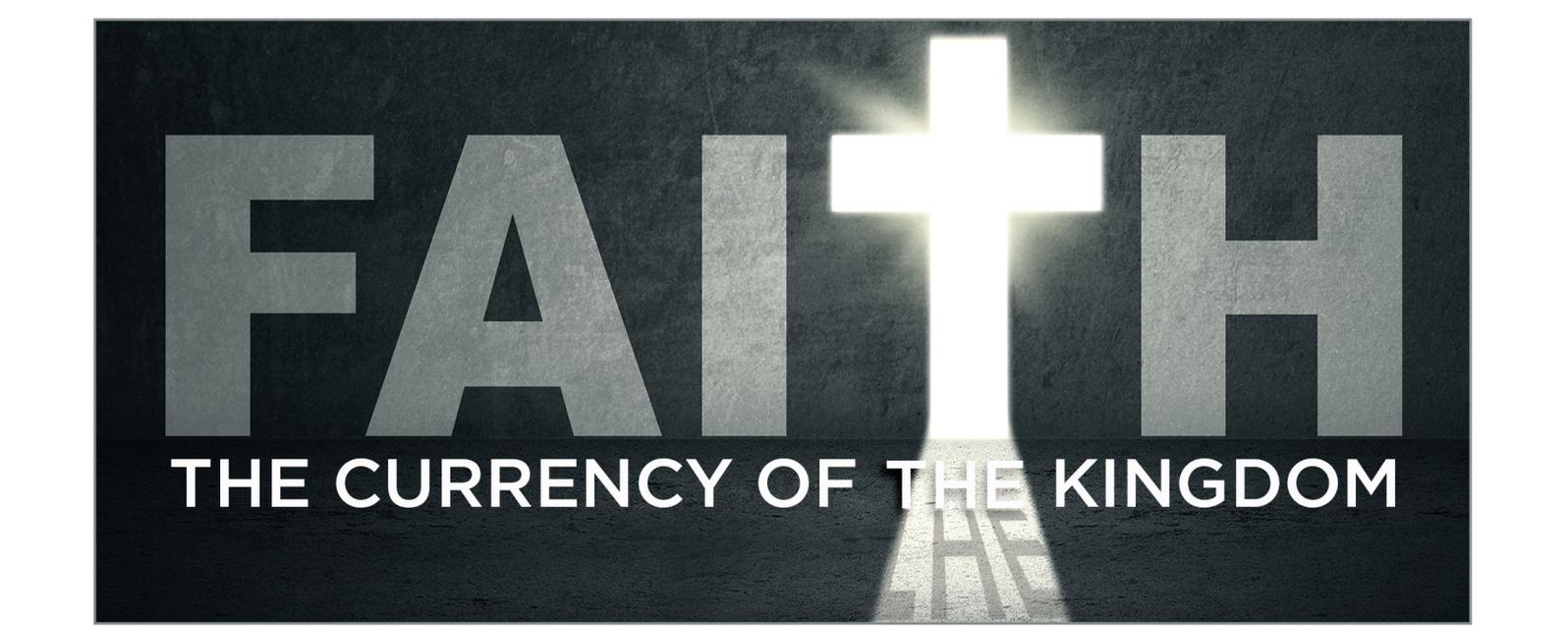
The kind of faith which God calls us to live from in His Son, comes through a spiritual hearing of a spiritual Word, His Word. It is the hearing and understanding of this Word which opens up His unseen kingdom, which we are all called to be living from and administering into the earth as His heavenly ambassadors.

It was this faith which the disciples pretty much had none of when they walked with Him for 3.5 years.

Without true spiritual faith, which is able to see and is seeing the finished work of Jesus Christ, we will live in accordance to the flesh and what we see naturally in front of us called earth. We will prioritise earth and have a very earthly focus, as opposed to seeing the eternal realm and dimension, and having an eternal focus now.

We have called for something far greater than earth and living earthly lives, and it is the reality of our faith which is more precious than gold, which will determine if we walk in the fullness of life which Christ has for us as His church now.

QUESTIONS



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1. Why is the opportunity to learn and grow in Christ so closely linked to the possibility of being offended and hurt in Christ?
2. Can anyone relate to this through personal testimony and if so would you be prepared to share your experience?
3. Why is asking God to just increase your faith so much easier than God's kingdom way?
4. What can we expect someone's life to demonstrate if they are living from and coming more and more into a faith which is more precious than gold?
5. How much of what we have just described is a true testimony and indication of our lives and what do we sense the Spirit is saying in relation to this?