

From Faith to Faith by Wesley Joseph Allen 12-12-09

“If you have faith as a mustard seed, Jesus said in Matthew 17:20, you shall say onto this mountain remove thou hence to yonder place, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.” But what did He mean? He wasn’t ridiculing His people for having such a very little faith, was He? I mean a mustard seed is very small. How can a person’s faith be so little?

Almost anybody could have a tiny pinhead of faith. Could that amount of faith move a mountain? And since nobody can move mountains, do we all have less than a mustard seed of faith? I think we should take a more analyzing look at what Jesus meant by faith as a mustard seed. If it were going to accomplish anything, it would need to be much greater than a pinhead.

“To what shall I compare the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus said in Luke 13:18-19, it is like a mustard seed which a man took and threw into his garden. It grew and became a tree and the birds of the air nested in its branches.” Wow, it looks like mustard seeds have great potential!

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, Jesus said in Matthew 13:31-32, which a man took and sowed in his field. It is smaller than all other seeds; but when it is full grown it is larger than all other garden plants. It becomes a tree and the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.” Well now, it’s the growth potential that is significant. Maybe Jesus wasn’t concerned about having faith the size of the seed, but with the same potential.

So then if faith is like a mustard seed, it starts out very small. It may be the smallest part of a man. But if it is growing, it doesn’t stay small very long. When it is nourished, whoosh, it grows as big as a tree in which the birds build nests, and of course, the squirrels and the coons build their homes in it too.

The Kingdom of Heaven isn’t small, is it? It started out that way though. It started with twelve men. And then there were 120 people in the upper room waiting to obtain power from on high. And when the power came, whoosh, the Kingdom grew to 3000 on the first day. And it says in Acts 2:44 that the 3000 on Pentecost Day were all together in one Accord. I’m puzzled about that! How did they get all those people into that little bitty car?

I’m calling the church the Kingdom, but the Kingdom of God is much bigger than just the church. Jesus said the Kingdom of God is within you, within each person. And He wasn’t talking to Christians either. The Kingdom of God would include Heaven too, and anything else God wants to include. God created everything. And it will all return to Him one day. The church is only the Bride of Christ. The Kingdom is so much bigger.

The Kingdom is big, but it started like a mustard seed. Your faith started like a mustard seed. It will grow like the Kingdom. But how does faith grow to be so much? I think a clue is given in Romans 1:17 where Paul says that in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed from faith, to faith, for the righteous man shall live by faith.

The gospel is the good news of Jesus. The good news is that Jesus came to Earth to live as an example for us, then to offer Himself up as a sacrifice for our sins. He came to bring peace and good will among men. He came to help us find faith.

In the gospel good news, the righteousness of God is revealed. All the good things God did for us and still does for us are talked about. The miracles of God are mentioned. Stories of the wonders of God are told. And who's doing all the talking? Who is telling the stories? Man is! We are! Men wrote the gospels of Jesus; and men still tell the stories today. Men tell of the righteousness of God.

It says, the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. What does that mean? I'm convinced that it makes more sense to place a comma after faith. Remember, that the scriptures were written from right to left, without punctuation, and from bottom to top, maybe, I've heard that stuff. But men translated the scriptures. Seventy scholars put the Bible together. They did it according to their own understanding.

I have a different understanding. We all have a different understanding. The word of God is alive. It is quick and powerful and sharper than a two edged sword, piercing the bone even to the marrow, Hebrews 4:12. Your mindset when reading the word determines what you will get out of it. I put commas in certain places. A comma can change the meaning of a sentence. I don't change the word of God from the way it was written. But I might make a grammatical change according to what God is teaching me.

The word of God is so much alive that it can have different meanings in different situations. It would be sad to conform to any one person's interpretation of God's word. Then its power is limited to grow in you and conform you to the image of God's son. So if you get a different meaning from Romans 1:17 than I do, that's okay. Share it wherever you can to help others in the building of faith.

Would you place a comma after your faith? Your faith is separate from another's faith just as your face is separated from another's face. There is a comma after your face. But we can put them together and make them beautiful. Placing a comma after faith in Romans 1:17 makes it say, "From faith, to faith, for the righteous man shall live by faith." That gives it a new meaning, doesn't it?

God spoke to me about Romans 1:16-18 from 3am to 4am on Wednesday morning December 22nd of 2004 just before He sent me to Wisconsin, from Texas, to spend a white Christmas with my mother in Wisconsin Rapids. I had been meditating on Romans 1:16-18 for the whole day Tuesday December 21st, asking Him what that meant when Paul said, "From faith to faith" and about the righteousness of God, and about the wrath of God. God woke me up at 3am and explained it to me in full with respect to events in my life. He gave me a right to place a comma after faith. He said, "It all began with the faith of Jesus, from the faith of Jesus- to the faith of the Apostles, from the faith of the Apostles- to the faith of the preacher, from the faith of the preacher- to the faith of the listener, from my faith- to your faith, from your faith- to my faith, the building of faith. For the righteous man shall live by faith." To live by it, it has to grow.

Paul said that in the **gospel** the righteousness of God **is** revealed, from faith, to faith. The gospel isn't a thing of the past. The gospel is the good news of Jesus; and it hasn't stopped yet. Jesus came to bring peace on Earth. Jesus came to heal the sick. Jesus came to be an example for us. Jesus came to pull us up out of the muck and the miry clay of sin. Jesus came to perform miracles in our lives. And these things are all still taking place in the lives of men today. By faith we are helping to carry out God's plan.

That's how faith grows like a mustard seed. It grows as big as the Kingdom of God. When we share our stories, give our testimonies; tell of the wonders of God, faith is growing. Faith is

being built up in one another. Faith grows like a big tree wherein the birds make their nests. Will you let the birds make their nests in your face, in you faith? We can remove the commas when our faith blends together in one big beautiful story, the Kingdom of God.

Did you know that you are part of the gospel? You are living out the good news of Jesus. With every testimony, with every story you tell of the wonders of God in your life- you are sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. You are helping others to grow their faith. You are planting mustard seeds. Those big trees are covering the earth all around you. Doves of peace are living in them. As faith grows, our trust in God grows and fear subsides. Fear is plowed under as faith is cultivated, and it can't take root again while you are looking to the love of God shining in your life. From faith, to faith, for the righteous man shall live by faith.

With this faith we can move mountains. Do you think He was literally talking about mountains? If I placed the mountains in West Virginia, someone else would want them in East Texas. We all have different opinions, different thinking. I think we'd better leave the mountains alone. Leave the rocks where they will cry out in praise to their creator when man won't do it.

Now, some of us make mountains out of molehills. We create huge challenges in our lives out of what could have been taken care of as easily as stepping on a bug. We make it necessary to move mountains. If we make the mountains, we can move the mountains. And with faith they will move. With fear they will hold their ground. That which I feared has come upon me, and that which I dreaded has come to pass, Job 3:25. Fear is the opposite of faith; and faith is the remedy for fear. God is faithful, He cannot be fearful.

When we tell our stories, share our testimonies, faith is built up because we can see that God did it for one person, therefore He will do it for me. This is what can happen if I just believe, if I just let go of the fear, if I just relax in God. Be still and know that I am God, Psalm 46:10. Church leaders should give all members a chance to share their testimonies. It would do wonders for the whole church. I recently encountered a situation where that was happening, at the Mormon Church, and I was delighted. It was my very first visit ever to a Mormon Church and I gave a testimony. And I saw that they are God's people. I saw Jesus shining in their faces, and the love of Jesus beaming from their eyes.

Faith is the answer. Love is the answer. Faith is the opposite of fear, and love is the opposite of fear. Perfect love casts out all fear, First John 4:18. Love is that upon which the whole law hinges, love is the fulfillment of the law, Romans 13:10 Matthew 7:12 and other places. If you have great love you will have great faith. Love is the absence of fear; faith is the absence of fear. Faith is the assurance, the substance, of things hoped for, the conviction, the evidence, of things not seen, Hebrews 11:1. With faith like a mustard seed you can move all your mountains and your molehills. With faith like a mustard seed your life will be more pleasant and more peaceful no matter what is happening. With faith like a mustard seed you can accomplish great things!