

# The Ceiling of Faith

Luke 17:3-5...*And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith*

- I. We Need True Faith
- II. We Need Our Faith Increased
- III. We Need Faith Unhindered

Introduction:

I'd like to see the Holy Ghost stir you in this message to deeper depths and greater heights in Christ.

To stand stronger in your Lord than you ever have before

I'm afraid we have lowered the bar in our churches to a place where we think "we" can attain it.

↳ Ex: Me being in summer sports camps, and doing the high jump...At the beginning me trying my own techniques and setting the bar myself...But when the coach set the bar, I couldn't do it, until I did it his way.

...When the Son of man cometh shall he find faith on the earth...

Luke 18:8

## I. We Need True Faith "Genuine Faith"

"Temporary faith" "Belief": the state of mind which is awakened in men by the exhibition of the truth and the operation of the Holy Ghost.

God has given to every man a measure of faith. Romans 12:3

Human belief arises involuntarily out of experience.

↳ Ex: Unless we are very ill or in great danger we cannot help believing we will be alive tomorrow; because this has always been our experience. Yet we cannot be sure...

So when we believe anything we partly doubt it, and when we doubt anything we partly believe it.

Naturalistic belief...sees Grandpa pray and at times we see the outward results and we believe but when at times we don't and we doubt (inwardly).

Faith –

We must let nothing else be more real to us than God.

Anything less would be doubting

We must make God the starting point of all our thinking!

### **Faith is “Lean His Whole Weight”**

John G. Paton was making a translation of the Scriptures into the language spoken in the country where he was a missionary, and searched long for a word for "Faith". The natives had no word for "believe".

One day, while working on his translation, a native entered his room and, tired out, flung himself down on one chair, resting his feet on another chair and remarked how good it was to "lean his whole weight" on the chairs.

Dr. Paton noted the word he had used for "lean his whole weight"; he had his word for "believe".

The carnally minded man begins his thinking with something other than God and then believes in God merely as a probability, or a possibility.

↳ Hence cannot distinguish between believing and doubting. All beliefs are doubtful.

The spiritual man takes God as the starting point of all his thinking...

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is the title-deed of things hoped for, the conviction of things which are not being seen.”

(Kenneth West)

↳ The person who holds the title-deed to the property actually possess the property.

“substance” the actual possession



### **Dad's 5-Penny Promised Believed**

A friend tells of overhearing two little girls, playmates, who were counting over their pennies.

One said, "I have five pennies."

The other said, "I have ten."

"No," said the first little girl, "You have just five cents, the same as I."

"But," the second child quickly replied, "my father said that when he came home tonight, he would give me five cents, and so I have ten cents." The child's faith gave her proof of that which she did not as yet see, and she counted it as being already hers, because it had been already promised by her father.

“Believers in the exercise of faith are filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory!

Christ dwells in the soul by faith, and the soul is filled with the fullness of God!”  
(Matthew Henry)



### **Epigram on Faith**

A little faith will bring your soul to heaven; a great faith will bring heaven to your soul. — Charles Spurgeon

## **II. We Need Our Faith Increased**

Luke 17:3-5

1. “Take Heed To Yourselves” vs.3 ...“or to your faith”

↳ can't be said any better than Christ

↳ ...In order to have our faith increased...

- We have as a church/saints of God qualified/quantified our faith

## **Red Sea Crossing—Boy's Version**

One day an eleven-year-old boy came home from Sunday School and told his mother what he learnt.

"Well," the boy said, "our teacher told us about how God sent Moses behind the enemy lines to rescue the Israelites from the Egyptians. Moses led them to the Red Sea, and then ordered his engineers to build a bridge. After they all crossed to the other side, they saw the Egyptian tanks coming after them. Moses then radioed the air force to send jet fighters to bomb the bridge and save the Israelites."

"Johnny: Did your teacher really tell you the story in that way?"

"Not really," Johnny admitted. "But if I told it her way, you'd never believe it."

↳ We'll forgive, but only in these measures

↳ The Jewish people were a persecuted people;  
they were asked to do something unordinary

## **Toothache And Faith**

A Boston mother said to her little daughter: "If you had my faith, darling, you would have no toothache."  
The child replied: "Well, mother, if you had my toothache you wouldn't have any faith."

Example: My house has very low ceilings, Bro. Billy came into my house, and the only place he could really stand up in was in one half of my back porch

↳ We have put our faith "in a box"

## 2. "Increase our Faith" vs. 5

↳ The disciples realized their faith was too weak to ever live like Jesus was talking about...

> be free from ever causing another person to stumble

> be so loving and compassionate, that you could forgive a person time and time again (7x70)

The stress is not the quantity



But genuine faith

“All it takes is a mustard seed to produce great...”

### III. We Need Our Faith “Unhindered”

“...With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”  
- Matthew 19:26

Mark 2:1-5... (notice some things)...

1. Takes Some Effort vs. 1-3

↳ We press in at times if it is for our family...why not others?

? Why do we come to church to walk away? vs. 2

↳ There is an inward mentality that says this is too much work

? We come to church many times, and we get near to Jesus, we are in the crowd – BUT – never getting to Jesus

↳ This was for others, quite possibly someone they really didn't know too well...

2. To Enter In By A Way That Most won't enter... vs. 4

## Faith And Doubt

**Doubt sees the obstacles.**

Faith sees the way!

**Doubt sees the darkest night,**

Faith sees the day!

**Doubt dreads to take a step.**

Faith soars on high!

**Doubt questions, "Who believes?"**

Faith answers, "I"!

↳ When Jesus saw their FAITH...

“Faith is not believing that God can, but that God will because the provision is already finished”

# FAITH INCREASED

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## I. The Declaration of a need for Pure Faith.

### A. “Increase our Faith”

- 1.They needed Faith
- 2.They could not produce Faith
- 3.They recognized Him as Divine.

## II. The Different Levels of Faith

### A. “our Faith”

#### 1. No Faith

Mark 4:40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

#### 2. Weak Faith

Rom. 4:19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

- a. Consider not the problem.
- b. Consider not the natural law, that Sarah’s womb would be dead at 85 years old.
- c. Consider not His own body now dead at 100 years old.

#### 3. Little Faith

Mat. 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

- a. Little Faith causes fear.

Mat. 8:26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

b. Little Faith causes doubt

Mt 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of **little faith**, wherefore didst thou **doubt**?

c. Little Faith causes one to reason.

Mat. 16:8 Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of **little faith**, why **reason** ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

d. Little Faith causes one to doubt God's Love and care.

Luke 12:28 If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; **how much more** will he clothe you, O ye of **little faith**?

4. Unwavering Faith

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our **faith without wavering**; (for he is faithful that promised;)

James 1:6 But let him ask in **faith, nothing wavering**. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

5. Strong Faith

a. Consider the Promise not the problem.

b. Consider God's Integrity, He promised He will do it.

c. Consider God's Ability.

Ro m.4:21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was **able also to perform**.

6. So Great Faith

Mt 8:8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.



Faith is taking God at His Word.

10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so **great faith**, no, not in Israel.

### 7. Perfect Faith

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the **unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a **perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the **fulness of Christ**:

1Thess. 3:10 Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might **perfect** that which is **lacking in your faith**?

James 2:22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was **faith made perfect**?

## III. The Development of Faith

### A. "Increase"

#### 1. "From faith to Faith"

Rom. 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from **faith to faith**: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

#### 2. "According to your Faith"

Mat. 9:29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, **According to your faith** be it unto you.

#### 3. Growth in Faith

2Th 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that **your faith groweth exceedingly**, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

a. By the Word

Rom. 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

b. By The Holy Ghost

Acts 6:5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man **full of faith and of the Holy Ghost**, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

c. By the fiery trials

1Peter 1:7 That the **trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be **tried with fire**, might be found unto praise an

- Purified Faith

IV. The Dominion of Faith

A. “If Ye had Faith”

Luke 17:6 And the Lord said, **If ye had faith** as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

1. Remove Sycamine trees

- a. Unproductive
- b. Inconsistent
- c. But has some deep roots
  - i. Unforgiveness
  - ii. Bitterness
  - iii. Hatred
  - iv. Pride

## 2. Remove mountains

Mat. 21:21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, **If ye have faith**, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall **say unto this mountain**, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

## 3. All things possible

Mat.17:20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, **If ye have faith** as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall **say unto this mountain**, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and **nothing shall be impossible unto you**.

- **If ye have faith** as a grain of mustard seed...  
**nothing shall be impossible unto you**.

Rev.3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: **for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name**.

- If ye had developed Faith
- If you had Perfect Faith

