

Little Is Enough!-gm

But Who's Little Is It?

By B. D. Tate

Jesus said:

(Lu 17:6) So the Lord said, "If you have faith **as a mustard seed**, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

What most of us have done with this verse, and Jesus' teaching, is **put the burden on us** to have *at least a mustard seed of faith*. Just like most of us consider this statement of Jesus as a burden:

Mr 9:23 Jesus said to him, "**If you can believe all things are possible to him who believes.**"

This verse is a wonderful promise of unlimited access and potential power to answer our every need. Jesus of course is telling us the truth and it certainly applies to Him; however, when it applies to us do you feel what I feel? I feel that this is a great promise that I'll never be able to take advantage of **because I know I don't have enough believing to believe all things are possible!**

In both of these cases, the burden is put on us to have faith as a mustard seed or have enough believing. When we speak to the mountain and nothing happens immediately, we are going to condemn our own hearts because we don't even have a mustard seed of faith! When we believe for something and it doesn't happen, we are going to feel inadequate, insecure, and weak knowing **we just do not believe enough!**

Whose faith is Jesus talking about? Whose believing is Jesus talking about? Just like the law and commandments (love God with all our heart and loving our neighbor as ourselves) which are impossible for us to fulfill, so it is with even having *mustard seed faith!*

If Jesus said this:

Joh 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; **for without Me you can do nothing.**

There really is nothing we can do without Him. We can't even possess a mustard seed of faith, let alone believe all things are possible. We don't have it; we don't possess it, and we are completely without strength. When Jesus tells us that even a mustard seed will get the job done, He is saying, or showing us, how **far we fell from grace.**

Nothing, in most people's definition, would mean absolutely nothing. Here is another verse that is telling us the same thing:

Heb. 7:25 Therefore He is also able **to save to the uttermost** those who come to God through Him, **since He always lives to make intercession for them.**

When we fell into sin nature, we lost complete connection to God's grace within. We are completely lost in transgressions and sins. It has been called "*total depravity.*" We somehow think that our part includes some powers. We might say that Jesus died to save us, but not completely; we still have redeemable parts and areas. We might believe we still have something to offer.

When the scripture says "**uttermost**" consider what that word means:

Panteles pan-tel-ace'; AV-in **no wise, uttermost**

- 1) all complete, perfect
- 2) **completely, perfectly, utterly**

It means that we are being saved utterly, completely, and to the extreme possible measure. There is nothing that is being carried forward. There is nothing of the old that remains. We are completely new:

II Cor. 5: 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

18 **Now all things are of God**, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

Old things have passed away; behold ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW! It continues with, "**Now all things are of God!**" How many things are of God? All!

What does this mean then? If Jesus made it sound like it was on us, He would only do so to communicate to us the **impossibility of us being able to fulfill it!** Just as He made the law so utterly impossible for us to fulfill without Him; so it is that we don't even possess a mustard seed of faith.

When we take Jesus at His word concerning the law, we are forced to see our need for a savior. We don't just need one to *fill in the gaps*, but one that *totally intercedes on our behalf giving us newness of life*. I believe Jesus spoke about the mustard seed, and it being the tiniest, to show us how utterly deprived we are of faith—without Him.

Jesus taught about believing to show us what the kingdom of God in His grace is like—**all things are possible to Him who believes.** Since we can't believe enough for all things to be possible, it should act as a **wakeup call**. We don't have what Jesus has. We are not in the same position. We are fallen in sin and without God in this world (I speak of unregenerate souls only).

Whose Faith Are We Talking About Then? Whose Believing Are We Depending Upon?

According to Jesus, we can do nothing without Him. This means that if we have our faith and a dollar, it will buy us a cup of coffee. We have no faith of any value or use. When Paul writes: "**All things are of God**" then that would mean even our believing is of God and not of ourselves (Eph. 2:8).

We are saved to the uttermost and our old life is done. We died with Him and the life we live now in the Spirit, is by and through, Jesus:

Ga 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

The bottom line is this: **we can't employ mustard seed faith because we have no faith until we come to Christ**. Then, we are given His faith—the gift of faith in the Spirit (Gal. 5:22 AV).

Consider this passage from Galatians:

Gal. 3:22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, **that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.**

23 *But before faith came*, we were kept under guard by the law, **kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.**

24 Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Faith came through Jesus Christ. It is revealed in and through our relationship to Him.

We can't believe at all, let alone enough, to believe all things are possible. Even our believing comes from the one who saved us and loves us. Our believing right now is a work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We cannot take credit for faith or believing, both are by-product of God's Word being made alive in us through the Spirit!

I have tried to establish this truth: we have no faith and we have no believing. Whatever faith we exercise, or believing we stand in, is of God and what the Spirit worked in our heart.

Having laid this foundation in order to correct our wrong believing, thinking, and trusting; we can move onto something awesome!

Whose Little Faith Are We Talking About Then?

When Jesus said, “

"If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.” Luke 17:6

It's not about us conjuring up faith, it's about receiving it. If I can receive just the ***smallest amount*** of God’s love, presence, ministry, power, believing, forgiveness, and faith, I can stand on it and it will move mountains!

But most of us define *receiving as in getting something we don't have yet*; that is however, not what is meant by receiving. **Receiving is accepting, standing in, and asserting what HAS been given to us (Philemon 1:6).** If we can stand in *just a little tiny bit* of God’s grace, we can move mountains. If we can accept in any small way what God has done in us through being born again, all things are possible!

I may not believe that God will move in my life ***in huge ways***, but can I believe that **He'll move in the smallest ways?** Maybe I struggle with believing that I’m God’s favorite, but can I believe that **God includes me in the smallest of possibilities?** God is no respecter of persons; He shows no favoritism. What He has done for one, He has done for all. But he/she who is faithful in little, will be faithful in much (Luke 16:10)! Apply this to our relationship to Jesus.

A question: If I have ever felt His love, peace, rest, and forgiveness of sins, would these be considered at least as big as a **mustard seed of God's presence in my life?**

It only takes a little bit of God in us to move mountains; that is what Jesus is saying to us! It only takes the **tiniest of sparks for God's Spirit to do all things!** We don't have to have a huge movement of God, take in massive amounts of His glory, know a great many scriptures, beg and plead till we faint! We only need a mustard seed **of His faith working** in our lives for God’s power to move on our behalf!

It's Not Our Believing; It Is Believing In Him!

This means it is not on us to believe all things are possible, **but to believe in Him, and in Him all things are possible!**

Joh 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.**"

Joh 3:15 "**that whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have eternal life.

Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, **that whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life.

Joh 12:46 "I have come as a light into the world, **that whoever believes in Me** should not abide in darkness.

Ac 10:43 "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, **whoever believes in Him** will receive remission of sins."

Ro 10:11 For the Scripture says, "**Whoever believes on Him** will not be put to shame." {#Isa 28:16}

Take another look at these two verses and see where the burden of believing really is:

Mt 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "**With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**"

Mr 14:36 And He said, "**Abba, Father, all things are possible for You.** Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."

It only takes a **little of God's believing** in us for all things to be possible. If we can believe in Him, if we can believe in the Father, and if we can receive His believing even in the tiniest amount, then the power of God is released on our behalf in our life.

As a comparison: I marvel sometimes at the size of medicine. Our dog Fluffy had become infected with a tick bite. He developed Lyme disease and it caused his joints to inflame, gave him a fever, and he became lethargic. We took him to the veterinarian who prescribed some anti biotic pills. These tiny pills were to be broken in half making them even smaller. We were to give him one each day. So this disease that had infected his whole body would be treated by half of a small pill. Within a day or so he was feeling better and within a few days he was all better.

Think about that: something so small, changing something so big; and this in the natural realm.

Jesus the Power of God

Jesus, when He healed the multitudes, listen to what it describes:

Mt 8:16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. **And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,**

When the seas were roaring and waves tossing the boat about, listen to what Jesus did:

Mr 4:39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "**Peace, be still!**" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

When the man with a legion of demons was in the cemetery and no one could restrain him, listen to what Jesus said did:

Mark 5: 9 Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many."
10 Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.
11 Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains.

12 So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them."

13 And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.

Conclusion: Jesus Is Lord and Master of All

Jesus' name is above all names (Phip. 2:9). He is greater in power than any force on the earth; far greater in power than a small pill. He is far greater in power than the winds and waves. He is far greater in power than a legion of demons that begged Him. With a word He healed multitudes. He can heal our condition with just the smallest of faith that we receive, accept, and embrace from Him. We don't need dissertations; we only need one word from one verse **that the Spirit makes alive in us.**

One word, one move, one affirmation, and one confirmation; only a little peace from the Lord is more powerful than raging fever and seizures. Only one touch stills the wildest and vilest disease. Only a little faith gaining entrance into our heart will quell our deepest fears. His love is greater. His love is now. His love is more powerful than any darkness or curse known.

Jesus is Lord. It only takes the smallest amount of His love, life, peace, rest, faith and joy in us to deliver us from all bondage. **This is the truth:** Greater is He that is in us than anything in the world (I John 4:4). Grace is greater than sin and the curse. Grace is greater than the power of the law. **Grace is abundantly flowing far more than the curse is found:**

Ro 5:20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,**

Ro 5:15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

Therefore, recognize and esteem who that it is that has saved us, sent His word to heal us, and has given us all that He is. We only need a little spark, crease of light, and entrance of His grace to change completely what was lost, stolen, curse, diseased, and bound. **Jesus is Lord of all and Lord of our life.** It only takes His word made alive in us, awakened by faith in His grace. **How small is one word? Just “a word...”**

Mt 8:16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with **a word**, and healed all who were sick,