

# ENOUGH

## *Faith*



The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost's sermon notes  
of his message, preached August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

© 2018 Smythe Street Cathedral - Do Not Copy Without Permission

✚ Sometimes we feel like we just don't have quite **Enough Faith** for something we need. How do we get more faith? When do we have enough? Let's see what Jesus has to say about this.

✚ Reading from **Luke 17:5-6**

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." 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." Luke 17:5-6 (NKJV) **This is God's Word...**

✚ In the neighborhood where I live people sometimes come by to my door selling things or asking for a charity. I'm sure you get the same thing in your neighbourhood.

I want you to imagine with me a scene where two boys are out on my street ready to come in my driveway and ask me to support their charity. Now I have seen them out my front room window. Okay? And I already know what I'm going to do when they ring that doorbell. I have a policy that I always use for these situations. I am consistent with the policy regardless of who it is. Now I am not going to tell you what I do, I'm sure you have your policy!

I always act consistent to my policy so, I already know what my answer is going to be. But they don't know my policy.

So imagine the conversation that might be having. One of them turns to the other and says, "Do you think he can afford \$25?" "Sure he can!" Says the other. And so they quickly establish that price is not a problem, that I can do it. The question is WILL I do it?

So it's not a question of ability; it's a question of willingness.

Then one of them says to the other, "Let's be positive and tell ourselves he's going to buy. And if we just believe he's going to buy, he will. If we have any doubts, he won't. But if we just tell ourselves, he's going to buy, I know he's going to buy, if we really believe it, he'll buy."

The other one says, "I'm not sure! He's probably seen us through the window and I bet he already knows what he's going to do. And whatever we believe when we walk up there, it's not going to make any difference. We can psyche ourselves up all we want, but if he's already made up his mind what he's going to do, what we tell ourselves isn't going to make any difference at all".

The other boy firmly replies, "Listen, if we get up there and he doesn't buy, it's your fault because you didn't believe enough!"

**Somewhere in this example I hear the echoes of conversations that often come up when we talk about prayer. There's this tension...**

*"If we just believe enough God will do it!" "But do I have enough faith?" "I need more faith"*

*"Just the fact that I am wondering if I have enough faith is doubt, and so it won't happen!"*

*"If it doesn't happen it's my fault, or someone else's fault!"*

**It's stressful to have faith! How do I get more? Do I just push aside all doubt, questions, kind of force myself to believe? "Believe!" "Just believe!" "I'm trying, I'm trying!" What a burden! What stress! Guilt!**

Think about it, if you don't get it right your wife dies of cancer! You didn't have the faith!



“Don’t you believe that God can heal?” “Yes, I do! I truly believe He can.” “So let’s believe together and it will be done!” Then months later there’s this unspoken cloud of questions: “Why did she die?” “Did we not have enough faith?” And then the common things simple answers are spoken:

“It’s wasn’t God’s will!” “It was her time to go!” or “She’s in a better place”

Some things are easier to work out in our brain:

- You wanted that raise and didn’t get it. “God knows best! Maybe He knows you can’t handle the extra money.”
- You wanted that job, prayed about it and didn’t get it. “It wasn’t God’s will” That’s an easy one.

The problem with these answers is that they assume that if something does or doesn’t happen it’s always God’s will.

**But the Bible never tells us that everything that happens is His will. We are asked to pray, “Thy will be done!”**

✚ The other option, often presented, is that it was God’s will but we did not have enough faith.

**Something went wrong with my faith!**

✚ So, the “apostles” ask Jesus “Increase our faith.”

This is Luke **chapter 17**, these guys had seen and done powerful things by now!

“He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.” Luke 9:1–2 (NKJV)

Wow! That’s quite the commission!

“So they (The Apostles) departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.” Luke 9:6 (NKJV)

They saw blind eyes see, deaf ears open, demons run, they saw Jesus feed 5000 with two fish and five loaves, speak to the storm and the wind and raging water calmed, they saw Jesus raise the dead... they witnessed and did amazing things! Yet here they ask for more faith:

“Lord, Increase our faith.”

Wow! The Apostles asking for more faith! How much would one need?

When do you have enough? Jesus’ answer is very interesting...

“Lord, Increase our faith.”

So **(the conjunction connects his next statement to their request)** 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.” Luke 17:5–6 (NKJV)

Jesus uses a mustard seed and a mulberry tree to explain his answer:



1) A very little seed... a mustard seed.

He compares faith to a seed!

**TRUTH #01 - FAITH IS LIKE A SEED**

A seed is **POTENTIAL!** It has the ability to produce something.

It is like an open door of incredible possibilities!

An apple seed can produce apple tree... more apples...

A tomato seeds can produce tomatoes.

If you plant a blueberry seed you can't expect a strawberry!

You can confess, and think positive, and fast, and pray but it will come up a blueberry bush!

Then he contrasts this SMALL seed with a **Mulberry Tree**

- 2) The mulberry tree they would be familiar with was what is known as a **Black Mulberry Tree**. It is a fast-growing tree that reaches up to about 30 ft tall (or more) and 50 ft wide (The size of this space above me). It produces a delicious dark purple or black fruit that looks similar to a big blackberry (about a inch long). Mulberry trees have a vigorous root structure that makes them very hard to pull up or uproot (don't plant them near a house!)

So 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 17:5-6 (NKJV)

Basically what Jesus is saying is this:

**TRUTH #02 - A very little bit of faith can produce huge amazing jaw-dropping results**

Quantity is not the issue! The issue is purpose!

We often think that if we just had more faith, then God would do some bigger amazing things through us. But the better question is this:

What has God called US to do? What seed has God placed in you?

If he has called you to be a spiritual "blueberry" then you have all the faith you need to be just that!

Quantity is not the issue! The issue is purpose!

**Illustration:** I have a jar full of keys at home but I'm not sure what they are for... more keys does not guarantee more unlocked doors...

**The right key is the one I need!**

When it comes to faith... QUANTITY is not the issue! The issue is PURPOSE!

**Everyone has a God given purpose!**

**TRUTH #03 – YOU HAVE ALL THE FAITH YOU NEED** to accomplish that God given purpose, to do what God has assigned you to do!



## **Where does FAITH come from?**

Remember, it's like a seed...

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." Matthew 13:31–32 (NKJV)

His disciples did not understand the parable, so he explains it

"He said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man." Matthew 13:37 (NKJV)

So, it is the sower that sows the seed. The sower is Jesus. **The seed comes from Him!**

"God is the one who provides seed for the sower and bread to eat.

God provides the seed... you don't, I don't! **God does!**

"He will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness." 2 Corinthians 9:10

**Faith comes from God! He gives it! It is a gift from God!**

"For by grace (Grace is an undeserved gift) you have been saved through faith, and that (faith) not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God.**" Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

It you have to try and somehow muster it up, work it up, it's not a gift

**AND, if you have to work it up... it's NOT real faith!**

**Illustration:** Someone presents a need and so we get in a circle to pray, and everyone get real intense and tried with all their thoughts and focus to "believe"... ("think positive") ...**it's stressful!**

You don't want to be the person in the room that jinxes the prayer!

*"if I had only read my Bible this morning!"*

**FAITH IS NOT POSITIVE THINKING!**

**Following Jesus is not about effort, following Jesus is about trust and surrender!**

**So relax! Trust Him!**

"God has assigned to each one a measure of faith." Romans 12:3b

That measure of faith is connected to your purpose, to your gifts, to who God has shaped you to be!  
To who God has called you to be!

**Illustration:** I use to live by this pressure to be (in ministry) something I never was called to be...

- Seminars about how to grow your church (400, 800, 1200)
- Be like Rick Warren, healing ministry, prophesy... preach better



– I just want to be who Jesus called me to be (that's the faith I have and the ability He's given me)

**TRUTH #04 – USE THE FAITH YOU HAVE to be who he's called you to be!**

**Close:**

God has place in you hand a portion of faith (a seed)

It's all you need, to do amazing things

It's not about quantity, it's about purpose

What's your purpose?

Will you just do what He's called you to do

**Next week:**

**HEARING for Faith**

"Find out what God is saying and get in on it"

