

Faith as a Mustard Seed

Jesus said, “To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on the earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade” (Mark 4:30-32). When we have faith so small it seems insignificant, God can grow it into something sturdy and supportive that even others can “nest in”. In Matthew 17:20 Jesus again said (in Matthew 17:20) “... for assuredly, I say to you, if you have ***faith*** as a **mustard seed**, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and **nothing** will be impossible for you.” All things are possible with God!

One of my daily devotionals, “Streams in the Desert” by L.B. Cowman, has an entry by an unknown author named C.H.P. He talks about a passage written by Paul in the book of Galatians: “Before this faith came, we were held prisoners ... locked up until faith should be revealed” (Gal. 3:23 NIV). We are ***set aside*** for a time to learn a more excellent way of faith.

Moses, Joseph, Paul, Silas, and even John all learned about being “*put aside*” for a season to be locked-up to faith. Commit your circumstances to God. praise Him, and claim Romans 8:28 that “He will work all things to good for those who love Him and are the called according to His purpose.” Isaiah 64:4 promises that God “acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.” Others will receive insight and blessings because you were “locked-up” to learn *the way of faith*.

Hebrews 11 has been called the “Faith Chapter”. Paul writes, “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” (Hebrews 11:3) We can *frame* our husband with the Word of God by speaking *into existence* his salvation. God’s Word will not return void. Isaiah 46:11 states, “Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.” II Corinthians 1:20 states “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” Amen means *so be it !* God doesn’t promise and fall through.

I recommend speaking varied scriptures for salvation over your husband daily. One of my favorite scriptures is Romans 10:20, where Paul quotes a passage from Isaiah 65:1, “I was *found*

by those who did not *seek* Me; I was made *manifest* to those who did not *ask* for Me.” This scripture gives me great hope that although my husband isn’t looking, God can **find him** and “show Himself” at any time to my husband.

I believe God will *move heaven and earth* to accomplish this task by wooing our husbands “by His Spirit” (Zech 4:6). It is God’s job to make that call of salvation and we must pray they hear the “knock.” Jesus said, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Rev. 3:20). I pray, “Lord, let him have ears to hear Your knock.” In Matthew 19:26, Jesus says, “With men this is impossible but with God *all things are possible.*”

Fair weather **Faith** is
Not Faith at all.

Charles H. Spurgeon

The book of the Prophet Ezekiel speaks of the “things that should be hereafter” and has a great similarity to the book of Revelation by the Apostle John. One passage in Chapter 37 depicts the “valley of dry bones” in which God tells the

prophet to “prophesy” to the disjointed and dispersed bones. God miraculously brought the “bones to life” joining them with sinews and flesh and skin. Afterwards, God “breathed the breath of life” into them and they became an exceedingly great army !

God can surely breathe the breath of spiritual life *into your husband* ! We need to “prophesy” every time we pray that God will raise him up! Speak it into existence! Salvation is a *resurrection to the dead flesh of the world*. Call him forth *by name* and believe that God hears your cry! You need both *prayer* and *the Word* to bring it to pass. It is God’s *grace* that will bring it into being. God will not only bring the bones to life, He will “*fashion them into a God ordained man, ready for service*”. Ezekiel realized God is the master of the impossible (Ezekiel 37:3). Be ready to accept the improbable, and expect God to “do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20).

I am the first to heed the call of salvation in *my* family, but not the last! Psalm 68:6 states “God sets a *solitary one* in a family”. I will **stand in the gap** for my unsaved loved ones & claim their lives for Christ! What a privilege it is to carry them to the Throne of Grace and petition God on their behalf ! *You’d better take seriously the “holy charge” that has been placed on you.*

You may be the only **“gospel”** they see and hear!
The Apostle Peter states in I Peter 3:15, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and **always be ready** to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear ...” Your deep, abiding joy regardless of circumstances is a magnet to those around you who don’t yet know the Lord. Remember, we **walk by faith** ... (II Corinthians 5:7)

...not what we see
...not what we hear
...not what we feel
...not what we think

In Luke 8:48, Jesus says, “Daughter, be of good cheer; your **faith** has made you well [cured]. Go in peace.” We need to be **cured of our unbelief**.

GOD’s Reputation is
“on the line” -
Not yours ...Just believe !



Seek and Find

1. We may often say we have faith, but do we really display it? Read Luke 7:2-10. What did the centurion do in an act of faith to heal his servant? Did he go and meet with Jesus himself? Why or why not? Did that stop Jesus from granting his request on behalf of his servant? How was the centurion's faith demonstrated and what was Jesus' response (v. 9)?

2. When God called Abram to leave Haran and relocate with his family, he did not have a destination revealed to him. Paul says in Hebrews 11:8, “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place where he would *afterward* receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going”. Oswald Chambers, in his devotional, *My Utmost for His Highest* says, “Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One Who is leading.” God may be leading you to an unknown place in your marriage and in your walk with Him. What does I John 4:18 say about love and fear? How do we know we can trust what God says? What does Hebrews 10:23 say with regards to God’s character?

3. Jesus said, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20). We know that God’s Spirit woos us to Himself and that we are “sought after” by God. What is said about our worth to God in Luke 19:10 and Matthew 18:11-13? Compare I Timothy 2:4 and II Peter 3:9 to find out who God promises to save and if anyone is excluded. What does Jesus say in Luke 15:10 about those who know Him as Savior?

4. Psalm 68:6 says, “God sets a solitary one in families”. Believers are to stand in the gap for our unsaved loved ones. Paul and Luke held a Sabbath prayer meeting in Philippi on the banks of a river (Acts 16:14-15. Name the woman who heard the Word of truth. Do you think she had any influence over others in her household? Why or why not? What about the ruler of the synagogue in Acts 18:7-8? Justus lived next door to the synagogue. Do you think he had any influence over Crispus and his decision to follow God? We too can influence others!



How has God spoken to you in your study of Chapter 3?

Name some practical steps you can take as you journey with God in your marriage.



Write a prayer to God about *faith*.