

Introduction - Faith – Surprisingly Small, Supremely Important

- Faith is foundational to Christian life. Without it, we cannot please God; it is how we are saved and live daily (Hebrews 11:6, Romans 1:17)
- Today's focus: the **Size** of Faith – not about having more, but pure, undiluted faith

Point 1: Tiny Faith Has Tremendous Power

- **Luke 17:5–6** – Jesus teaches that mustard seed-sized faith is sufficient to do the impossible
- Mustard seed = smallest known seed (Mark 4:31)
- The disciples asked for “more faith,” but Jesus redirected them to **pure, focused faith**

Point 2: The Real Issue Is Not Little Faith, But Unbelief

- Jesus gently and kindly addressed “little faith” (Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31)
- **Unbelief**, however, is rebuked (Mark 6:5–6; 16:14) and blocks God's power
- Greek distinction:
 - Oligopistos = small faith (not condemned)
 - Apistia = unbelief (competing, contrary beliefs)
- Analogy: **Voice recognition door** – God hears the quiet voice of true faith, but unbelief creates interference

Point 3: Uproot Unbelief to Unleash Faith

- **Matthew 17:14–21** – Disciples fail to heal due to unbelief, not little faith
- **Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:13–20)** – Weeds represent worldly worries that choke faith
- **Hebrews 3:7–4:11** – Israel couldn't enter the Promised Land due to unbelief
- The Word of God exposes and separates soul (our thoughts) from spirit (God's truth) (Hebrews 4:12) and is the solution for a hard heart (unbelief)

Conclusion: Practical Life Applications

- Faith is not something we *work up*; it's a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8, Romans 12:3)
- **Application Steps:**
 - Saturate your heart with Scripture – it builds and refines faith
 - Identify and **repent of unbelief** – competing ideas, fears, worldly logic
 - Take thoughts captive (2 Corinthians 10:4-5); let God's truth dominate
 - Choose to listen to God's *still small voice* over the noise of doubt

Questions

1. What stood out to you most about the idea that even a mustard seed of faith is enough?
2. Can you think of a time when other “voices” (like fear or doubt) crowded out your faith? What helped you refocus on God?
3. What's one practical step you could take this week to let God's Word go deeper in your heart and to uproot unbelief?

List of Verses used in this talk

Faith is so important

- We can't please God without it. Heb 11v6
- We're saved by it. Eph 2v8,
- Our Christianity is by Faith from First to last. Romans 1:17
- Anything else is sin. Rom14v23

Faith is UNSEEN and counterintuitive

Heb 11:1 NKJV - "1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

2Co 5:7 NKJV - "7 For we walk by faith, not by sight."

Eph 1:18 NKJV - "18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,"

Isa 55:8 NKJV - "8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD."

The disciples' question, and Jesus' answer

Luk 17:5-6 NKJV - "5 And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." 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."

Mar 4:31 NKJV - "31 "It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth;"

Little Faith is not rebuked

Mat 6:30 NKJV - "30 "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

Mat 8:26 NKJV - "26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm."

Mat 14:31 NKJV - "31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Unbelief is rebuked (because "Little Faith" & "Unbelief" are different things)

Mar 16:14 NKJV - "14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen."

Mar 6:5-6 NKJV - "5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching."

We must separate and remove opposing beliefs (Unbelief)

2Co 10:4-5 NKJV - "4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"

1Ki 19:11-12 - Elijah heard God's still small voice, but the loud wind, fire and earthquake would have drowned it out.

Mat 13:3-23 & Mar 4:18-19 - The parable of the sower

Mat 17:14-21 - the epileptic boy and his father and the disciples' unbelief (not little faith)

Mar 9:23-24 NKJV - "23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

Rom 12:3 - we all have a "measure of faith" from God

Num 13:17-33 & Num 14:7-9 - the spies who went into the promised land and brought a bad report

Heb 3:7-12, 19 & Heb 4:1-3, 11-12 - the New Testament commentary on the failure to enter the promised land.

Deu 31:6 NKJV - "6 "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."