

## Small Faith in a Great God

Story of George Muller of Bristol

Hudson Taylor in China

Personal testimony of God's provision and time when we had to leave India in 2000.

Matthew 17: 20 He (Jesus) replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

"Little faith" is translated "unbelief" in the King James Version. It is derived from a word meaning faithlessness, disbelief (want of Christian faith) or unfaithfulness (disobedience).

**WE CANNOT HAVE FAITH AND UNBELIEF AT THE SAME TIME.**

The issue isn't how great our faith is but rather how great our God is.

**Unbelief says:** I can't see a way out of this problem so I need to worry.

**Faith says:** Cast all you anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5: 7)

**Unbelief says:** I don't have anyone to turn to with my problem.

**Faith says:** Jesus has invited us to come to him and he will give us rest. (Matthew 11: 28)

**Unbelief says:** My problem is too big to be solved.

**Faith says:** My God is greater than any problem that we will ever encounter.

**Unbelief says:** My pain is too deep to be healed.

**Faith says:** The love of Christ is wide and lone and high and deep. (Ephesians 3: 18)

**Unbelief says:** Our church will not grow

**Faith says:** Jesus will build His church. (Matthew 16: 18)

**Unbelief says:** I don't have any gifts and abilities to do anything.

**Faith says:** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me and he has given each one gifts and abilities to serve him.

**Unbelief says:** Our vision is too big. We will never accomplish it.

**Faith says:** God is almighty. With him nothing is impossible.

**Unbelief says:** Let's give up

**Faith says:** Let's persevere. Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us.

**Unbelief says:** I'm too weak

**Faith says:** When I am weak He is strong. He chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. (1 Corinth.1: 27)

Matthew 14: 22 – 32 Jesus walks on the water.

- 1) God allows us to get into difficulties (vs.22 – 24)
- 2) He is always watching over us – even in our difficult times. He often approaches us in unexpected ways.
  - The disciples didn't think that Jesus would be able to come to them walking on the water.
  - Do we believe that God can approach us in our situation even if we can't see how he would?
- 3) Faith is looking for an opportunity to do something for God that is beyond ourselves.
- 4) Faith is responding to the Word of God (v.29)
  - It is not being presumptuous – Satan tried to get Jesus to jump off the temple
- 5) Taking our eyes off Jesus is unbelief.
  - Looking at our circumstances rather than Jesus causes anxiety and fear.
- 6) Jesus catches us and holds us even when we don't believe.