

**“MOVING DAY”**

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August 20, 2008

**WHAT IS FAITH?**

**1. What Faith is Not:**

- a. **It is not Hope.** Hope may be a step on the way to reach faith, but it still carries an attitude of uncertainty that real faith never has.
- b. **It is not Knowledge.** Accepting known facts or evidence is not faith. If you wait to see, hear or know something naturally before you can believe, then you are moving in natural knowledge and not in faith.
- c. **It is not Presumption.** Faith is not attempting to claim something that you want. Presumption is trying to force or create into existence what does not yet exist in God’s reality.

**2. The Biblical Definition of Faith**

**Heb. 11:1** *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* (NKJV)

**Faith** - Gr: *pistis* (noun); *pisteuo* (verb - “believe”)

- a. **Faith “is”** - Faith is always in the **present tense** but it is based on something that **has already happened** in the past.

**Mark 11:22-24** *And Jesus answered saying to them, “Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.”* (NASB)

- b. **Faith is the “substance”** (assurance or confidence)

**Substance** - Gr: *hupostasis* - to be under authority

- c. **Faith is the “evidence”**

**Evidence** - Gr: *elegchos* - convincing proof

**CHRIST INTENDED HIS FOLLOWERS TO LIVE THEIR LIVES WITH A FAITH THAT CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS.**

**Matt. 21:21-22** *Then Jesus told them, “I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don’t doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.”* (NLT)

**Matt. 17:20** *“For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of 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.”* (NRSV)

**THE NATURE AND SPHERE OF OPERATION OF OUR FAITH MATTER MORE THAN ITS SIZE.**

**Matt. 13:31-32** *Here is another illustration Jesus used: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches.”* (NLT)

**The Mustard Seed Faith**

- a. **It is linked to the Kingdom of Heaven.**
- b. **It operates in the Spiritual Realm.**

**IT IS WHEN WE LAY HOLD OF WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY SPOKEN INTO EXISTENCE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM THAT WE BECOME UNSTOPPABLE.**

**Heb. 11:8-10** *It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith – for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.* (NLT)

**Heb. 11:11-12** *By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old – and Sarah herself was barren – because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”* (NRSV)

**Heb. 11:17-19** *It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God’s promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though God had told him, “Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.” Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.* (NLT)