

How much faith is enough faith?

1. **Why, when I prayed, when family prayed, when church members were praying. We still loose loved ones? Did we not have enough faith?**

2. Matthew 17:14-21.

3. **Setting the Stage**

**"And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once."
(Matt. 17:18)**

4. **Disciples Bruised Pride**

Verse 19 says: "Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not drive it out?'"

Were the disciples perfect? Did they have it all together? What did they spend a fair amount of time doing when "Jesus wasn't listening?" They were arguing about the greatest, job descriptions and responsibilities.

5. **Despite who the disciples were, what did Jesus do?**

"Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness." (Matt. 10:1)

"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give." (Matt. 10:8)

6. **"Why could we not cast it out?" Matthew 17:19**

Jesus response, verse 20:

"And He said to them, 'Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to 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 to you.'" (Matt. 17:20)

- a. **Faith issue or rather a faithlessness issue!**

Strong's Concordance

ἀπιστία, ä-pe-ste'-ä

unfaithfulness, faithlessness

want of faith, unbelief

7. **What is Jesus telling His disciples?**

Despite all they had been given. Despite all the experience they had. Jesus say's the disciple's faithlessness, kept them from doing something that God had told them to do!

8. What did they need?

"mustard-seed-size faith."

In Matthew 13:31-32

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES."

"It's tiny!" It begins tiny, and yet it produces a plant that all the birds of the air come to make a nest in. Here the mustard seed is being used as an illustration of something that is really small, but not how great it is. With that in mind, think about what Jesus is saying to the disciples. He's basically saying, "You have faith that is the size of a mustard seed. It's little tiny. You have incorrectly believed that you had the power in yourself to do this thing, but God brings the increase or causes the plant to grow and God gives the authority. If you just had a mustard-seed-size faith, you could do anything."

9. Pay close attention

Jesus is not reprimanding because they did not have enough faith.

Instead He is reprimanding them because of their faithlessness.

10. Application

We read this story that was written a long time ago about Jesus' disciples. But what can we learn from this story of faith? How many times have we had conversations with people in our church who felt responsible for the sickness or death of a loved one because they were told by some TV preacher, their loved one died because they lacked the faith for God to heal them?

God is bigger than your doubts, your unbelief, or your little faith. God is not limited by you or me. He does not need anything from us.

11. Acts 17:25

25 God is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

My God is sovereign, He possesses supreme or ultimate power and He chooses to do miracles when He wants.

12. Isaiah 55:8, 9

8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Where are you today? Someone is shaking their fist to the seemed empty expanse of the heavens. I would propose to you today, put your faith in God because it could mean that even though things look tangled up, life was snatched away, life is slipping away. God can untangle them; God is bringing healing to the broken.