

Enough Faith?

by

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A question often asked in the mind of a Christian is: "**Do I truly believe in Jesus Christ, or is my faith sufficient?**". Since Faith is the pillar of the Lutheran Confessions and the basis from which all good works come forth, as well as Salvation or eternal life, that would appear to be a valid question. Jesus talks of having faith the size of a mustard seed being enough to move mountains and by which nothing will be impossible. There seems to be a notion of quantity or magnitude that Jesus is referring to but then he says that if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, which is described as the smallest seed, nothing shall be impossible.

Since faith itself is a gift of God through the purpose and power of the Holy Spirit it would appear that size must not be the issue for even the smallest Faith is enough to move mountains . But how does one come to have Faith in God since it is described as a gift of God? I have heard some people claim to have no faith in God. How do they miss the gift, particularly when we read in scripture that *"It is not God's intention that anyone should perish but that all should come to repentance"*.

Possibly it is the object of our Faith that is the problem and not Faith itself. That is a bit mysterious since in the end the Bible it says: *"The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he 'has put everything under his feet'. Now when it says that 'everything' has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that **God may be all in all**"*(1 Corinthians 15:26-28). Through his death on the cross and his resurrection hasn't God in Christ already claimed victory over death? At that time, what might you have faith in which is not God? Just what does that statement about God mean? One of the most quoted verses of the Bible is John 3:16 *"For God so Loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life"*. But the problem is how does Faith begin? Perhaps it is explained by this verse in Acts 2:21 *"AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED"*. I suggest from this small beginning arises great faith, true

belief in Christ, baptism, and repentance through the purpose and power of the Holy Spirit. But, what is Faith? Perhaps, the most meaningful definition I have found is in Hebrews 11:1 and I have quoted these words from several versions of the Bible, since we are truly trying to understand what it is.

New Living translation

“What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.”

New International Version

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

King James Version

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

New American Standard Bible, and Revised Standard Version

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

An interesting notion of Faith was once relayed to me. When you go to sit on a chair what do you believe about the chair? The idea that the chair will hold your weight, and you will not crash to the floor is an example of Faith. Be assured, that God is more True and substantial than that chair!