

# Why Doesn't Our Faith Move Mountains?

*“And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, He will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?” (Matthew 6:30 – NLT)*

Peter tells us that Paul wrote some things that are hard to understand (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:16). Jesus said some difficult things, too.

Twice the Lord told His disciples that if they had faith like a mustard seed they could do jaw-dropping things. In Matthew, mustard seed faith is tied to expelling a demon, and Jesus says those who have such faith can move mountains (Matthew 17:20). In Luke, those with mustard seed faith will be able to forgive those who sin against them since such faith can pluck up mulberry trees and cast them into the sea (Luke 17:6). In considering these, and scriptures like them, all kinds of questions enter our minds.

What is faith like a mustard seed?

Why doesn't our faith move mountains?

Are we failing to see great things from God because of our lack of faith?

## **Faith that Encourages**

In the stories recounted in both Matthew and Luke, the disciples long for more faith. **Then** they could do great things for God. **Then** they could cast out demons and forgive a brother or sister who is especially annoying. Jesus tells them they do not need *great* faith; they need just a little faith. He clearly speaks of a small amount of faith since the mustard seed was the smallest seed known in His day. Jesus also informs His disciples that the kingdom of heaven is as small as a mustard seed (Matthew 13:31).

We are prone to think if we just had *more faith* then God could do amazing things through us. But Jesus tells us something quite astonishing. The issue is not whether we are *full* of faith but whether we have *any* faith. If we have the smallest amount of faith, God works on our behalf. Jesus stops His disciples short and asks them: Do you believe in me *at all*? Do you trust God *at all*?

Why is Jesus's answer encouraging? Because we do not get caught in the morass of thinking about whether we have *enough* faith. When facing a given situation, we should call out to God to give us faith — no matter how small. A small amount of faith is sufficient because the focus is not on our faith but its object — *Jesus, The Christ, The Son Of God!*