

Faith Great and Small

Matthew 18:1-4

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, ³ and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

What does the child have- or not have- that makes him the example of great faith?

He has not yet discovered HIMSELF, so he very easily receives a greater revelation: the discovery of God!

The quality of a little child is simple, dependent trust.

What does little faith look like, and how can we see it grow?

Romans 14:1-2

14 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.* ² One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.

When my faith is small, I will be easily tempted to push my strong opinions as essentials for others to follow.

Great faith is marked by freedom in Christ, which means liberty in non-essentials.

Matthew 16:6-8

⁶ And Jesus said to them, "Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ⁷ They began to discuss *this* among themselves, saying, "*He said that* because we did not bring *any* bread."⁸ But Jesus, aware of this, said, "You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread?"

When my faith is small, I will misunderstand the words of Jesus, and my discernment will be limited.

1 Corinthians 2:9-12

⁹ but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And *which* have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him."¹⁰ For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God

Great faith has grown up under to tutelage of the Spirit of God, and learned to think God's thoughts after Him.

For faith to grow, I must let the Spirit lead me in searching out the depths of God.

Matthew 8:26-27

²⁶ He **said* to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. ²⁷ The men were amazed, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

When my faith is small, the storms of life will easily upset my trust in God, and I will struggle with various fears.

Small faith has not yet seen who Jesus really is.

Luke 12:29-32

²⁹ And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰ For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹ But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. ³² Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.

Great faith has come to realize to our Father is the King of Kings, and that He will gladly share the kingdom with us!

Matthew 17:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once. ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not drive it out?" 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.

When my faith is small, so is the authority Jesus can entrust me with. Authority is a simple matter of WHAT OBEYS YOU.

Growing, mature faith is placed firmly in the character of God, with whom nothing is impossible.

That means in the face of difficulty and impossibility, I search out the mind of God by the Spirit, and exercise my faith!

As our vision of Him grows, faith follows close behind.