

## Title: Lord Increase Our Faith

Brandy Helton, Garden Gathering, 2/19/23

The name of this message is “Lord, Increase Our Faith.” Whenever people speak on faith, you have two opportunities. If you talk about faith being “going through,” when you have been praying for something for a really long time, the enemy can bring condemnation, guilt, exhaustion, fatigue or cause frustration, hurt or pain. When you speak by the Spirit, the message on faith is a call to lift us up. That is “lift us up on wings of eagles,” to encourage us, yes?

In the scripture, in Corinthians 12, it talks about the “gift of faith.” The gift of faith is one of the gifts that Holy Spirit gives to the believers. If Holy Spirit is living in you, you have access to every gift. Every individual has access to every gift of the Spirit *to include words of knowledge*, wisdom, tongues, interpretations of tongues, healings, miracles, and faith. You understand these are gifts of Holy Spirit? We have access to every gift. Holy Spirit pulls from that well inside of you and brings that gift through you, to you, and for you in the need of the moment. Whether it is for yourself or it is for somebody else, that is how He works. We annihilate the lies around here that you only get one gift. If all you get is interpretation of tongues, you better hope that somebody gives a tongue or you are toast. You understand, the fullness of Holy Spirit is inside of us as believers *since* we have been born again. We have access to every gift as needed, for the moment. He disperses and He distributes at His will.

Therefore, it is important, as you heard earlier, to be filled with Holy Spirit, to be surrendered to Holy Spirit, and for Holy Spirit to be Lord completely. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. Holy Spirit is Lord in the Church. Jesus is the Head of the Church. He is Lord of the Church, His body. The Holy Spirit is Lord in the Church, and He is Lord inside of us. That is the key to living a full life, a complete and total surrender to the Lordship of Holy Spirit, amen. The gift of faith is one of those that when Holy Spirit comes on you and it is imparted, all of a sudden, you have faith for A, B, C, D, E, F, G, or whatever it is in your life, or on behalf of somebody else in the Kingdom. Nothing can change your mind about it. I cannot talk you out of it. You are convinced. You know that you know, and it is going to happen. Someone is going to get saved. It does not matter what it is.

A gift of faith is from Holy Spirit. He gives that and He knows when you need it. Usually it is in a very “wow” moment, that you are not expecting it to show up. But, He is faithful, yes! We have each been given a “seed,” if you would. We have each been given a measure of faith. When Holy Spirit finds us in our depravity, in our lost state, there has been given a seed there. When Holy Spirit comes with truth and says, “You must be born again. Repent of your sins. Here is the way. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.” The conviction comes. Holy Spirit brings the conviction. You cannot be born again except by the Spirit.

No one can come to the Lord unless the Father is drawing them. It is a grace. It is a gift of God. It is not *something* that we can boast in. Yet, He gives us a choice. He lets us choose. It is amazing to me. So, it looks like that. The “nearness of God is our good,” and when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, at that moment, faith is just ignited within us. Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, and the Father start revealing themselves to us. They start teaching us through His Word. As we read the word, our faith is growing. We go from faith to faith. We are still going from faith to faith. Hallelujah! Lord, Increase our faith.

Sunday, February 19, 2023

My question is, “whose job is it to increase my faith and your faith? Whose job is it?” If you say, Holy Spirit and yourself, good answer. Because, Holy Spirit is working in tandem with our faith. It is my responsibility. He has given me that opportunity. So, we are going to journey in the Scripture a little, and it is all going to come together. So, stay with me and be encouraged today. If you feel any condemnation, tell it to leave now in Jesus name. Then you will come up on those “wings of eagles.”

Luke 17:5-10 NKJV

The apostles said to Jesus Christ, “increase our faith.” Very interesting how this is all in the same story.

Luke 17:5-10 NLT

*The apostles said to the Lord, “show us how to increase our faith.” The Lord answered, “If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘May you be uprooted and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you! “When a servant comes in from plowing or taking care of the sheep, does his master say, ‘Come in and eat with me?’? No, he says, ‘Prepare my meal, put on your apron, and serve me while I eat. Then you can eat later.’ And does the master thank the servant for doing what he was told to do? Of course not. In the same way, when you obey me you should say, ‘We are unworthy servants who have simply done our duty.’”*

What is our duty, but to believe God, to believe the Lord Jesus, and to serve Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, will, and strength, yes.

Matthew 17:14-21 NLT

*At the foot of the mountain, a large crowd was waiting for them. A man came and knelt before Jesus and said, “Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. So I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn't heal him.” Jesus said, “You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you? How long was I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.” Then Jesus rebuked the demon in the boy, and it left him. From that moment the boy was well. Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, “Why couldn't we cast out that demon?” You don't have enough faith Jesus told them. “I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.”*

Mark 9:14-29 NLT

*When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and some teachers of religious law were arguing with them. When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, and they ran to greet Him. “What is all this arguing about?” Jesus asked. One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, “Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk. And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it.” Jesus said to them, “You faithless people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” So they brought the boy. But, when the evil spirit saw Jesus,”*

I'm just going to say that again. I was on, “So they brought the boy.” “But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth. “How long has this been happening?” Jesus asked the boy's father. He

Sunday, February 19, 2023

*replied "Since he was a little boy. The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can." Verse 23, "What do you mean, 'If I can,'" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible, if a person believes." The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!" When Jesus saw the crowd of onlookers was growing, He rebuked the evil spirit. "Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak," He said, "I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again." Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran throughout the crowd as people said, "He is dead." But, Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to His feet, and He stood up. Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with His disciples, they asked Him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" Jesus replied, This kind can be cast out by only prayer." Some versions and I added fasting. Amazing. A cry of humanity. "I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief."*

#### Mark 11:12-25 NLT

*The next morning, as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. He noticed a fig tree in full leaf a little way off, so He went over to see if He could find any figs. But, there were only leaves because it was too early in the season for fruit. Then Jesus said to the tree, "May no one ever eat your fruit again." And the disciples heard Him say it. Verse 15, When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, and He stopped everyone from using the temple as a marketplace. He said to them, "The scriptures declare, 'My temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations, but you have turned it into a den of thieves.'" When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill Him. But they were afraid of Him, because the people were so amazed at His teaching. That evening Jesus and the disciples left the city. The next morning as they passed by the fig tree that He had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up. Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, "Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died. Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you have received it, it will be yours. But, when you are praying, first forgive anyone that you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins too." Amen.*

#### Mark 11:22-24 KJV

*And Jesus answering saith unto them, "Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea, and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which He saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

Now, I am going to give you a testimony of prayer and a journey. Early in January, I pray a lot and am just yielded to Holy Spirit. So, whenever He wakes me up, we are praying in the middle of the night and the night seasons. Holy Spirit led me to these passages. He had me praying in a certain way. This was not just in a personal way. But, on behalf of the movement of God, on behalf of the territory, on behalf of the Garden, and on behalf of me and our family. He had me taking these passages, and praying them. That is what you do when you hear Holy Spirit. You pray what He says. There is your unity of having two in agreement. So, Holy Spirit drops something in your heart. He speaks it to you, and you pray it. You pray, what Holy Spirit said to

Sunday, February 19, 2023

you. You say what Holy Spirit says to you. You agree with what God is saying to you. Heaven is going to come, because you are in agreement with the Spirit of the Lord, who cannot lie. "He is not a man that He should lie." He said, "I am Truth," right? You have to hear the agreement here. It is not just, "Well, God told me to pray, so I did." I need you to come up higher and see the power of agreement with the Lord when He speaks truth to you. He commands you to pray. He calls you out into attention to the headship of Jesus Christ, to decree a thing, so it can be established. Heaven comes, heaven moves, and heaven is here, so I will declare.

I found myself saying in the Spirit, "With a mustard seed of faith, I command.... to be rooted up and cast into the sea in Jesus' mighty name! It was over and over and over and over. "With a mustard seed of faith." It was like the mustard seed was a sword. These words did not come from the people that printed the Bible. These words came from Jesus Christ, our Head, our Husband, and our Lord. Yes! These are not our examples. These are the Lord's examples. So, if I pray His prayer, something is going to happen. Something is going to happen if I pray the prayers in the Bible, the Word of God, something is going to happen, because the word of God is truth. He will not lie.

When He sends His word it will accomplish what it was sent to do. It will not return void. You either believe it or you don't. "With a mustard seed of faith, I command!" You go on in your journey. The Holy Spirit directs our heart, and He is going to speak from every direction He can.

One morning, Teresa, comes up here and tells me the Lord said for her to give me this bag of mustard seed. I am laughing. I taught some on this in K4. She says, the Lord told her to give it to me, but she did not know where she got it. She just couldn't remember. Okay, so obviously the Lord is speaking here. I am laughing hysterically, because I know what this is about.

One of those cold days where San Angelo just shuts down due to the weather, I am at home. Kimmi and I had an appointment to meet at the office, but decided to have a phone visit instead. During that time, I was talking about these passages. I went over the exact passages, and I was teaching her and talking about this with her. I was talking about these passages starting with Lord increase our faith.

I just started laughing. I said, "isn't that hilarious? Isn't it hilarious how we tell the Lord, 'Lord, increase our faith?'" Like one more thing we are going to put on Him. "Lord, increase our faith." That is what the disciples were doing here. You know what? They really wanted Him to increase their faith. Correct? It is not wrong. But, is funny to me how we put what we are supposed to do, and what is our duty before God, back on Jesus to handle? He said, "I gave you the keys of the Kingdom. I gave you my word. When you put it in your mouth, it will accomplish my will in your life. Truth, I am quoting scripture.

So, we laughed over, "Lord, increase our faith," and whose job is this? We discussed the passages. I told Kimmi, as a matter of fact, on Sunday, Teresa gave me this baggie of mustard seeds. Now Kimmi starts to laugh. She is laughing hysterically. Kimmi says, "Well, I gave those out to the youth group, and I gave a bag to Teresa, but she did not remember that. Well what goes around comes around. Friday, after we prayed together when she said the Lord healed her back, hallelujah! I took out this bag that Kimmi gave the youth and Teresa, who gave it to me. I took out one of those little seeds and gave it to Kimmi. I said, "Give and it will be given to you in good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over we put into your bosom for with the same measure you give, it will be given back to you."

#### Luke 6:38

The journey of love in the journey of life. How we encourage each other in our testimony, in our faith journey, in our ups and downs, with our tears and our sorrows, in our believing, in our

Sunday, February 19, 2023

victories, our trials, and everything that we go through. As we gaze into the Lord's eyes, His Word, and His glory, our faith shall increase. Our faith shall increase. That word, "shall," I read that earlier in the King James version of the scripture. How many times did He say that? The word shall," is a covenant word that means, "If God said it, it shall happen." It is covenant.

How many times was it used in that one passage? "It shall," and that is what Jesus is teaching us. That is the power in His word. That is the power of Holy Spirit. Yes, He wants us to agree with that. Because, He knows He was *sent* to the planet of a bunch of unbelievers. He knows He has pulled us out of hell. He has pulled us out of our affliction. He came to save us. Of course, we don't have faith. He is showing us. He is demonstrating God's heart for all, and His word, and how to pray, and how to do it. He is teaching us always.

So, there is no condemnation in Christ. We are all growing, everyone of us. If you have been born again, you may have started down here in your faith journey, but now you are up here in a whole new place. Truth! Raise your hand, if you agree with that. We have all grown in our faith. Our faith is in Him, remember, "Look at Me. Seek Me. Seek the Lord with all your heart. Look in My eyes. Look at Me. Focus on Me. Focus on Me. Hear My words."

So, as we go through various trials and tests, this is the promise of the Lord. You know it.

#### James 1:2 NKJV

"Profiting from trials," but hear the word of the Lord, "Do not waste your trials." That is right in there with the "shall" words. Lets read it again. *"My brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But, let patience have its perfect work that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."*

Truth, and you can take this word and pray it, say it, and decree it, because that is what is happening in us. We are looking more and more like Jesus every day.

#### James 1:3-8 NKJV

So, there it is, the Lord said, "If I am able?" That is what He was addressing. "If I'm able, if I'm able?" That, so we need to know that "He is able." That is where we soar on wings of eagles, because we know who He is. We believe who He is. We believe in Him. We believe His Word. We soar on up as we go through. Amen!

#### 1 Peter 1:3-9 NKJV

I'm going to close with this. This is kind of a blessing and exhortation at the same time from Peter. Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. That is what He is doing today. *"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the very end of your faith—the salvation of your souls."* Hallelujah!

So, let's take this word from Holy Spirit and join the joy and the laughter of how He teaches us. How we encourage each other to strengthen each other while it is called today. Know that with God, everything's possible. Afterwards, if you want to come up and take one of my mustard seeds, they are here. You can take one. I challenge you to start praying with that mustard seed, and see what God does.

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Stand up and let's pray. "Father, God, you alone are worthy of all of our praise. Lord, we delight ourselves in you. We believe you and we believe your word. Your word is truth. We honor you for how you teach us and how you confirm. Everywhere you turn, the message is the same. We shall increase our faith God. We shall increase our faith. We shall, and we will believe your words. We love you. We trust you. I loose healing, grace, peace, strength, comfort and love to all. I ask that you would encourage us and strengthen us, even while it is called today. In Jesus's name, amen. Glory to God. Be blessed.