

Believe

Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43

I. Foundational Principle of Faith

Just as spiritual life must be received by faith at salvation, so also that spiritual life must be lived by faith after salvation.

II. A Lesson in Kingdom Faith

A. The _____ in Matthew 17:14-15.

1. Every _____ person is subject to the control of Satan. The more a person willfully sins and rejects God, the more he leaves himself open to Satan's influence.

B. The _____ in Matthew 17:16.

1. It is a strange situation because the disciples
2. They failed to properly use the power they were given.
3. All throughout Church history, many Christians have been faithless, weak, and indifferent, causing many seeking unbelievers to despair of any help.

C. The _____ in Matthew 17:17-18.

1. "generation" = _____
2. "perverted" = _____
3. Jesus was talking about spiritual perversion - inevitable in those who are unbelieving; any person who does not genuinely trust God, cannot escape having a distorted view of God and His will.
4. "How long, how long?" = _____
5. "Bring the boy to Me" = _____

D. The _____ in Matthew 17:19-21.

1. The problem was _____.
Not a total lack of faith; not the absence of faith.
It was insufficient faith.
2. "little faith" was typical with Jesus' disciples - Matthew 6:25-34; 8:26; 14:21; 16:8.
3. "little faith" is _____
4. Great faith is _____
5. Jesus was teaching His disciples about _____
6. To strengthen our faith and dependence on Him, Jesus sometimes makes us _____.

THE SEASON TO BELIEVE

Matthew 17:14-21

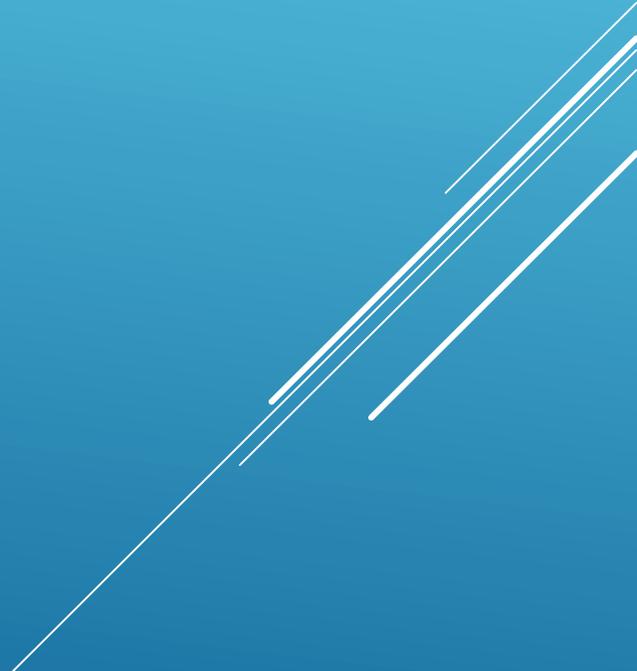
A crowd, the scribes and a father were arguing with the 9 disciples about why they couldn't heal his "violent, lunatic son." The father was in despair and hopeless.

THE PLEADING FATHER

Strange because disciples were
successful earlier.

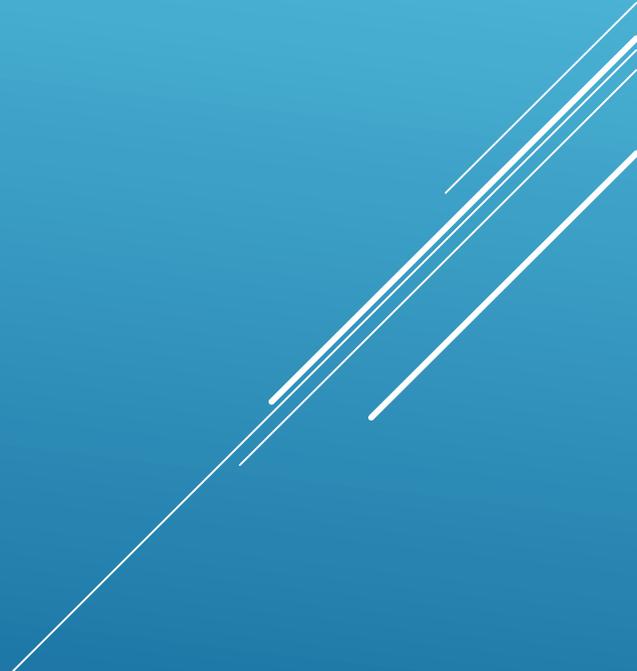
What's the problem now?

THE **POWERLESS FOLLOWERS**

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“Generation” is Israel, Scribes,
Disciples, and even the father: all
lacking belief in Jesus.

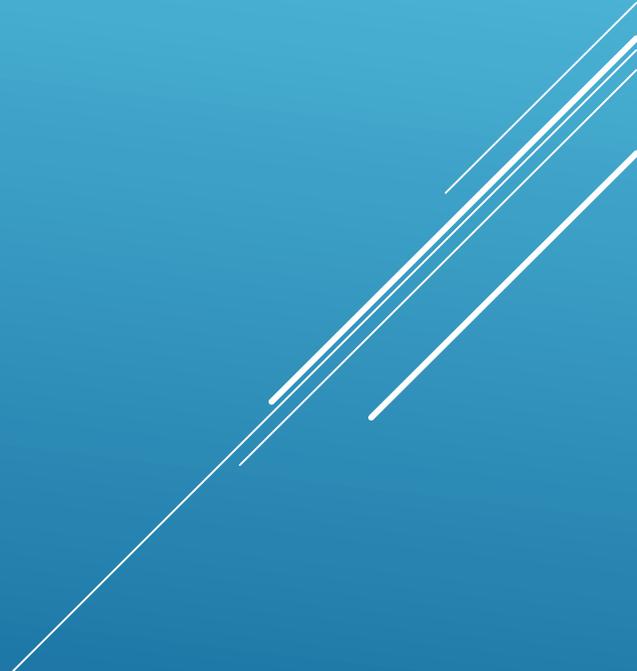
THE ***PERVERTED FAITHLESS***

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“twisting, bending out of shape”

Commonly used to refer to pottery of a careless craftsman who places a misshapen piece into the oven, and it sets crooked

“PERVERTED”

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Jesus in humanity & divinity:
Amazed at unbelief in the face of
so much proof.

“HOW LONG?”

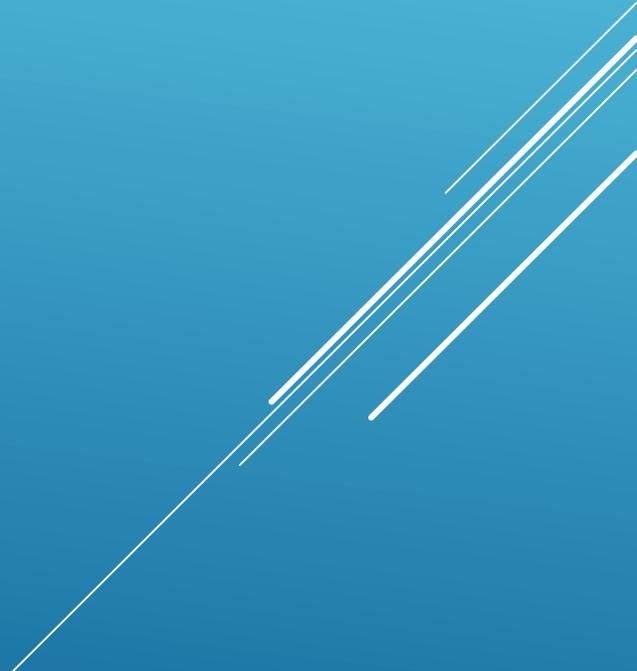
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Jesus would not despair. He would not be deterred. He would not waver in His mission and ministry.

“BRING HIM TO ME”

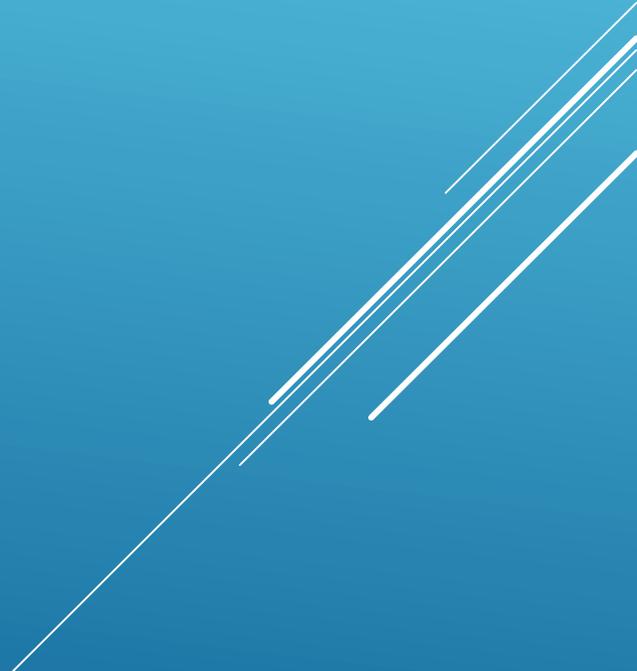
The problem was *little faith.*

THE POWER OF FAITH

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Belief in God when you have something in your hand; when things are good and all is well and easy and under control; it's easy to trust God.

“LITTLE FAITH”

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As soon as circumstances
become uncertain, hard,
threatening, or disappointing,
faith withers.

“LITTLE FAITH”

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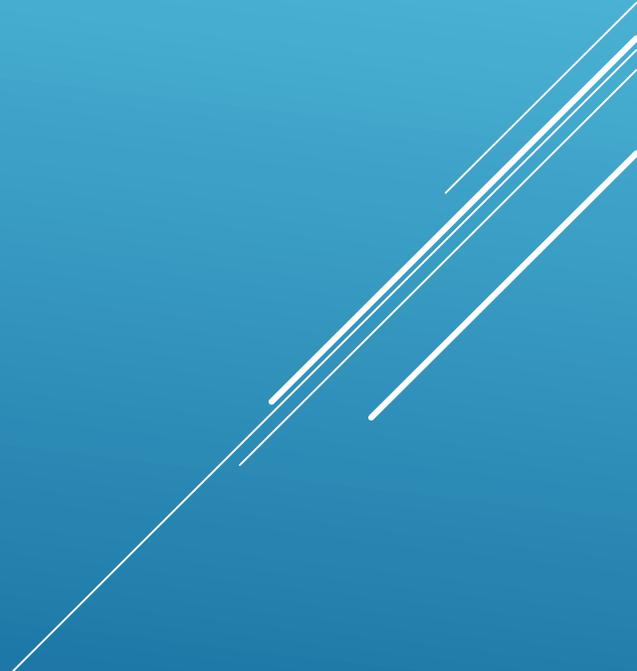
Great faith trusts God when there
is

GREAT FAITH

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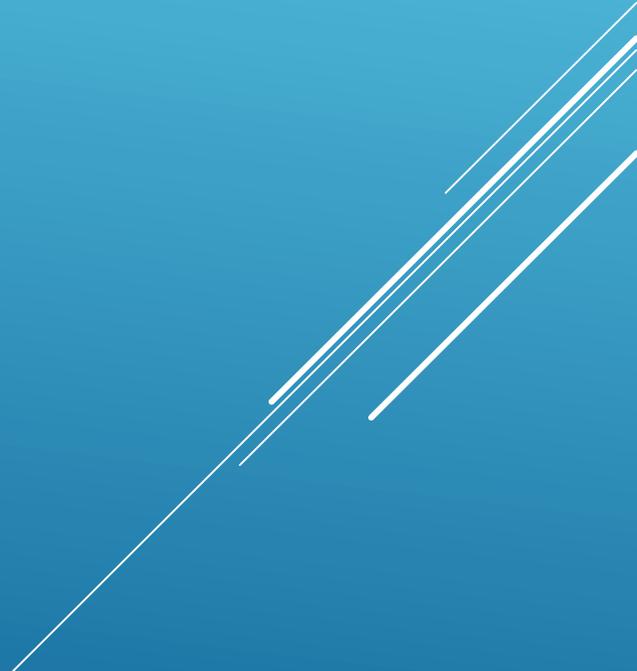
Jesus was teaching His disciples
about **persistence**.

LESSON IN FAITH

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To strengthen our faith and dependence in God, Jesus sometimes makes us *wait*.

A HOLDING PATTERN

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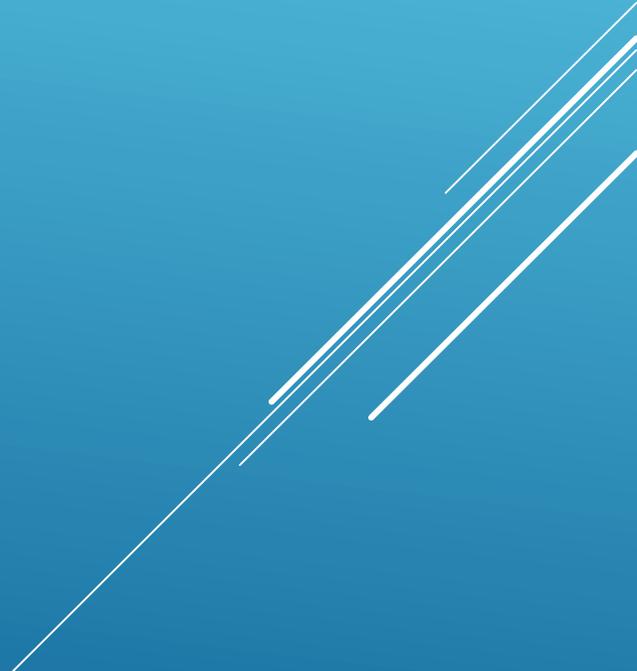
Mustard seed faith is faith that grows from small to great by persistently trusting God and showing that trust by being persistent in prayer.

MUSTARD SEED

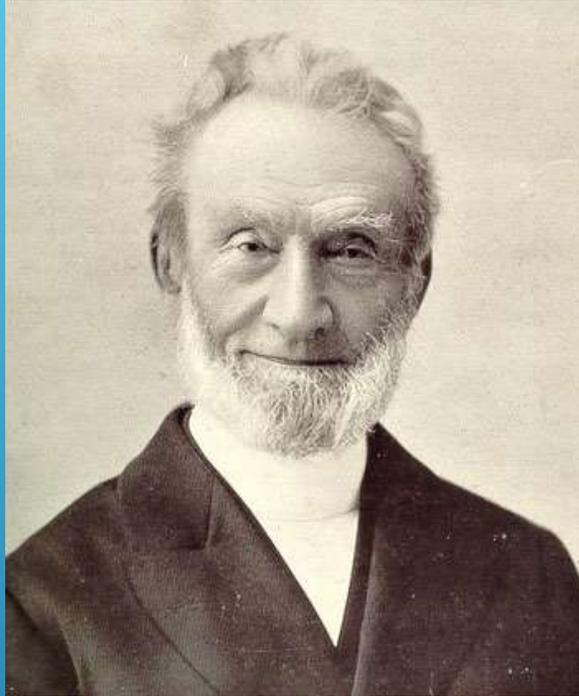
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There is not power in faith itself, or
in the one with faith; the power of
faith resides in the object of faith:
GOD.

IMPOSSIBLE FAITH

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George Mueller



EMPHASIS OF FAITH IS ON PRAYER