

## A FAITH THAT MOVES

Peter, in his older days, exhorts the Christians he shepherds. He pushes them to have a dynamic faith that continues to grow and develop. His aim is for them to move towards Jesus continually.

### **2 Peter 1:5-10**

*5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.*

Why would Peter give them such a challenge? Because he knows what forgetful, tiny, unmoving faith looks like. Once upon a time, he and the other disciples were in a boat during a storm. They thought they were going to die, and their spiritual myopia caused them not to see Jesus fully. Jesus challenges them.

### **Matthew 8:26-27**

*26 And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"*

Sometime later, they were in a boat on the chaotic waters again. A little more emboldened this time, Peter asks to walk on the water with Jesus. It goes pretty well until he focuses on the raging sea instead of on the Lord. We know the story well. He sinks, cries out, and is rescued by Jesus. Once again, Jesus rebukes Peter's lack of faith.

### **Matthew 14:31-33**

*31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

The disciples continued to have spiritual amnesia, causing their faith to remain stunted (Matthew 16). As a result, it even caused them to struggle in their authority to cast out demons and heal (Matthew 10:1). At this incident, Jesus teaches them in a parable about something very small.

### **Matthew 17:20**

*...For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there, and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."*

For many, this has been interpreted as, "It's ok if I have a tiny faith. It is enough." As a result, many have stayed in tiny-faith mode for their entire lives, never feeling the rebuke of the Lord to do anything more. However, there is one exciting thing about that mustard seed. It grows! Sprouting towards the heavens, it provides refuge to nesting birds (Luke 13:19).

Peter reminds us that faith, although tiny, is designed to grow. As it grows, seemingly small compared to mountains or trees (Luke 17), it is a force to be reckoned with. However, this is only true when it is on the move. Constantly moving towards the Lord. Growing.

Is your faith growing and on the move? Are you diligently practicing and supplementing your faith and seeing it increase? Peter tells us no effort should be spared in this endeavor. Keep growing!

Shalom,  
Ryan