

“Increase Our Faith”

(Luke 17:1-6)

to become greater



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belief, taking God at
His word, obeying His
commands

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- asked for more faith to fulfill the moral obligations that Jesus had just taught
 - care to not offend a little one or causing a disciple to stumble (vv. 1, 2)
 - rebuking and forgiving personal injury (vv. 3, 4)

We May Learn

- the duty of taking care to not cause another to stumble and forgiving those who injure us when they repent can be most difficult (Rom. 14:7, 13)

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- our faith can increase (Rom. 10:17)

2 Thess. 1:3 (NKJV)

“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other”

We May Learn

- the duty of taking care to not cause another to stumble and forgiving those who injure us when they repent can be most difficult (Rom. 14:7, 13)
- our faith can increase (Rom. 10:17)
- Jesus is the source for that strength (Heb. 12:2)

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- our faith can increase (Rom. 10:17)
- Jesus is the source for that strength (Heb. 12:2)
- the effect of strong faith (Lk. 17:6)

Luke 17:6 (NKJV)

- "So the Lord said, 'If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, "Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea," and it would obey you.'"
 - mustard seed is very small
 - mulberry tree, "a tree distinguished for being deeply rooted" (McGarvey, The Four Fold Gospel, 518)

“Increase Our Faith”

- should be our sentiment as well
 - when commandments appear too hard to obey. . .increase our faith
 - when passages appear too difficult to learn. . .increase our faith
 - when life appears too wearisome to continue. . .increase our faith
 - when our future seems too intimidating. . .increase our faith

Why Should Disciples

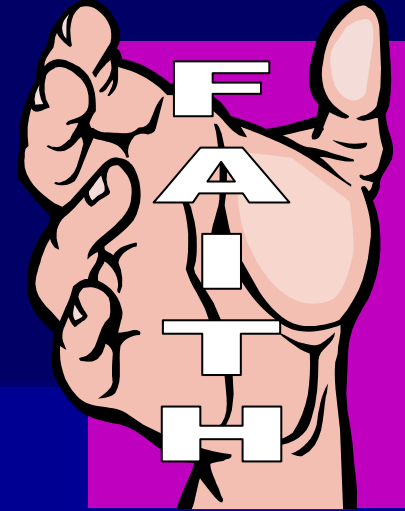
Desire To Increase Their Faith?

Reasons

■ To Hold What We Have

- “For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away” (Matt. 25:29, NKJV)

Reasons



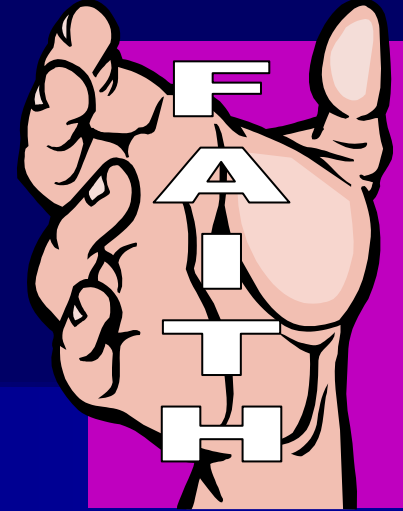
■ To Hold What We Have

- “¹⁹ Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck. ²⁰ Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme” (1 Tim. 1:19, 20, KJV)

Reasons

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Reasons

- To Hold What We Have
- **To Remain True**
 - those who strengthen their faith will be less likely to:
 - put it away, shipwreck it, depart from it
 - lose salvation!!! (This is what is at stake!)

1 Peter 1:3-5 (NKJV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Reasons

- To Hold What We Have
- To Remain True
- **To Accomplish Greater Things**
 - even a mustard seed size faith can do marvelous things (Lk. 17:6)
 - lack of faith keeps us from doing much

The Dangers of Weak Faith (Num. 13:26 - 14:4)!

- overly emphasizes the strength and fortitude of the enemies of the Lord (Num. 13:31, 33)
- exaggerates the obstacles (Num. 13:33)
- diminishes the power and character of God (14:3)
- refuses to obey the commandments (14:4)

What About Us?

- Are we ready/willing to accomplish better things?
- Are we ready to meet the challenges?
 - Are we in line with the 10 faithless spies or the 2 faithful?
 - Do we exaggerate our obstacles?
 - Do we diminish from the power of God?
- Are we ready to obey the Lord?

Reasons



- To Hold What We Have
- To Remain True
- To Accomplish Greater Things
- **To Fortify Ourselves**
 - events arise that try our faith (death of loved one; let down of another; faithlessness of others; sickness; personal failures; false doctrine, challenges by God-haters, etc.)
 - We need to build our faith to have a reserve for trying times

CALEB

"dog"

- was an “alpha-dog” fortified in the faith!
- optimistic "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it" (Num. 13:30)
- a different spirit (Num. 14:24)
- faithful – followed the Lord “fully” (ibid.); “he wholly followed the LORD” (Deut. 1:36)
- vigorous, even when old

CALEB

"dog"

"And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty–five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty–five years old. ¹¹ "As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. ¹²

"Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said." (Josh. 14:10-12; NKJV)

CALEB

"dog"

“¹³ Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, namely, Kirjath Arba, which is Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak). ¹⁴ Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak” (Josh. 15:13-14, NKJV)