

James 1:13 - 18 (NASB)

¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

¹⁴But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

¹⁵Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

¹⁷Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

¹⁸In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

Review:

It is not the quantity of faith you have, but the quality of faith (trust/confidence) you have in God's Word. It is PRESENT or not?

Purity, not propensity! Quality, not quantity!

I don't need to increase my faith to do God's will. I just need a pure faith [no mixture of doubt/unbelief], the size of a mustard seed.

- **MATT 17:20 (NLT)** ²⁰"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."

He uses the image of a tiny speck of dust, a "mote", or grain of sand when describing something really tiny in another passage.

By choosing a mustard seed, **he is picking something that is:**

Insignificant in the wrong environment but, immensely powerful in the right one.

In the parable of the mustard seed, Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed planted in a field or garden. The size of the seed is a part of this metaphor—no one is denying that—but the fact that it is a seed is the bulk of the metaphors power. If the kingdom of heaven were not like a seed or some other transformative thing, it would stay small!

But there's also the properties/characteristics of the mustard plant to take into account.

MATT 13:31 - 32 (KJV)

³¹ANOTHER PARABLE HE PUT FORTH UNTO THEM, SAYING, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE TO A GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED, WHICH A MAN TOOK, AND SOWED IN HIS FIELD:

³²WHICH INDEED IS THE LEAST OF ALL SEEDS: BUT WHEN IT IS GROWN, IT IS THE GREATEST AMONG HERBS, AND BECOMETH A TREE, SO THAT THE BIRDS OF THE AIR COME AND LODGE IN THE BRANCHES THEREOF.

Properties of Mustard Seeds:

1. Robust
2. Spicy (Adds flavor, taste)
3. Tiny
4. High protein content
5. Mustard seed flour has also an anti-microbial property.

Faith and unbelief both come by what you are hearing or giving your attention to. You must choose to have faith come in your heart by hearing the Word of God.

MARK 4:24 - 25 (NLT) ²⁴THEN HE ADDED, "PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU HEAR. THE CLOSER YOU LISTEN, THE MORE UNDERSTANDING YOU WILL BE GIVEN—AND YOU WILL RECEIVE EVEN MORE.

²⁵TO THOSE WHO LISTEN TO MY TEACHING, MORE UNDERSTANDING WILL BE GIVEN. BUT FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT LISTENING, EVEN WHAT LITTLE UNDERSTANDING THEY HAVE WILL BE TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM."

Romans 10:17 (KJV) ¹⁷So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV) ¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Monday Morning Moment:

"Some people really don't want to be saved from their sins, they just want to be saved from the penalty of their sins."

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Two different ways to question (doubt) God:

Right way:

Luke 1:34 - 38 (NASB)

³⁴MARY SAID TO THE ANGEL, "HOW CAN THIS BE, SINCE I AM A VIRGIN?"

³⁵THE ANGEL ANSWERED AND SAID TO HER, "THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU, AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU; AND FOR THAT REASON THE HOLY CHILD SHALL BE CALLED THE SON OF GOD.

³⁶"AND BEHOLD, EVEN YOUR RELATIVE ELIZABETH HAS ALSO CONCEIVED A SON IN HER OLD AGE; AND SHE WHO WAS CALLED BARREN IS NOW IN HER SIXTH MONTH.

³⁷"FOR NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD."

³⁸AND MARY SAID, "BEHOLD, THE BONDSLAVE OF THE LORD; **MAY IT BE DONE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.**" AND THE ANGEL DEPARTED FROM HER.

Wrong way:

Luke 1:18 - 20 (NASB)

¹⁸ZACHARIAS SAID TO THE ANGEL, "HOW WILL I KNOW THIS *FOR CERTAIN*? FOR I AM AN OLD MAN AND MY WIFE IS ADVANCED IN YEARS."

¹⁹THE ANGEL ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, "I AM GABRIEL, WHO STANDS IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, AND I HAVE BEEN SENT TO SPEAK TO YOU AND TO BRING YOU THIS GOOD NEWS.

²⁰"AND BEHOLD, YOU SHALL BE SILENT AND UNABLE TO SPEAK UNTIL THE DAY WHEN THESE THINGS TAKE PLACE, **BECAUSE YOU DID NOT BELIEVE MY WORDS**, WHICH WILL BE FULFILLED IN THEIR PROPER TIME."

How can you tell whether the Holy Spirit has performed a saving operation?

- *True salvation always produces an abiding change of nature in a true convert. Therefore, whenever holiness of life does not accompany a confession of conversion, it must be understood that this individual is not saved!*

Acts 26:20 (KJV) ²⁰But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

Do you pass the following salvation tests?

1. Do you believe that Jesus is God?

1 John 5:1 - 2 (NLT) ¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too.

²We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments.

2. Do You Obey God's Word?

1 John 2:3 - 5 (NLT) ³And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. ⁴If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.

3. Do You See a Decreasing Pattern of Sin in Your Life?

1 John 3:4 - 10 (NLT) ⁴Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God.

⁵And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him.

⁶Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is.

⁷Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous.

⁸But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

⁹Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God.

¹⁰So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.

4. Can You Discern between Spiritual Truth and Error?

1 John 4:1 - 4 (NLT) ¹Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

²This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet^s acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God.

³But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here.

⁴But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.