



Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

Learning how Jesus views things is so important to spiritual growth. The **only** way one can build their faith is by responding to God on His terms. If one argues or tries to reason through illustrations as to why they feel the way they do, they get nothing from God.

And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" (Luke 17:5) Why would they want Jesus to increase their faith? Is He the only One who can? Yes! (Heb. 12:2) They ask Jesus for this because of the amount of forgiveness He spoke to them about in the preceding verses. (Luke 17:1-4) They weren't sure if they could forgive someone if they sinned against them seven times in *one day*! Could you? Most people never sin against us seven times in their lifetime, much less in one day!

Jesus explains the power of faith. (Luke 17:6) Faith moves the heart of God. Faith acts on the promises of God. The tree uprooted and planted into the sea is not by your power or greatness, it's by God's power. Faith moves God! Faith moves Jesus!

How does one get their faith increased? Read the illustration Jesus gives in Luke 17:7-10. The slave is not treated special but is doing what is expected. The point of the matter is, nothing is ever given to you unless you learn to be faithful in what's expected! If one is not willing to be faithful in where they are at, their faith will never get any stronger or deeper. Brethren, we must learn to exercise faith in our lives daily. How you live reveals where you are at.

What if you're a person who refuses to forgive someone? You harbor bitterness or hatred in your heart? Do you think the Lord is aware? How is your faith ever going to increase with that going on? In fact, you're losing ground. **And for whoever has, to him shall more be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him.** (Luke 8:18) This is a spiritual principle that won't be broken. It always costs you whenever you don't respond to the word of the Lord by faith. People say, **"I just can't seem to forgive them and get over it!"** Faith in the cross gives you the ability to do that. What if Jesus did that to you with your sins?

Another area that will keep our faith from increasing is learning to be faithful in little things. **He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.** (Luke 16:10) Are you a person who thinks that what little things you do are not so important? It's most important to God! There will be no increase in your faith unless you are faithful in the little things. You come upon a repair of a bridge. You can see across it that there is no traffic coming and there is a red light on your side that you must wait for it to turn green. Many would think nothing at all of going on across, without any thought to the law. If a police officer was sitting there, I know we would not cross! God is greater than police officers. It's the little things that tell a lot about your life. What about telling people you will do something and you don't carry it out? If one is unfaithful in little things, they will be unfaithful in bigger things. There will be no faith increase and God will see to that.

The death of Jesus is to produce love for Him. God expects us to show mercy and forgiveness to others as He has shown it to us. God is faithful in dealing with you and expects you to be faithful in what you say to others and how you live. You decide your faithfulness and He will respond accordingly. It's most serious. Think about it!!!

Brent