

“We Need Faith” “Hold to our Faith”

What is faith?

- WISHFUL THINKING?
- POSITIVE THINKING?
- “EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OK!”...?

BLIND FAITHbelieves:

- WHAT YOU WISH WERE TRUE
- WHAT YOU WANT TO BE REAL
- BUT, IT HAS...
 - NO BASIS
 - NO SUBSTANCE

DISCIPLES SAID “INCREASE OUR FAITH” – Luke 17:5

Luke 17:6 – ““If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

Matthew 17:20 – ““Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

What can grow? Your faith

How can faith be greater?

If I believe in **Tinkerbelle**, but not enough....Do I believe in Tinkerbelle harder, longer, greater?

- How can having more faith in something not there help?
- How can believing something not true have any power? Any hope?
- More zero equals....still nothing. More convinced of a lie....it is still a lie, not real

SUBJECTIVE FAITH:

- Believing something that is true to you! Believing YOUR truth, Your beliefs...that is your faith.

OBJECTIVE FAITH:

- It is not how great you believe something that makes it true, but believing something TRUE that makes your faith GREAT
- Seeds Grow
- Value of Christian Faith is not in the one believing, but in the one who is believed in.

To increase your faith in a person, you will need more knowledge about that person. I have faith in my wife because I have known my wife for 40 years.

- I know what she is going to do and say if I'm there or not
- I have faith in my wife.
- The more I know her the more faith and confidence I have in her.
- But, if I make my wife into a fiction, I will not recognize her and she will often disappoint me

To increase your faith in the person God or in Jesus Christ, you will need to know more about him.

- But, if you create your own God or your own version of Jesus you have nothing to actually believe in. Your faith is vain, empty and will not save you.

How to increase your faith:

- HEAR the word - faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. - Romans 10:17
- DO the word - James 1:22-24(NKJV) offers a second way to increase your faith: But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
- TEST the word - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance (James 1:2-3, NIV) and Malachi 3:9-11 - Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."