

## **From Faith to Faith: What Kind of Faith Do You Have?**

### **2 Peter 1:1-2**

1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord

The faith that we profess, if we are in Jesus Christ, is the true faith, and the only kind with the power to save. This faith is distinguished by one quality: it is inextinguishable by opposition, persecution, or the trials of life.

### **1 Peter 1:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ

Principle: Faith is only as stable as its source, and only as strong as its object.

### **Ephesians 2:8 (Source)**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God

### **Hebrews 12:2 (Object)**

<sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **Luke 17:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you.

The apostles asked Jesus to increase the faith they had, but Jesus told them that their faith was the wrong KIND.

What kind of faith did they have?

### **John 6:28-31**

<sup>28</sup> Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." <sup>30</sup> So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?" <sup>31</sup> Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.'"

### **Matthew 12:38-40**

<sup>38</sup> Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." <sup>39</sup> But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; <sup>40</sup> for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The disciples had been taught by their culture to seek signs, and as long as there were signs to see, they could believe.

It was a cultural, inherited faith. This kind of faith is from men, and its trust is anchored in temporal experience.

### **1 Corinthians 1:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Cultural faith must be challenged by the foolishness of the Cross, where God can place a seed of true faith in the heart of the hearer.

### **John 6:32**

<sup>32</sup> Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven.

### **Matthew 12:40**

<sup>40</sup> for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jesus preached salvation and ultimate fulfilment in Himself alone, and left them to ruminate on that Word.

Once we believe the good news of what Jesus has done, Jesus leads us from faith to faith as we obey Him.

### **Matthew 13:31-32**

<sup>31</sup> He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup> and this is smaller than all *other* seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

Faith, like the mustard seed has a growth process to go through, but the end is meant to be grand and glorious!

### **Matthew 17:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not drive it out?" <sup>20</sup> And He \*said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

To those with saving faith, it is time for us to cry out like Jesus' apostles, "Lord, increase our faith!"

To those with a cultural faith, it is time to lay it down and to receive from Jesus a faith of the same KIND as His.