

Faith

“...a settled confidence in the heart that God is good (no matter what), that He is good to me (no matter what) and that every of His Word is true and will surely come to be.”

As with everything we have, faith is a gift from God (Romans 12:3)

➤ **Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6)**

- Why is this truth so critical to a man's walk with God
- Compare faith/trust in God with the confidence our little children have in us... “daddy cares for me no matter what the circumstances might be.” **God, our Father, takes great delight in this childlike trust in Him**

➤ **Faith as a mustard seed (Mathew 17:20; Luke 17:6)**

- Is there such a thing as ‘small’ faith in God/ does God take delight in this/do you delight in your children having ‘small’ faith in your basic care for them?
- Is the mustard seed in above verses (Mt 17; Luke 17) referred to in terms of its size or its quality (compare to Mathew 13:31-32; Mark 4:31-32; Luke 13:19)
-again relating above to the trust our children have in us (could size of faith for things grow with our children's experience of our love; yet their fundamental confidence in us remains sure).

➤ **Seeking signs before trusting God (think Thomas: John 20)**

- An example of this and its effect: Gideon, a man of faith (Hebrews 11:32), yet.....

Event: Gideon sought a sign every step of his walk with God (Judges 6:17; 36-40; 7: 9-11). God graciously answered him, but....

Effect: What God primarily sought in his life (sole glory to His name: Judges 7:2) was never attained

-Gideon, likely out of fear, still went to call for more fighters, even after God had chosen only 300 for the battle (Judges 7:24)

-The glory for victory was given to him not solely to God (Judges 8:22)

-Israel's first cry for a king/ruler and indirect rejection of God's rulership begins through him (Judges 8:22)

-Further corruption of the people continues through him (Judges 8: 24-27)

Let us trust God in all things; trust that He absolutely cares for us, even when our sight fails us (John 20:29; Hebrews 10:38; 2nd Corinthians 5:7)