



Faithfully Praying July 6, 2008 – SFC

Interested in exploring today's message a bit more deeply?

I tell you the truth, 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.

- Jesus, speaking to his followers
Matthew 17.20

How would you define 'faith'?

Throughout the Gospel writings Jesus speaks of faith making a difference when someone was facing a challenge. Look up the following passages and reflect on Jesus' words about faith.

Matthew 8.8-13

Mark 5.25-34

Matthew 9.20-22

Mark 10.46-52

Matthew 9.27-30

Luke 17.11-19

Matthew 15.25-28

Luke 18.35-43

What conclusions do you draw from Jesus' interactions with others and his comments about faith found in these passages?

Yet the connection between faith and answered prayer still remains somewhat of a mystery. Consider the Apostle Paul's experience he shared in a letter to the Church at Corinth.

...a painful physical problem was given to me. This problem was a messenger from Satan, sent to beat me and keep me from being too proud. I asked the Lord three times to take this problem away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, my power is made perfect in you."

- Paul the Apostle
2 Corinthians 12.7a-9b

Scripture makes it clear that Paul did not lack faith, yet praying did not remove his problem. How does this impact your understanding of faith and prayer?

Do you think that praying in faith guarantees God will answer your prayer requests? Why or why not?

What is the value of praying in faith? What do we experience as we pray in faith?