

We need REAL FAITH

We need REAL - MOUNTAIN-MOVING FAITH

We need **Unshakable, Rock-Solid, Confident - Faith in God**

I'm **not talking** about the **Faith Required** for **Salvation**
(**although** that's the **beginning** of this **REAL FAITH**)

I'm talking about the **FAITH** we **need** for **TODAY**

- **The Faith** we need - to **OVERCOME**
the **Circumstances** we face - **TODAY**
- **The Faith** we need - to See God **MOVE**
in the **Midst of Situation** we're in – **TODAY**

We need **REAL – LIFE-TRANSFORMING FAITH**

Let's Pray

There is **SO MUCH** that the **Bible Says** about **Faith**

I use a **Digital** Study **Library** called **LOGOS**
& in my **Library** I have about **4,000 books**

Of those **4,000** books – **700** of them
Have the **word** - **FAITH** in the Title

So – I obviously CANNOT scratch the surface
of the Full Spectrum of Faith – in this ONE Msg

ALL I can do – is teach the Vs's before us

& thru THESE Vs's – to encourage EACH of us
to continue to GROW in our REAL FAITH

So - We left Jesus & the Disciples last week
with the Disciples Being SHOCKED

that the Fig Tree Jesus had cursed
had Actually - Withered & Died

& Peter seems to speak for all the disciples
when we read in

Mark 11:21 (NLT)

*21 Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the
previous day and exclaimed, “Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you
cursed has withered and died!”*

He exclaimed! – With an Exclamation Point!

There's obviously SURPRISE in Peter's Voice

“Jesus, what you said to the fig tree – ACTUALLY WORKED”

& so – in the following vs's – it seems Jesus
is going to REMIND the Disciples

of something - he has been teaching them
over & over again – for 3 ½ years

& That is – the need for US to have
REAL, LIFE-CHANGING, FAITH

Jesus is only a few days away from the Cross here

& he's been teaching the Disciples about having REAL FAITH
SINCE the FIRST DAY he called them

Just Like Jesus – has been trying to teach US
about having REAL FAITH – since the First day – He called US

The Lord wants to grow YOUR REAL FAITH –
RIGHT where you Find Yourself - today

AND - the more Difficult PLACE
you are in today

The MORE the Lord Jesus - wants to GROW Your Faith

The Lord wants to grow – a Life-Changing - REAL FAITH - in you
Right in the Midst of you Current Situation

The Disciples were just days away
from facing their Greatest FAITH-TEST

BECAUSE - Jesus was just days away –
From being Arrested, Falsely Tried, & Crucified

& Everything is about to go DIFFERENTLY
than how they THOUGHT it was GOING to go

& Everything was about to go DIFFERENTLY
than how they THOUGHT it SHOULD go

& so I think Jesus is USING this moment

to REMINDE the Disciples - (& US)
of the POWER – of REAL FAITH

So again – in Mark 11:21 – Peter says to Jesus (basically)

***“It’s AMAZING - That what you did
to that Fig tree - actually WORKED”***

& then Jesus responds in - Mark 11:22 (NLT)
22 Then Jesus said to the disciples, “Have faith in God.

The Phrase “Have Faith”

is IN my favorite GRK Verb form -
It is ***Present, Active, Imperative*** - (*tense, voice, mood*)

Present – means,

You DO it, you KEEP doing it, & you ALWAYS Do it

If it's in the **Present** – then you **KEEP ON** doing it

Active – means,

This is YOUR Choice, this is YOUR Action to take

It means : **YOU CHOOSE** to **Have Faith**, You **CHOOSE** to **KEEP**
Having Faith, & Your **CHOOSE** to **always BE Having Faith**

Imperative – **means** – this is a **COMMAND**
NOT a **Suggestion** - **NOT** an **Encouragement**

HAVING FAITH - is a **COMMAND** from the **Lord**

So – in **TWO Words** (in the **GRK**) – **Jesus says**

ALWAYS Have **Faith**
& **Always Keep** Having **Faith**

& **NO MATTER** what you **see**, or **feel**, or **think**
Always **BE CHOOSING** to **Have Faith**

& - **Having Faith** is **NOT a Suggestion** –
But **instead** - Your **Lord Commands** it

So – HOW do we DEFINE this Faith - that Jesus is commanding us
to ALWAYS – CHOOSE - TO HAVE?

Well – The Faith – that Allowed you to RECEIVE Salvation

was you Putting your TRUST and BELIEF
in Jesus Christ - as your Savior & Lord

& THAT is the Bible's ONLY Method of Salvation –
You Trusting & Believing - in Who Jesus Christ IS

So – WHAT would be the simplest way to explain
This Level Of Faith - we're calling REAL FAITH

Simply Put – REAL FAITH
is an EVER-INCREASING TRUST
& an EVER-INCREASING BELIEF

It's simply An Ever-Increasing Trust & Belief
in WHO GOD IS - in YOUR Life
in WHAT GOD is DOING – In YOUR Life
in WHAT GOD is ABLE TO DO – In YOUR Life

This is NOT a Different KIND of Faith
This is a Different LEVEL of Faith

This is an Ever-Increasing Faith & Trust In God

& Then – the thing that separates REAL FAITH

from the Self-Centered - get-me-what-I-want - FAITH
that Some Preachers get RICH selling

The Thing that makes THIS FAITH - REAL FAITH
Is the NEXT TWO WORDS in vs. 22

Jesus says - *Have faith – IN GOD!*

REAL FAITH – is Faith – IN GOD

REAL FAITH – is Faith – in WHO God IS
& in WHAT God is DOING

REAL FAITH - IS NOT US

Trying to Control God

Trying to Demand something from God

Trying to FORCE God to do something

REAL FAITH – is a CONTINUAL GROWTH

In us Completely Trusting & Fully Believing

WHO God IS - & WHAT God is DOING – in our Lives

With A GROWING CONFIDENCE

That our God - KNOWS what is BEST

& our God can Bring About What is BEST
In ANY situation

God **CAN** - & God **WILL** - **Bring About What is BEST**
For **Our Good** - & For **His Glory**

Right in the **middle** of **the Situation**
That we **find ourselves** in - **TODAY**

REAL FAITH - is an **Ever-Increasing**
TRUST & **BELIEF** **IN GOD**

It's a Faith that creates In Us
an **Ever-Increasing** **CONFIDENCE**,
an **Ever-Increasing** **PEACE**

That COMES from us **KNOWING**
without a Doubt

That **God** is **AT work**
IN our Present Situation

For OUR Good - & For HIS Glory

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)
1 Faith . . . is the evidence of things we cannot see.

Evidence – is what **PROVES something**
In a **COURTROOM**

& **OUR REAL FAITH** – **IS** the **Evidence**
It's What **PROVES TO US**

That God is AT Work

For OUR Good – IN our present situation

THAT – is REAL Faith

(again) Mark 11:22 (NLT)

22 Then Jesus said to the disciples, “Have faith - in God.

& then, Jesus gives us an Example of this REAL FAITH

& he uses a Well-Known Hebrew IDIOM

An IDIOM is a Figure of Speech -
a TYPE of HYPERBOLE

Mark 11:23 (NLT)

23 (Jesus says, “if you have this REAL FAITH in God”) I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart.

In Bible times - A mountain was

a Well-Known “Figure of Speech”

for a problem that seemed Insurmountable

& a Mountain is still used today – as a Figure of Speech
for an Insurmountable Problem

<p><i>& Maybe YOU have a mountain like that in front of you, that you don’t know how you’re EVER going to get over”</i></p>

& CASTING that Mountain into the Sea
is a WORD-PICTURE

for completely REMOVING
that “Seemingly Insurmountable” Problem

So – Here’s How REAL FAITH Works

This Mountain – is an Insurmountable Obstacle – to you

You can’t see any way around it –
It consumes you – it stops you dead in your tracks

But – By REAL FAITH
in WHO God IS- in Your Life
& in The GOOD that God is At-Work for

You BEGIN – Actually TRUSTING God
MORE than you TRUST - The Mountain

& you BEGIN - Actually BELIEVING God
MORE than you BELIEVE – The Mountain

& BY that Ever-Increasing
TRUST & BELIEF - IN GOD

You BEGIN Living:

In - Increased CONFIDENCE – In God

In - The Increased PEACE – Of God

In - The Increased POWER – From God

All of Which Ultimately Leads

to that Mountain Being Lifted Up
& CAST into the SEA

Because - BY Your REAL FAITH In God

YOU GIVE that Insurmountable Problem
to the One who Actually CAN

LIFT UP a Mountain - & Throw it into the Sea

& - BY Your FAITH – IN GOD
God WILL Remove that Problem

One WAY or Another- - At ONE TIME or Another

But remember - Jesus DOESN'T Say
That it will happen - HOW you want it to
or That it will happen - WHEN you want it to

But he DOES Promise - It Will Happen

& Isn't THAT having REAL FAITH - in God

NOT Demanding God do it
OUR Way - or in OUR Time → → →

But having REAL FAITH

**that God WILL – Take us THRU
that Seemingly Insurmountable Problem**

& He will Bring us thru it - VICTORIOUSLY

& then – in the NEXT VS

Jesus DOUBLES-DOWN

**on the Life-Changing POWER
of Having REAL FAITH in God**

Mark 11:24 (NLT)

24 I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours.

**The word used for “PRAY” here
means, “*to ask EARNESTLY – Or with URGENCY*”**

**& the word for BELIEVE – is the VERB FORM of Faith
This BELIEF is - “FAITH in ACTION”**

Jesus says

- ***IF you Pray EARNESTLY – & with URGENCY***
- ***IF you Put your Faith Into ACTION***

**Believing that you have ALREADY RECEIVED
What you've prayed for**

It Will Be Yours

But - Pls - Listen

We CANNOT take this one vs – out of context –
& make it mean whatever we want it to mean

We can't take this Vs
out of THIS - IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

& we can't take this Vs
out of the context of the WHOLE BIBLE

<p><u>Which means</u> – This vs <u>CANNOT BE</u> a <u>magic incantation</u> <u>For you</u> to <u>get whatever</u> you <u>want</u></p>

Jesus is talking about a prayer
that is BASED ON

Completely Trusting GOD
& Fully Believing GOD

AND IN-LINE
with The Context of the FULL N.T. – Which is

Praying 'According To' THE NAME OF JESUS
meaning "According to His Character & Nature"

& Praying 'In-Line' WITH THE WILL OF GOD
Which is WHAT the Prayer of REAL FAITH will SEEK

& when you pray THAT Prayer
WITH THIS – REAL FAITH

You CAN BELIEVE
That you've ALREADY Received - what You Prayed For

& Finally – There is One Other CONDITION

For God Hearing & Responding
to your Prayer of REAL FAITH

Mark 11:25 (NLT)

25 But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too."

Numerous times in the N.T. - God makes it clear

The Sin of unforgiveness

BREAKS our Fellowship with GOD
& PREVENTS God from Forgiving US

NOT in the Sense of SALVATION
but in a RELATIONAL Sense

Which is what these vs's about REAL FAITH are all about

So Jesus “**Calls Out**” - **THIS** Particular sin

Just like he does
in a number of other places

To say - If you Refuse to Forgive others
Then your Father in Heaven will Refuse to Forgive you

In fact – **SOME TRANSLATIONS** ADD
a **Vs.26** - here in **Mark 11**

QUOTING the words of **Mat 6:14-15**

These are the **first words AFTER** the **Lord’s Prayer**

Matthew 6:14–15 (NLT)

14 “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.

15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

There **ARE** Conditions – to this “**PRAYER of FAITH**”

& the One - Jesus wants to make really clear is;

*“If you are **HOLDING** unforgiveness against someone,
the Bible says your relationship with God (in every way),
is **ALSO - ON HOLD**”*

We've done a TON of teaching on Divine Forgiveness

to hear what God has to say about this critical subject

SEARCH "Divine Forgiveness"

In the "Search Bar" - under "TEACHING"

on either the CCN or WBM websites – or on the Phone App

So Finally – HOW do we GROW - in this REAL FAITH?

FIRST – we WALK with Jesus – thru this life
Just like the Original Disciples did

& we ALLOW Jesus - to PUT US – INTO Situations
That REQUIRE us to GROW - in our REAL FAITH

& THEN – WE DO what Mark 11:22 says here
"Have faith in God"

ALWAYS Have Faith

KEEP Having Faith

Always BE HAVING Faith – IN GOD

& CHOOSE to have Faith In God

NO matter what you SEE

NO matter what you FEEL

NO matter what you THINK

HAVE FAITH – IN GOD !!

**AND - the MORE you HAVE Faith in God
The MORE you WILL HAVE Faith in God**

**The More you TRUST God
The More you WILL TRUST God**

**The More you BELIEVE God
The More you WILL BELIEVE God**

**& the More Your Life will BE Transformed
BECAUSE OF Your REAL FAITH – IN GOD**

Let's Pray