

## The Four Foundations of Faith

When Christ encouraged His disciples concerning their faith He spoke of them having faith as a mustard seed. Some have interpreted this as meaning that small faith can move mountains and uproot the sycamine. However, if we use the wise method of interpreting scripture by scripture we come to a different conclusion.

Every time Christ mentioned a seed in His teachings, it was always concerning the growth of that seed. In one teaching, the mustard seed is given in the analogy of the kingdom of God and spoken of as growing. So is our faith to be as the mustard seed; it must grow.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, **according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

(Romans 12:3)

According to scripture every man has been given a measure of faith. However, the faith given to us and in us should not remain in its infantile state. It must be cultivated and cared for that it may grow, mature, and bring forth fruit. Cultivation comes through devotion and trial.

As Hebrews six tells us, faith toward God must be in our foundation to build a spiritual house to him.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of **faith toward God.** (Hebrews 6:1)

Faith in itself exists in different depths. There are four levels of faith that are easily seen in the life of a believer.

In the life of most, God grows us one step at a time. He introduces us to new testings that our faith may graduate again and again until we are perfected in it.

The first level of faith is just believing God IS ABLE to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or even think. This level of faith is the

most elementary. It is initialized before any suffering comes and before difficulties have been introduced.

The second level of faith comes when a man is in the trial and now he must believe that God WILL answer and provide. This second level of faith is generally rewarded by "on time" answers and provision. How many testimonies have we heard that God was just on time. It is a good faith to have, but only an intermediate level of faith at best.

The third level of faith comes in when an individual is seeking to grow in faith and generally presents this petition to God. ***This faith is exhibited when God does not show up on time and it appears that He is late and that He has failed.*** Greater suffering is generally experienced in this kind of faith. It is during this kind of trial that God appears to be out of character; it appears that He is not answering and He is definitely late. Those who continue to trust God as Job did, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him," soon find out God does show up even though it appears He did not come when He was requested. Only time and experience will prove God to be the all knowing and faithful God He purports to be. It is generally later in revelation, perhaps months or years later that we look back and see just how faithful God was even as we misunderstood His motives. Many people look back to see that God's delay was for their benefit.

The fourth level of faith will not be experienced by all. This faith is enacted after God has not shown up on time nor has He appeared to show up even late. It is when God doesn't work the miracle or He doesn't answer the prayer. It is then that we learn to trust in His providence and all loving wisdom. For the things we often want are the very things that can destroy us. ***It is then we understand God's failure to act was His faithfulness to us.***

Some may never get understanding on these issues in their life until they reach the other side and God opens their minds to know. However, some will be benefited with the privilege of discovering why God never did show up.

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