

So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20).

Faith as a mustard seed - A mustard seed, though at first very small, yet, because of its uninterrupted and vital contact with its nourishing environment, grows and grows until it becomes a tree so tall that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches. Accordingly, "Faith as a mustard seed" is the kind of trust in God which does not immediately give up in despair when its efforts do not meet with immediate success. It maintains its uninterrupted and vital contact with God and therefore continues to pray frequently, knowing that God at His own time and in His own way will bestow the blessing. Such faith links its own possessor with the inexhaustible and infinite resources of God's power, wisdom, and love. It operates in harmony with God's revelation in His word. Consequently, its prayers are not motivated by sinful desires, and it does not tempt God. It is able therefore to move mountains. This must not be understood literally but figuratively. Note the well known figure of speech found in Zechariah 4:7, "What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain," referring to mountains of difficulties that would disappear. No task assigned by the LORD is going to be impossible to perform when the person who receives the mandate is and remains in trustful contact with God. No burden will then be too heavy to bear.