



House of Hope Macon

“A Journey of Hope”

“Surely there is a future, and your HOPE will not be cut off.” – Proverbs 23:18 -ESV

### **A HOPE THAT GROWS**

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes."  
Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

~Mark 9:23-24

#### **Mark 9:23-24 (MSG)**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said, "If? There are no 'ifs' among believers. Anything can happen."

<sup>24</sup> No sooner were the words out of his mouth than the father cried, "Then I believe. Help me with my doubts!"

And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

~Luke 17:5

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

- **Faith is the power of putting self aside that God may work unhindered (F.B. Meyer)**
- **Faith is the capacity to trust God while not being able to make sense out of everything. (James Kok)**
- **Faith is not doubting at all. This means never having a thought as to whether a thing can be done or not. It means not hesitating, not wondering, not questioning, not considering, not being concerned at all. (Preacher Outline and Sermon Bible)**
- **Faith is the expecting the word of God to do what it says and the depending upon that word to do what it says. (A.T. Jones)**
- **Faith takes us beyond mere theology into a direct, intimate relationship with God as a person, which becomes our guarantee of total provision and total security.**
- **Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. (Martin Luther)**
- **Faith is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth... (Thomas Aquinas)**
- **At the end of the day, faith means letting God be God. (John Blanchard)**

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#### **THE HOUSE OF HOPE MACON**

## LESSON

### I What level of faith do you have?

- (1) **No** Faith: a believer with no faith believes that God has the power to save, but not deliver.
- (2) **LITTLE** Faith: a belief that God's power can overcome some circumstances but not all.
- (3) **UNSTABLE** Faith: a belief that waivers and approaches the fears of life with a level uncertainty of the outcome.
- (4) **GREAT** Faith: a belief that God can do the impossible whenever, however, and wherever He wants.

### II How to increase in faith.

- It is not the **QUANTITY** of faith that defines your level of faith it is the **QUALITY** of a maturing faith. Matthew 17:20; Luke 17:6; Matthew 9:29

#### **Matthew 17:19-20 (AMP)**

<sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus and asked privately, Why could we not drive it out?

<sup>20</sup> He said to them, Because of the littleness of your faith [that is, your lack of firmly relying trust]. For truly I say to you, if you have faith [that is living] like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, Move from here to yonder place, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

#### **Matthew 17:19-20 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

<sup>20</sup> 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 21:21 (NKJV) add verse 22**

<sup>21</sup> So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.

- The power is not in the faith, it is the object of our faith. Our faith is in God and His word.

Mark 11:22-23

### A. Faith is increased as we receive the **CORRECT** information from God. **-HEARING**

Psalms 119:105; Matthew 4:4; Romans 10:17

B. Faith is increase as we remain in constant **COMMUNICATION** with God. **-PRAYING**

Mark 11:24; Luke 18:1; Romans 12:12; 1 Cor. 7:5; Ephes. 6:18; Col. 4:2

- God's supernatural power is available to us, but it is conditional. We do not possess supernatural power within ourselves. God's power comes only through prayer and faith in his ability.
- Prayer is the vehicle; faith is the energy. It takes both to reach the desired destination.
- Faith stirs prayer and communion with God. A person who really *believes*, who has real faith in God, is driven to pray and commune with God.

C. Faith is increased as we become more **COMMITTED** to God. **-WALKING**

Hab. 2:4; Romans 1:17; Romans 4:20; Hebrews 10:38; Hebrews 11:6, 8