

Many of us who are sincere Christians worry that our faith seems too small. But we need to distinguish between the *size* of our faith and the *object* of our faith.

Jesus taught that if we have faith no bigger than a tiny seed (Matthew 17:20), God will respond to our prayers according to His will, wisdom, and grace (1 John 5:14-15). He hears the faintest cry of our hearts, the feeblest whisper of our lips, and in love He listens and responds to our faith (Matthew 14:26-31).

No matter how small and insufficient we think our faith is, let's keep on praying. Remember, it is the object of our faith—our Almighty God—not the size of our faith that is all-important. —VCG

*It matters not how large or small
Your faith may seem to be;
What really counts is whom you trust
In life's uncertainty. —Fitzhugh*

Faith must focus on God, not on itself.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

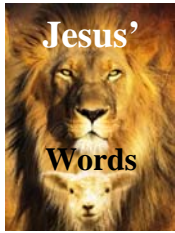
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The Object Of Our Faith

Nothing will be impossible for you. —Matthew 17:20

Suppose someone asks you to take a ride in his single-engine plane. You politely decline. Why? Well, you've heard that the plane has a history of mechanical problems and you don't have confidence in its safety. The pilot assures you that he fearlessly entrusts his life to it whenever he flies. You still decline. A few weeks later the plane crashes, and he is killed. An investigation shows that the engine was faulty. The pilot had strong faith—but it was faith in a faulty object.





Earthly Realities

(Matthew 23:37) "...O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

(John 1:14) "... we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

(2 Peter 1:16) "... were eyewitnesses of His majesty."

(Luke 9:37) "Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him."



In Mark 9:14-32 there are three clear reasons for Jesus' disappointment with people:

1. R _____ (even _____) from His own people, verses 14-16, 19, 30-32



(Luke 9:44) "...Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men."

(John 1:10-13) "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. {11} He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. {12} But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: {13} who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

(Philippians 2:5-8) "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, {6} who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, {7} but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. {8} And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

(Matthew 25:41) "... Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:"

(2 Peter 3:9) "The Lord is .. not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

2. Poor _____, verses 17-18, 20-22, 19

(Matthew 17:15) "...Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water."

(Luke 9:38) "... Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child.

(Luke 9:39) "... and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him ... and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him."

(Deuteronomy 18:10-14) "...There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, {11} "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. {12} "For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. {13} "You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. {14} "For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you."



(Proverbs 1:1-7) "The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: {2} To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding, {3} To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; {4} To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion; {5} A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, {6} To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles. {7} The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction."

(Deuteronomy 18:15) "...The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,"

3. _____ lessness, verses 23-27

(Matthew 17:19-20) "Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" {20} 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 10:8) "...Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

