



Title | Faith Alive!  
Text | James 2:17&20, Matt 17:20, various  
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# Sermon Notes

## **James 2:17 & 20**

<sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it has no work, is dead, being by itself.

<sup>20</sup> But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

## **Matthew 17:20**

<sup>20</sup> ... if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'move from here to there', and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

*NASB*

## **Big Idea:**

### Matthew 17:20

... if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'move from here to there', and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

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# For Reflection & Application:

## Monday:

Read James 2:17 & 20. When reading James 2, remember two things to avoid confusion. First, the book of James is for believers (He addresses them as brothers many times). Second, the theme of James is not about salvation for eternal life, but about dealing with trials as believers. Both points are made in the first chapter. Therefore, the “dead faith” being spoken of in James 2 is not about a lack of works showing that you are not really saved for eternal life. Rather, it is about dealing with trials by bringing your faith to life.

## Tuesday:

Read James 2:17 again, this time more closely. Is the “works” being mentioned just any good deed? Note that he is talking specifically about works that come from faith. In other words, it is doing something that God wants because we believe in Him, that He is right and will take care of things. So trust Him today and take a step of faith by doing what you know He wants you to do. Put your faith to work by doing what God asks, trusting Him for the rest. In other words, be a doer and not just a hearer (James 1:25).

## Wednesday:

Read Matthew 17:20. While a mustard seed is very small, it is still enough for someone to add water to make it grow into a large tree. So how can a small faith cause something so great? It's because it is not the greatness of your faith that can accomplish great things, it is the greatness of the God in whom you have faith in.

## Thursday:

Consider Simon Peter's journey of faith throughout Matthew and Acts. He had many ups and downs in his journey. Yet overall, his faith grew over time and he changed from a doubter (Matt 14:28-29) & denier (Matt. 26:69-75) to a doer (Acts 4:1-20).

## Friday:

Ask God to help you find areas in your life where you have held back from taking a step of faith. Perhaps it is a damaged relationship with a family member or friend that is stuck, and you feel the Lord prompting you to initiate reconciliation. It will require much faith in God to take the first step. Or perhaps you have made a major mistake at work and you are tempted to cover it up or shift the blame. It will be both embarrassing and difficult to admit fault, but you know what the Lord wants you to do. Or maybe the Lord has been leading you to take part in personal or organized ministry but you have been too scared to take a step of faith. Be encouraged and take that step, even a little step of faith, and trust God's power to lead you. Those little steps of faith over time become bigger steps. And, as we experience the continual faithfulness and greatness of God with each step, our faith in Him grows.

## Daily Prayer:

Lord, many times my faith is weak and taking a step of faith scares me. Help me to take the first small step. I trust You and want to do what You want me to. Then lead me to the next step of faith, and the next, so that I can learn to live a life of faith in You. A growing faith that is alive!