

As a grain of mustard-seed - [Matthew 13:31-32](#).

[Barnes' Notes on the Bible](#)

As a grain of mustard-seed - See the notes at [Matthew 13:31-32](#). The mustard-seed was the smallest of all seeds. It has been supposed by some, therefore, that he meant to say, If you have the smallest or feeblest faith that is genuine, you can do all things. The mustard-seed produced the largest of all herbs. It has been supposed by others, therefore, to mean, If you have increasing, expanding, enlarged faith, growing and strengthening from small beginnings, you can perform the most difficult undertaking. There is a principle of vitality in the grain of seed stretching forward to great results, which illustrates the nature of faith. Your faith should be like that. This is probably the true meaning.

Ye shall say unto this mountain ... - Probably he pointed to a mountain near, to assure them that if they had such faith they might accomplish the most difficult undertakings - things that at first would appear impossible.

He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." ~Matthew 17:20-21

As small as a mustard seed... that's pretty small. To be more precise, it is about the size of the head of a straight pin—the kind used by seamstresses to pin a pattern to fabric. So yah, that's pretty small, isn't it? Yet Jesus says that if we have even that little amount of faith there is nothing we cannot do.

So why, then, aren't we doing more? And why do so many of us feel God isn't working in our lives the way we want Him to?

A lack of faith or simply not God's will?

I consider myself a woman of faith. I believe with every ounce of my being that God can do whatever He wants, whenever He wants, however He wants. I believe with every ounce of my being that God is the one and only God, that He is the creator of the universe, and that He is almighty and all-knowing.

But... there have been plenty of times (and sadly, I'm sure there will be more) that I don't think God *will* do what I know He can do. And that, my friends, is a lack of faith. Well, sometimes, anyway. Sometimes I don't believe God will do something that I know He is fully capable of because I am convinced it simply isn't His will.

This probably leads you to the question of how I know which is which.

A lack of faith is simply not trusting God to [keep His promises](#), believing He can do something, or believing that He wants to bless us and direct our lives. For example, not tithing because we don't think we can and still have what we need to cover our expenses is a lack of faith. Believing something is not His will comes from studying the scriptures and knowing that there are simply some things God won't do for us because He knows better.

An example of this would be pursuing a romantic relationship with a non-Christian; asking God to give you this person as your [husband or wife](#), but the relationship doesn't work out. It isn't because God was unfaithful or because you didn't have enough faith. It's because God doesn't want us to be unequally yoked.

Do you see the difference?

How to have a mustard seed kind of faith—Jesus uses the mustard seed to illustrate the kind of faith we need because the tiny mustard seed grows into something much, Much, MUCH bigger than its original size. In other words, our faith is meant to grow... a lot.

When I am asked the question of [how to have more faith](#), I point people to these two things: One: First is the man in Mark 9 who asked the disciples to cure his son from demon possession. The disciples couldn't do it (because of a lack of faith). But when Jesus asked the boy's father if he believed, he said, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24)

Before I tell you what I think about this verse, I want to clarify what the boy's father is saying. The Greek word for 'unbelief' is *apistia*. The word literally means distrust.

When the man asks Jesus to help his unbelief, he isn't saying he doesn't believe, he is asking Jesus to give him *more* faith. He knew Jesus *could* give it, but he needed faith to believe He *would*.

So... when I am asked the question of how to have more faith, the first thing I tell someone is to **ask for more faith**. [Pray for more faith](#).

Two: Take the opportunities God gives you to see faith in action. It's not enough to say you have faith or even believe God is God. True faith grows when you let God be God and do what He does best—the amazing and seemingly impossible.

Our initial introduction to the concept of faith is small. It is a faith that comes from hearing and believing the Word of God. After that, however, the only way for our faith to grow is to [use it](#).

Give your rebellious teen over to God. [Tithe](#). Quit fighting the idea of caring for your aging parents because you aren't sure your family can handle it. Go on a [mission trip](#) and let God take you out of your comfort zone and use you. Quit trying to fix broken relationships and let God do it for you. Quit holding grudges, forgive, and move forward. Don't be embarrassed or afraid to offer your talents in your church or community so that you can minister to others. Don't worry about being made fun of at work or school for [sharing the Gospel](#) and having a Christ-like attitude that rejects sinful behaviors.

A mustard seed kind of faith is faith that isn't content to stay small, but one that buries itself in the soil of God's Word, takes root, and grows and grows and grows and... ~ By Darla Noble

[Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible](#)

And Jesus said unto them, because of your unbelief,.... The Arabic and Ethiopic versions read, "because of your little faith", or "the smallness of your faith"; and so does one Greek manuscript; and which is what is doubtless meant by their unbelief; for they were not altogether destitute of faith, but their faith was very low, and their unbelief very great.

Christ says, not because of the unbelief of the parent of the child, and those that were with him, though that also was a reason; but because of their unbelief, being willing to convince them of their unbelief, as he had done the father of the child, who had confessed it, and desired it might be removed from him: but lest they should think they had lost their power of doing miracles, Christ adds;

for verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed; which was a very small seed, the least of all seeds, and is used very often proverbially by the Jews, to signify anything of a small quantity or weight (b), and is sometimes used of faith, as here; so speaking of the congregation of Edom, meaning the Christians, they (c) say,

"they have not , "faith as a grain of mustard seed"." And it is used in like sense in other eastern nations; and by Mahomet in his Alcoran (d), who says, "We will appoint just balances in the day of resurrection, neither shall any soul be injured at all, although the merit or guilt of an action be of the weight of "a grain of mustard seed"."

So that it has no reference to the quality of mustard seed, being hot and acrimonious; which has led some interpreters wrong, to compare faith unto it, for its liveliness and fervency: when our Lord only means, that if his apostles had ever so small a degree of faith in exercise, which might be compared for its smallness to this least of seeds, such an effect as he after mentions would follow; and which therefore is to be understood, not of an historical faith, by which men assent to all that is in the Bible as true; nor of a special, spiritual faith, by which souls believe in Christ, as their Saviour and Redeemer; for of neither of these can the following things in common be said; but of a faith of miracles, peculiar to certain persons in those early times, for certain reasons; which such as had but ever so small a degree of, as the apostles here spoken to might say, as Christ observes to them,

ye shall say to this mountain; pointing perhaps to that he was just come down from, which might be in sight of the house where he was,

remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove: meaning, not that it would be ordinarily or ever done in a literal sense by the apostles, that they should remove mountains; but that they should be able to do things equally difficult, and as seemingly impossible, if they had but faith, when the glory of God, and the good of men, required it.

So that it does not follow, because the apostles did not do it in a literal sense, therefore they could not, as the Jew insultingly says (e); since it was meant that they should, and besides, have done, things equally as great as this, and which is the sense of the words. So the apostle expresses the faith of miracles, by "removing mountains", [1 Corinthians 13:2](#) i.e. by doing things which are difficult, seem impossible to be done: wherefore Christ adds,

and nothing shall be impossible to you; you shall not only be able to perform such a wonderful action as this, were it necessary, but any, and everything else, that will make for the glory of God, the enlargement of my kingdom and interest, the confirmation of truth, and the good of mankind.