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Monday

Mark 5:27-28 After hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak. For she thought, "If I just touch His garments, I will get well."

The simple act of coming to God in Jesus, the act of approaching God in prayer, is an act of faith that is rewarded by blessing. Look at all of the examples of straightforward childlike faith displayed in Mark's gospel. The woman who merely wanted to touch His garment. The four friends who lowered their friend through the roof. The blind man who wanted to *see* Jesus. All of these simply came to God in Jesus. They did not approach a generic god; they came to God in Christ. This is not a worked up emotion or a special faith reserved for a few. This is simply the faith that believes Jesus to be God the Son and the answer to our needs. Do you have such faith? Do you trust Him? If you do, your faith can move mountains!

Tuesday

Mark 11:23 "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes ...

Jesus is not beyond a bit of hyperbole in His teaching. He is not really inviting the most believing believers to cast Lookout Mountain into the Tennessee River. He is not into making magicians, but into building up saints like you. He was talking about the great issues of life. He was talking about abundant living. He was talking about overcoming victory that brings glory to God and grace to you. He was talking about the mountains that prevent missions. After all aren't these the really big mountains and the important mountains? Believe God and mountains move!

Wednesday

John 14:1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe in Me.

Faith is simple; simply believe God. Faith is difficult; calling you to trust Jesus with all that you are, to rely upon Him completely, to believe Him even in the hardest of times. How can something so simple be so difficult? Yet it is, isn't it? Growing faith (trust) demands letting go of self-will, self-trust, and self-focus. Deep faith (trust) requires releasing yourself to God's grace and providence. Hebrews says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) So it is! Have faith in God. Trust Him in your every circumstance.

Thursday

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them,..."

Of necessity, faith walks together with obedience. If you believe God, you will do what He tells you to do. This is one of the hard lessons of faith. To simply say that "I believe," and then not to follow the instructions of the one in whom you profess faith — that is ridiculous. Do you believe? Really? If you trust the doctor, you take his prescription. If you do not take his prescription, you do not trust the doctor. So the Great Physician speaks, prescribes, instructs. Do you believe? Do you take His prescription? The Apostle Paul calls it "obedience of faith" and says that his purpose in ministry is to bring you and I to this place of genuine trust. (Rom. 1:5)

Friday

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God."

Heb. 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is; that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Not a worked up emotional state or a denial of the state of my circumstances, but a simple uncomplicated trust in the Lord. This is faith. Such faith, as simple as a child's trust in his mother, is what God delights in and requires. It is the same type of trust that you desire of your children when you give them instruction. It is the same necessary trust that must be placed in the rescuer when he says, "Jump! I will catch you." Not a trust despite all evidence, but a trust in one known trustworthy.