

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

6.23.2024

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Moving Mountains

## Mark 11: 22 – 23

Christ, through his word, spoke of moving mountains, which are obstacles to our faith. Everybody has obstacles in their life. Doubt, fear, trials, tribulations, temptations, and hardships, and often time, we see these obstacles as mountains that are unavoidable and unmovable. So, what are we to do? For the non-believer, and their worldly efforts to overcome this unmovable object, failure is eminent. But, for the believer, we know that our faith and trust in the power of an almighty God is what moves mountains. So, why are there times in our lives that we are overcome by the obstacles that we face. It is because we fail to rely completely on God by our faith, to move our mountains. No matter how great our life may seem, there will always be obstacles in the way. The key to having faith that grows in the face of adversity is to have our very being always in line with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Sadly, the church today has made signs and wonders a necessity for proving our faith, the word of God clearly tells us that it is prayer by faith, in obedience to Gods word is that which is required to understand the wisdom and knowledge that we need to move mountains. There is one thing that we can be assured of in our life in Christ, and that is that only God can move mountains. When everywhere that we look in our lives it appears that everything is falling apart, we must still choose to believe in God, no matter what.

**Psalm 9: 10,....**and they that know thy name will put their trust in thee, for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee....

**Mark 11: 22 – 23,....**Jesus answering saith unto them, have faith in God....verily I say unto you....whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea, and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith....

Sometimes, the only answer that we receive when we pray is to have faith in God. This is because, that which we are going through, is not yet in Gods timing, but it is a result of the choices in which we have made, therefore, the message that God has in store for us through this rare opportunity is a message that we are not ready to hear yet, so he simply says: have faith in God, for God knows that we need all the faith that we can get.

**Romans 12: 3,....**through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly then he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith....

Often time, we allow obstacles in our life to conform our thoughts into a worldly way of thinking. So how do we overcome this? First of all:

**2 Corinthians 2: 5,....**casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ....

In order to do this, it takes our personal dedication.

**Romans 12: 1 – 2,....**present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service....and be not conformed to this world....

So, here is where we stand in our life in Christ. We have been born again, by grace, through our faith in Christ.

**Ephesians 2: 8,....**for by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God....

Therefore, we are to be living our lives by the grace of God, exercising our spiritual gifts by our grace, through our faith, and we are not to rely upon our own strength, but we are to depend upon God for all things in our life, by faith, for without faith it is impossible to please him.

**Hebrews 11: 6,....**but without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is....a rewarder of those that diligently seek him....

So, in these scriptures there are four things that it takes to move the mountains in our lives and remember that mountains are obstacles to our faith. So, let us look quickly at those four things.

**2 Corinthians 10: 5,....**casting down imaginations....

These imaginations, or thoughts, which are philosophies, or opinions will bring about arguments, which we will use to try and gain some sort of spiritual victory, but actually, they are powerless against the wiles of the devil. These false religions will empower the mind so that we cannot see the light of the gospel, which displays the true image of God.

**Romans 12: 1 – 2,....**present your bodies a living sacrifice....

The only acceptable sacrifice that we can make unto God is to offer ourselves wholly and completely unto him for his service. This does not mean when it is convenient, or whenever we have time, or when there is nothing better to do, but this means in all things, and at all times, we are to be instruments of the righteousness which was given unto us through the sacrifice of his Son, which he made upon the cross.

**Ephesians 2: 8,....**for by grace are ye saved through faith....

Only when we begin to see that there is a difference between our position in Christ compared to our condition outside of Christ, will we then be able to fully understand the spiritual blessings that we have through our salvation. If we cannot tell the difference between the two in our life in Christ, then the obstacle that we are facing, we will not be able to see because we are spiritually blinded, this obstacle is actually an imaginable thought which we have that God will accept us based upon some level of goodness, or religious performance.

**Hebrews 11: 6,....**without faith it is impossible to please....

Anyone who comes to God, must believe that he exists. Now, this does not mean in some form of conceptual or psychological sense of belief that many retain, but we must be whole heartedly devoted unto him, trusting completely in him, committed to an intimate relationship with him, which is based upon our obedience to the commandments and promises of his word. This means walking by faith and accepting the truth of the things that we cannot see, and then acting upon those things by living a life that is pleasing only to God.

So, why are there mountains in our life that we cannot move? Christ summed it up for his disciples who asked the very same question.

**Matthew 17: 20,....**Jesus saith unto them, because of your unbelief....if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence....and nothing shall be impossible unto you....

Just as there are many instances in the word of God of unbelief, there are many instances of unbelief in our lives. How long have we been walking with Christ, and yet, still when obstacles are set before us, our faith is weak. We have faith, for that is what saved us, so it is not that we are lacking faith, but we lack trusting in the object of our faith, which is Christ. The working of our faith is not based upon the strength or size of our faith, but the working of our faith is based upon placing it in the correct object. When the object of our faith is Christ, then nothing should be impossible, because God has enabled us so that he might work his work through us. The value of our faith is to rest entirely on Christ. Remember, the tiniest amount of faith placed in the correct object is the key to moving mountains.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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