**Second Dimension – Christianity Experienced**

**Segment III – *“Strengthening Your Core”* Progressive Bible Concepts - #28 “Increasing Your Faith”**

**Discussion** How did you do this week letting Him handle specific challenges with you resting in His loving care?

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**Segment III – Strengthening Your Core**

* Concept 25 – “Living By Faith”
* Concept 26 – “The Eyes of Faith”
* Concept 27 – “Little Faith”
* **Concept 28 – “Increasing Your Faith”**

**Key Verse**

* *“...the r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ man shall l\_\_\_\_\_\_ by his f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…”* Habakkuk 2:4

**The Centrality of Faith**

* *“For by grace have you been s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through faith;” Eph 2:8*

**Live By Faith**

* *“…but the r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shall l\_\_\_\_\_\_ by his f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”* Hab 2:4

**Faith - the eyes of the soul!**

**Little Faith - Observations**

* **Compartmentalized faith** – faith that is separated into sections, or a faith that touches only certain parts of your life.
* **Integrated faith** – faith that connects with every aspect of your life.

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**Summary**

**Concept 27**

* *“Little faith compartmentalizes God in a destabilizing way that limits both His work in our lives and our expectation of His blessing.”*

**Model Prayers**

* *Prayer for Increased Faith*
* *Prayer for Help to Overcome Unbelief*
* *Prayer of Great Faith*

**Prayer for Increased Faith**

*The apostles said to the Lord, “I****ncrease*** *our* ***faith***! *And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and be planted in the sea’; and it would obey you.”* Luke 17:5,6

**Increase** – *prosthes* – (aor imp act) *prostithemi – pros* toward*, tithemi –* to stand*;* hence, to add, g\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to increase

**Meaning** *– “Add to what is a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”* - suggests building upon, expanding, adding another level or adding another story to an existing building

**Implication** - implies building upon what is already there, expanding or i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your faith to a greater degree that touches more of your life.

**Observations:**

* *The d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the disciples was for their faith to grow.*
* *Their appeal was a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ one – in the imperative mood.*
* *His response – not the q\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of your faith but the q\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
* *The statement – “If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and be planted in the sea’; and it would obey you.” is an a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*
* *Should read like this, “If you had faith like a mustard seed (and G\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you) to say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and be planted in the sea’; and it would obey you.”*
* *Let your faith grow in quality by purifying it of d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

**Prayer for Help to overcome Unbelief**

*“Teacher, I brought you my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute….and he asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, from childhood. And it has often thrown him into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, ‘If you can! All things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the boy’s father cried out and began saying, “I do believe; help me in my unbelief.” Mark 9:21-24*

**Observations**

* The father’s despair was u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* He came to Jesus feeling completely p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Approaches Jesus out of a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* *‘If you can’* …if it is w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your power
* *‘Help us’* – ‘c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’ – help my s\_\_\_\_
* Belief opens u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ possibilities with God.
* *‘I do believe’* – the w\_\_\_\_\_\_ to b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was present
* *‘Help me’* – s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from healing his son to helping his lack of faith
* *‘In my u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_‘* – recognizes his doubt and ambivalence
* Help is requested both for the t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and for his r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ toward it.

**Prayer of Great Faith**

* *“And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented.” Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.” But the centurion said, “Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am*
* *a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.”*
* *“Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with anyone in Israel. And Jesus said to the centurion, “Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed that very moment.”* Matt 8:5-13

**Prayer of Great Faith**

* A positively horrendous situation - p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pain
* Jesus is m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with compassion and i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to heal the servant
* The centurion – a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by profession, leader of a h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Gentile – from among the pagan nations frowned upon by the Jews
* Recognizes his own u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Request – speak the healing into a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Discernment – he comprehends authority on a n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ level and on a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ level
* His faith allows him to see the total situation with perfect c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Now it is Jesus’ turn to m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ versus being marveled at
* He observed a r\_\_\_\_\_\_ quality of f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Not found in Israel – not seen among G\_\_\_\_\_’\_\_ people

**Model Prayers**

* *Prayer for Increased Faith*
* *Prayer for Help to Overcome Unbelief*
* *Prayer of Great Faith*

**Prayer for Increased Faith -** *When you face trials, pray this prayer:*

*“Lord, increase my faith through this trial, and* *if my faith falters during this trial, help me in my unbelief, and when Your purposes are served by this trial, just say the word and it will be over.”*

**Summary - Concept 28**

* *“Faith is increased when we rely upon God to manage our trials while simultaneously relying upon Him to develop within us a restful embrace of His loving care.”*

Application: “Trust God completely o\_\_\_\_\_ trial at a t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

* What current challenge/trial are you facing that you can completely trust God with today?

**Next Week -** Concept 29 – “Proactive Faith”