

CouplesInBloom.com – Increase Your Faith

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Luke 17:5-10 ⇒ “And the apostles said to the Lord, Give us more faith. And the Lord said, If you *had* faith as a grain of mustard seed, you might say to this sycamore tree, Be rooted up and be planted in the sea! And it would obey you. But which of you who has a servant plowing or feeding will say to him immediately after he has come from the field, Come, recline? Will he not say to him, Prepare something so that I may eat, and gird yourself and serve me until I eat and drink. And afterward you shall eat and drink. Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? *I think not*. So likewise you, when you shall have done all the things commanded you, *say (this is a command :)*, We are unprofitable servants, for we have done what we ought to do.”

The actual word **Jesus used** for our word *unprofitable* means unmeritorious, which defined is: not deserving of reward or of notice, regard, fame or happiness, or of that which shall be a suitable return for services or excellence of any kind. Such a definition, although precisely true, is uncomfortable and resisted in the self-worship of humanism. Christianity, when perverted by humanism, also avoids such Scriptures. Matthew 25:30 ⇒ is the only other place this word is used, which is Jesus’ parable of the talents. The Bible frequently states how works authenticate faith, as well as personal responsibility ⇒ 2 Thessalonians 3:10 “... If anyone does not desire to work, neither let him eat.”

Our knowledge-based culture worships **answers**. The Hebrews put the higher value on asking the **right question**. *Heshbon ha-nephesh* is the standard rabbinic practice of answering a question with a question... to help the person realize they are *not* asking the right question. Jesus often does this to help people think beyond their narrow selves, viewpoints, and understanding attained so far, and to help move them from self to **truth**.

What is Jesus saying? What does lack of faith have to do with unmeritoriousness?? If we *exaggerate the merits of our works* (as Jesus said can happen), then that problem originated from a *selfish definition of our faith*. The error is: believing *our faith* depends on our will power (as *our works* do); *this* fatal error removes God’s power. **This** is why Jesus said ‘*if you had even tiny faith, you would ask the right question!*’ ⇒ Luke 17:5-10. Faith is borne of God’s Word ⇒ Romans 10:17 and **this** is why, how and where faith gets its power ⇒ 1 Corinthians 2:4-5. **This** is also why our will power, which is easily and often mislabeled as Christian faith, lacks the power the Bible says faith in God has.

Therefore: if you want to **increase your faith**, learn from Jesus’ answer to the apostles on how to **increase your faith**: dehumanize your definition of Christianity and embrace unmeritoriousness. Dear believer: it’s all about God! Change your brain with truth ⇒ Romans 11:33-12:2 so it allows God full access inside it to do His will through your will.

This is the same difference between relationship and religion: Is God in you, or are you trying to force Him there? ⇒ Matthew 7:21-23. Life becomes easier, more enjoyable and increasingly full of God’s power when we keep growing into unmeritoriousness ⇒ John 3:30. **Faith can increase if** we do not hinder it ⇒ Matthew 13:58; 1 Peter 3:7. Even *our desire for faith hinders our faith*, whenever it exceeds our desire for God Himself. ♥