

## A Chronicle of Faith

**How does faith come?** (2) – Let's continue our walk of faith.....

Jesus Counsels the Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:23-30; Matt 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-22) NKJV

I would like you to check out this story in the above Scriptures. A rich young ruler asked Jesus how he could receive eternal life. Jesus said to him "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honour your father and your mother.'" The young man answered "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. When Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." Then Peter said, "See, we have left all and followed You." So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come everlasting life." You need to open your spiritual ears to hear that!

**The Bible says in Rom 10:17** So then faith comes by **hearing**, and **hearing** by the word of God. We cannot believe without **hearing** the Word. People are saved by **hearing** God's Word. It is God's Word (Jesus) that saves, heals, delivers, sets free. Jesus is the Living Word and He is the written word (the Logos). The Word has in it the inherent power to save, heal and deliver anyone who will open their hearts to believe the word they hear. Because the word they are hearing is living, it is a living thing, it is creative, it is active, it is sharper than a two-edged sword; it gives life to the spiritually dead; sight to the blind; it opens deaf ears; it causes the lame to walk; it drives out sicknesses and disease. Yes, the Word of God is alive and active because it is spirit and it is life!

The Apostles walked with Jesus for over 3 years but as He taught them the fundamental principles of the Kingdom they were obviously amazed and they asked Him to increase their faith. Do you know what Jesus said? "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. In another Scripture Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. In **Mark 11:23-24** this is what Jesus also said; For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

I want you to notice something here, a mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet Jesus said - If you and I have got this much faith (and we have if we are born again); we can move mountains; so if we are not moving mountains there has got to be something we don't fully understand about what we already have; or something we are not doing according to the Word of God; or we hearing the Word, and not taking heed of it or applying it correctly to our lives.

We will continue.....