

A Mountain Too High?

Dave Roberson

I have been thinking a lot lately about the kind of things that keep a believer from having God's best and, as strange as it may seem, our greatest enemy is not always the most obvious. In fact, whenever we see a mountain that needs to be removed (you know, one of those seemingly impossible situations), it is not as though we doubt whether or not God can do it ... quite the contrary, we know that He can!

In fact, our problem is not even whether or not God wants to move the mountain ... we know that He does!

Where most of us suffer defeat is when we are standing at the base of the mountain and it is casting a gigantic shadow onto our person and we get to thinking this thing is so big, so overwhelming, I do not even know where to start. And, while standing in the shadow of the impossible situation, a person can begin to feel helpless and lose sight of one of the most powerful of all principles of faith ... CORRESPONDING ACTIONS!

For what the devil would like to do is keep us from finding out how faith really works or should I say how "simply" it works.

So what he does, is throw everything he can at us to make us feel so inadequate or overwhelmed until we get to thinking, "What's the use?"

What he wants to do is get us to a place where we are using no corresponding actions at all with our faith ... NONE!

You see, to the natural man, it would seem to do no good to keep digging away at the mountain, one spoonful at a time. But, as far as faith and corresponding actions are concerned, you are probably talking about one of, if not the most powerful, principles of faith in the entire Word of God.

This is why Jesus compared faith to a mustard seed ... a mustard seed is so very, very small but the tree that it produces is incredible. If a person could only understand this principle enough to let it take hold of their life. I mean really take hold! The area it would most affect would be their thinking concerning the size of the problem.

When a person really understands faith ... they know that it is not the amount of dirt each spoonful moves that makes the difference, it is the faith that it takes to stand there and keep on digging.

Now, before we really get into this principle of corresponding action, let's look at some of the rules that govern its operation:

Have you ever heard someone say, "If you really believe that you are healed, you will throw your

medicine away?" In most cases, the people who get involved in these kinds of situations are trying to compensate for their uncertainty and fears by proving to God that they have faith by throwing their medicine away. In reality, this kind of action is the exception to the rule and not the rule itself.

THE EXCEPTION ... taking action in the natural does not always necessarily produce a reaction in the SPIRITUAL.

But **THE RULE** ... Taking action in the Spiritual always, without exception, produces a reaction in the natural.

So, if you and I are going to have the kind of faith that changes things, then we need to understand what kind of actions we can take that really corresponds with FAITH.

Let's take a look at the first and second chapters of James where most of us got our information or doctrine on faith and works or actions that correspond with faith ... What James is really talking about here is the moral obligation of the believer to do those things that correspond with the CHRISTIAN FAITH or BELIEFS.

James 1:22 says: "*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*"

and then the twenty-seventh verse tells us what doing the word consists of which is: "*Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction (their need), AND to keep himself unspotted from the world.*"

Then again in the second chapter of James, verses 14 - 17: "*What DOTH IT profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be YE warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what DOTH IT profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*"

So then if the corresponding action in James is to fulfill the moral obligation of Christianity, to clothe and feed the poor, etc., then what kind of action does a person take who is believing for healing ... do they throw their medicine away?

OF COURSE NOT! There are many, many people who have terminal diseases that cannot be treated with medicine or anything else so what possible action could they take in the natural realm that would do them any good? If medicine was not helping anyway, what good would it do to throw it away? Whether they stayed in the hospital or checked themselves out would be irrelevant.

What possible corresponding action could a person in this condition take that would agree with what the Word and faith has said about their problem?

So once again let's look at the rule. That is taking an action in the natural does not always necessarily produce a reaction in the spiritual.

BUT ... TAKING ACTION IN THE SPIRITUAL ALWAYS, WITHOUT EXCEPTION PRODUCES A REACTION IN THE NATURAL.

This is why verses like Mark 11:23 says: "*For verily, I say unto you. That 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 with shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he with.*"

You see ... when a person says to this mountain, "be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea", what he is actually doing is taking an action in the natural realm by speaking to the mountain.

The thing that's going to produce the final overall change in the mountain is the kind of corresponding action that helps a believer come to the place in the spirit where he doubts not in his heart. Because when a person doubts not with his heart, he will have what he says with his mouth!

So the kind of corresponding action we need to take is praying in the Holy Ghost, meditation, fasting, and prayer ... things that change the heart. The problem is most of us will not do these things until we have first frustrated or exhausted ourselves with trying to get things done in the natural.

We find ourselves in a position of having been stripped of our dependency on things in the natural ... such as doctors, when medicine or an operation will do no good or when there is nothing or no one we can turn to or when the doctor says, "Sorry there is nothing we can do, you are going to die!"

Here a person is ... facing a mountain that is too big to move and it does not matter how hard he tries, schemes, or connives, in the natural there is just no way he can get the mountain to move.

Now here he is in a most interesting predicament, stripped of his dependency on the natural realm and tossed into a realm where he is forced to depend upon the spiritual.

The problem for many believers is that this is like tossing a fish out of water ... he just does not know how to operate in his new environment.

Please believe me when I tell you that for the man who finds himself in this condition or for someone who just wants to draw closer to God ... actions that correspond with faith can become his most valuable asset ... his very best friend.

Let's look at the kind of corresponding action that you and I need to take in the spiritual realm that will produce a reaction in the natural realm.

To produce an atmosphere where faith can operate at its highest levels should be your highest priority. A person needs to do everything necessary to bring himself to a place where he can enter into a rest.

This is why Hebrews 4:11 says: "*Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*"

What this verse is really saying is the reason a man fails is because he has no place of rest or peace and confidence.

So, contrary to popular belief, the real opposite of faith is not unbelief but UNREST because, if a man has rest (peace), he has faith.

Therefore, our corresponding action or "labor" as Hebrews 4:11 says should be the kind that does everything it can to bring us to a place of rest or cause us to enter into that rest.

For once again ... it is from this place of rest that the highest kind of mountain-moving faith operates.

So while most of us were out labouring or striving against the mountain in the natural, we should have been striving and labouring to enter into the rest.

For even in the natural, our physical body will not perform correctly when subjected to stress or tension for long periods of time.

Biologically it will begin to break down ... what makes you think that the human heart, the faith generator, operates or reacts any differently when subjected to long periods of unrest and turmoil ... it needs rest and peace that comes from meditating the Word.

I heard a story about an experiment that was conducted by a scientist regarding the substance tears are made of. As part of the experiment, the scientist made a study of a young woman who had just realized her dream. The joy that was on her countenance had by far exceeded the natural beauty that had just caused her to win the beauty pageant. And, when the master of ceremonies announced amongst all the excitement and glitter in a loud voice ... "Here she is (and then announced what she had won), big tears of joy were streaming down her face. The scientist then took her tears and had them analyzed. Contained within her tears was a chemical substance that literally promoted healing. When a person is full of joy, their body will produce its own healing agents that can overcome even terminal disease.

Then the scientist analyzed the tears of a young man who loved his wife so much that, when the news of her death reached him, he wept uncontrollably. When they analyzed his tears, there was a chemical substance present that reacted on the body's system in such a way that it seemed to strip the body's resistance to disease, making him susceptible to illness. When a person is full of sorrow and grief, even in the natural realm, their system begins to break down.

Grief can literally get hold of a man and cause him such sorrow that the grieving can actually turn into a physical ache in his bosom.

So, whenever I am faced with a mountain that must be moved or have just received a bad report or just want to draw closer to God, I take these three steps of corresponding action:

1. When bad news comes, I react immediately by deliberately putting myself into the Spirit. The way I do that is by greeting the problem with my supernatural language of tongues. The problem was

designed to take me down but I know that tongues will build me up.

"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself." (I Cor. 14:4)

2. I greet the problem with the Word of God by searching the Scriptures until I find the verses that most accurately describe my victory over the problem. Then I keep confessing those Scriptures over and over. I use them like an artist would use a paint brush and easel to paint a perfect picture of my VICTORY!

3. And, finally (but not least as far as I am concerned), I meditate. One of the most powerful corresponding actions of faith that can operate in the life of a believer is MEDITATION. It does not matter how big the problem is, when a person learns how to meditate, he can replace the outer image of failure and despair with an inner image that is painted by the Word of God.

You see ... it does not matter how bad the problem is, or should I say, how big the mountain is that you are standing in the shadow of because long before the mountain is gone, through meditation, you can enter into a place of rest that is so incredible that, even though you can feel the mountain with your fingers and you can still see the mountain with your eyes ... yet, because of meditation, you can literally enter in or visit this place of victory long before your outward circumstances ever yield themselves to the final victory.

I love to take those verses that describe my victory and meditate upon them day and night until the image that they produce on the inside of me brings me to that place of rest and confidence that, even though around me everything may be raging, my spirit, my soul, and my body is at peace.