

Not Your Mother's Faith

So this morning, I've been pondering on faith. What started up was a gift I received yesterday. And I've been pondering on something all morning, okay?

My nephew gave me a necklace with a pendant on it that has a mustard seed. And it's pretty, it's a very unique piece. And when I saw it, it struck me because I've always wanted one.

When I was a child, my mom had a mustard seed necklace, and I don't know exactly where she got it from, but. I remember her wearing it. She wore it every day, almost never took it off.

And honestly, it was before my mother really came to the Lord, and became a born again believer. and which I think really really struck me later in life. And when my mom passed, a number of years ago now, I was looking through her things and and I thought, oh, gee, I wonder whatever happened to that. I've I always wanted it, you know, I loved that particular pendant that she had, and I always looked for over the years.

I wanted to buy my own necklace. But I wanted something similar. I really admired the one that my mom had.

And I always wanted one like hers. You never could find it. There's a lot of nice ones that are out there, you know, but at the end of the day, and anytime I want to actually purchase one, I just really felt like Holy Spirit was saying, no, don't, I don't I don't want you to do that.

Never understood why, but, you know, okay, fine. And, you know, and after a while, I let it go.

And then yesterday, which happened happened to be Father's Day.

I was handed a package that was totally unexpected, Elated birthday gift from my nephew, and in it was this pendant with mustard seed in there. And I have to admit, it struck me, it really did, it It was like, you know, I mean, for me, Holy Spirit was just all over it, you know, it was just,.

I've waited a long time because I knew, you know, when the Lord told me not to, there just was this sense of " I'll bring you one.

I'll bring you one at the right time. And as I when I got up this morning, and you know, getting ready, getting getting dressed in the day, I'm like, I'm going to pull out my new necklace and put it on. And and as I was just pondering on it, and I'm like, I love the design.

It's it's a sweet piece. It really is. And and I know know my nephew enough to know that the reason he bought that is because Holy Spirit led him to.

And that part of it really, really struck me. And as I went to put it on this morning, I very distinctly heard the Lord say, that you can't live off of your mother's your mother's faith. You can't live off of her seeds faith.

And that was very striking, okay? My mother had a seed of faith, but I got to tell you, it's bigger than that, okay? And I'll get to the whole story of it in a minute, but I want to just start out here by saying, I love how Holy Spirit moves.

I love he does things. Never what we expect, you know, instructions and what now never come the way we think they're going to, okay? And honestly, I just cannot wait to see what God's going to do.

But I'm also mindful of, you know, the Book of Hebrews is one of my favorite books in the Bible. I have a few, that I just love to just read over and over and over again. And the Book of Hebrews is one of them.

And Hebrews 11 11, 12, and 13 is I could sit there forever. I love to read about the champions of faith and, you know, and the encouragement of, you know, taking all of what they were believing believing for, and going, because we're surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let's cast off every encumbrance, every sin, every, you know, let's get rid of all the obstacles. So let's war this race.

You know, it's, to me, the whole book of Hebrews builds up to this moment. You know, it's, you know, the author of Hebrews, where some believe it was Paul, Others don't. I sit on the fence, I don't know who wrote it.

I think it's possible that Paul could have written it. But I also think it's possible somebody else wrote it. So anyway, but my point here is this.

When I look at the Book of Hebrews and I read it, if you read it through in one sitting, which I try to do, it's like you're building up, you know, he's building a case, you know, he's talking to the Hebrew people. He's talking to the Israelites. He's talking to his own people, okay? This is not a letter to the Gentiles. This is a letter to the Jews. And so he's talking to them in ways that they will understand because of their history, because of their joint understanding of things.

And he's sharing this this incredible revelation of really of who Jesus is, and he's building up to this moment. So he's laying this foundation and making a case for Christ, and gets to this point where he begins to talk about these the fathers of faith, and, you know, by faith, Abraham, by faith, Moses, you know, by faith Enoch, you know, and and building on all of that. And when it, you know, when he talks about, you know, by faith Abraham, by faith, Isaac, by faith Jacob, they didn't have the same faith, yet they had the same inheritance.

They were given the same promise, okay? There was a promise given to Abraham that extended the promise extended to Isaac. The promise extended to Jacob and to their descendants.

And but each one of them had to come in to their own faith in God. You know, they had to believe that God is, and that he is a reorter of those who diligently seek H. They had to come to a place where they were believing God for themselves.

Now because Dad had this encounter with God or grandpa had this encounter with God. I have... You know, my mother, if nothing else, my mom and I, we could be the best of friends and the worst of enemies, which I think is true of almost every mother daughter relationship.

However, you know, I loved her my mom, and the one thing I admired about my mom, the most was her faith. And when she passed in 2013, I struggled with I struggled with some of the things my mom had been believing for because she died, never seeing it. And I just I was having a hard time with, not with trusting God, but just with, God, what was that all about?

And I, you know, like you do when you're in grief. You're looking for for answers. You're, you're looking for something that makes it okay that they're gone, okay?

And in the midst of my grief, the Lord took me to Hebrews 11, where it says, all of these, all of these died in their faith, never seen the promises fulfilled. But they were because they were believing with something better. It was like, God made them earthly promises, and yet and yet, that's not the thing that really held their faith.

They weren't putting their faith in the fulfillment of actually seeing the earthly promises come to pass. They were believing for believing God for something greater than that. They were looking as it says, you know, Abraham was looking for a city whose architect and builder is God.

You know, he's looking for the New Jerusalem. He's yearning and groaning for this place, this eternal place with God. So while God had him walking things out, in the natural, literally walking things out in the natural, in a way that I wonder if I would ever have the faith to kind of do the things that Abraham did, you know. and yet at the same time, I don't have to.

I don't have to believe God for the things that he told Abraraham. I have to believe God for the things he told me. You know, at the same time, you know, their faith was added.

You know, Isaac's faith was added to Abraham's, Jacob's faith was added to Isaacs and I want I'm going to share something that's really very personal to me. And like I said, God knows the timing of when he just needs to like drop a little nugget in your lap that you don't know. No, wow.

You know, God, you just, you use the silliest things sometimes to just speak to us very profoundly, okay? Again, my mom passed away in 2013. She died in June.

And actually, we're coming up on the anniversary of her passing is tomorrow, which I think is just, I mean, at this point, I'm just kind of giggling and juggling. I think it's hysterical. God, it's timing, okay?

But there's something that those of you who followed me and, you know, I've moved a few times and recently went through a move and moved into an area that's, I mean, it's gorgeous. The scenery around me, it's just gorgeous. I get to get up in the morning and go out on the back patio and just look out on a lake, and it's serene and it's beautiful.

And this morning, as I'm sitting out here, there's two guys in a boat fishing, and they're just slowly going around the coast of the lake, and it's it's just, it's so serene and it's precious. And and I I am thoroughly and completely enjoyed enjoying everything, that the setting that got has put me in. But an interesting thing is, and I struggled with making the move, but now that I'm here, it's it's I'm settled in it.

I'm settled with where God has put me. And not really sure why the whole concept of everything was warring with me as much as it was. I mean, it was just, but it was.

And and and as I share this with you, again, those of you who follow me know, I share my personal stories because because I believe there's a lot we can extract from listening to other people's stories testimony. So, you know, for those of you who who have contacted me and said my my podcasts are too long, all I can say is this, I love you guys. You know what?

If you don't want to listen to it all at once, there's a pause button, okay? So I get it if you can't listen to an hour of me or don't want to. I bless you.

But I am who I am. And I tell stories. And sometimes it takes a while for me to get there.

And that's a part of the journey. You know, so I had to learn how to be patient with the journey when I I was invited to participate in a home group that was happened to be the group that was we were hosting it in our home, but there was a gentleman who taught Hebrew at a Bible college in the area years ago. And God had had given him a way of introducing the subject to those who weren't in Bible college.

Okay. And I, and I want, oh, I wanted to learn I wanted to learn Hebrew like nobody's business. But his approach to it was not it was not necessarily this superberacademic thing.

And I was surprised to buy it. And honestly, because of the type of learner than I am and being very, you know, well Western Greek mindset person than I am. I had a real hard time initially, because of the way he taught.

And he taught in parables, oh, my gosh, you know, can I say, oh, I was so PO' the first. And I'm like, I cannot do this, I cannot do this, I cannot do this. And I'm like, like, get to the point, get to the point.

Get to the bottom line this for me, will you? And I, oh, my goodness, I mean, it annoyed the living snot out of me. And.

I remember going down in my room after that first class was over, and I'm like, I've wanted this, my whole adult life, and I didn't have the patience for it, and I'm sitting there and I'm praying and I'm crying out to God because I want this, and yet I'm so frustrated. And the Lord just very quietly says to me, Bty, do you think that you could possibly receive the deposit of me that's in this man? Yeah, that was my reaction, too.

I just had to sit there with that and go, well, when you put it like that. And I'm like, okay, then then I'm gonna ask for something. I'm going to ask you. for the grace to do that because my honest response is, no.

I don't have the patience for this. But when I saw that, you know, God's like, Betty, there's a deposit in here, don't you don't get it. You don't see the value of it.

You want the information. but you don't see the value of what he's doing. and the way he's communicating. And I had to sit with that every week for nine months. And I got to tell you, it came came to a point where I'm like, it obviously impacted me very greatly because I teach in a very similar manner where it's more testimonial.

It's more, I'm sharing stories. I might give facts and information. And especially when I'm when I'm teaching, when I'm in teaching mode, I will obliterate you.

No, I'm sorry. That's the wrong way to put it. Fire hose, maybe is a better way to put it?

With facts, okay? With information, because that's who I want all. There's information, I want all of it.

And so I've had to learn how to not do that to people. However, back to my story. Because I learned from him and just sat at this man's feet, like I said, for like a solid nine months, when it came time to transition, you know, I was handed, basically, the class when he was moving on. But our group wanted to stay together. And and I got to tell you, just being in an environment that we're not used to, it's uncomfortable. It's it's not familiar.

It's difficult and challenging on so many levels. And it But if we're not challenged, we don't grow. You know, if I were to have gone to a seminary class or Bible college or whatever, and learned Hebrew, I probably would have learned it the actual language of it better than I know it now.

But the approach that he taught was what he called devotional, devotional Hebrew. This was for the purpose of getting into the scriptures for yourself. And I don't want to get too far off track with this and go down too much of a bunny trail with it, but it literally changed the course of my life.

It changed, it changed everything. Just that nine month period, literally turned my life and it completely different direction. And I've never gone back.

I've never gone back to the way things were before, and all I could say is, I'm grateful for that. So having said that, bear with me as I share the remainder of this story. So I when we moved, I here, we're in a I don't want to say rural because it's really not.

I'd say semi rural, maybe. We're in a small lake town in northern Illinois, and as much as I'm familiar with the area, I wasn't necessarily familiar I wasn't necessarily familiar with the with this town in particular. The areas around here.

But this town is like it's in between other larger towns. And unless you have a reason to go here, you're probably not going to. You might drive through on your way somewhere else.

Nevertheless. So I'm living here with my son and daughter-in-law, and one of my other sons is staying here. as well. And I had to go pick him up from work a couple of times.

And I'm driving. Again, I don't know the local roads. I'm not as familiar with.

Major roads, yes. I've lived in northern Illinois my whole life. So I'm familiar with the major roads, but I get down.

So I'm driving. I'm driving back and forth down this one road, real simple. It's literally a few blocks from where I'm at is where this major intersection is at and over over the hill and then down on this local road to get to my son's work.

And I've made this trip a number of times now. And I was on my way one time. and I'm going, there's something about this that's. I don't I don't know, I can't, like, I can't shake it.

There's something about it that's that's that's familiar. It's stirring something up, but I couldn't quite put my finger on it. And it took, I'm telling you, this took weeks, okay?

And finally, it occurred to me that I'm like, oh, my gosh, this is literally the location where my mom, um, had put her stuff in storage. She had been living with my sister in the city. She wanted to go spend time with her other siblings and my one brother lived not far from here. So she had gathered all her stuff up and she put it into a storage unit. and then went and stayed with my one of my younger brothers. And her stuff stayed there until she passed, which was, I don't know, six, eight months later, okay? And at the time, there was nobody who could go through her things, so I was the only one, so my roommate and I made trips once a week.

We came up and started going through my mom's storage unit. And as we were, I kept running across these trinket things, okay? Stuff I knew my mother bought as an act of faith.

It was she had gotten a promise from the Lord. And and because of that promise, she made certain choices, and she was buying things, that were in keeping with that promise, and she was saving them for when this promise would get fulfilled. and forgive me, because I'm just trying to figure out the best way of relaying the facts of this. because the things my mother was believing for was something private and personal between her and God. I'll leave it there.

So, as we're going through stuff and I'm going, oh, my gosh, it was like, this was kind of when I was getting challenged with the fact that there was all this stuff that was in there, that I knew my mom had bought, believe in. that there was going to be another phase to her life, that there was going to be another leg of the journey, so to speak. And the leg of that journey never happened for her. And it was at that time when I was when I was really struggling with, not just with the contents of my mom's storage unit, which was difficult enough to go through.

Anyone who's had to go through a loved one's belongings when they've recently passed, it's it's a challenge. and suffice to say, yeah, it was not easy. We'll just leave it there. But to realize that that particular storage unit is literally blocks from where I'm currently living.

I mean, it's literally, what, about a half, not even a half half a mile from our house here. And it started messing with me because as we were with my roommate and I are going through my mom's stuff, and I'm pointing that out, she's like, well, you know, why don't you keep it? You know?

And I'm like, I don't know, you know, and I'm like, and I had, I really had to sit with that. And I'm like, no, these were my mom's seeds of faith. and I've been calling them her seeds of faith for the last 12 years. Okay.

Okay? So, I'm like, you know what? Well, here's what I'm going to do.

These were my mom's seeds of faith. I'm going to. I'm going to hold on to her seeds.

I'm And again, they're just little trinket things. But so they're all sitting in my storage unit now, which is, you know, a half an hour drive from here. However, I've been struggling over getting rid of my mom's stuff, you know, I have to go through the storage unit, I have to downsize. I have to eliminate things. I just I just do. I have to.

I have no choice in the matter here. I have to make some changes. So, as I'm doing this, though, I'm praying through all of this, and I'm like, I'm really struggling with letting go.

And because I took all, again, it wasn't a lot of stuff in and again, they were just trinkets, but I took all of those, and, you know, we don't really realize, I think, sometimes what something means to us, what the underlying meaning to something, okay? And I have been just having such a hard time with letting go of the stuff in my storage unit. And it was just over there yesterday, actually, I went yesterday morning and I was over there and just just pondering as I was in there going, I need to just get rid of this stuff.

But again, it's not knowing what to do with what I've got. And as I'm I've been praying about this now for probably about a month, okay, as to what to do with this stuff. And at one point, I just felt like..

I don't want to let go of these were my mom's seeds of faith. It was that was evidence of her fate, and it almost felt like to get rid of them was to deny their existence, okay? Then that doesn't make any logical sense, but emotions are never logical..

So there's that. So anyway, as again, as I'm pondering on all of this and going, I know that they're just trinket little things and they're really in the natural. They're meaningless.

They don't even have any, they don't have any intrinsic. There's no value, okay? Other than the value, I put on them.

I put a value on those items, you know, as if life depends on it. And I'm serious, okay? And I had to come to this place of going, I have to let go.

I have to let go because they're not my seats of faith. They're my mother's seats of faith. And so it was very pointed when my nephew drops this dependant in my lap.

Yesterday afternoon, which was a few hours after I had gone to my storage unit. No one knows what I've been struggling with. Nobody knows what I've been trying to accomplish and where I'm at in the struggle.

And when the Lord said to me this morning that you can't live off of your mother's's seeds of faith, you can't live off of her seat of faith. You have your own. You have your own.

It's not like I don't have faith. I do. Am I believing for the same things that my mom was believing for?

Well, yes and no, because sometimes, like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, there's a promise that was given to my mother from the Lord that affects us generationally. But there's also things that the Lord has spoken to me personally that are different. It doesn't negate what was told to my mom.

And it doesn't mean that that the word that the Lord gave my mother died when she died. No. The word of the Lord endures forever.

God watches over His word to perform it. He is going to do the thing He said. The promise that He gave to my mother, is going to fulfill them.

But he's also going to fulfill the things He said to me.. I do not have to hold on to a bunch of junk in my storage unit in order for God to fulfill his word. Now, I know that, but sometimes we have to get that.

Sometimes we have to look at a ludicrous something sounds, we actually have to say it and go, "Betty, this is foolish." You don't even believe that. Why is it so difficult to get rid of this stuff?

Well, it isn't, not really. You know, so having said that, So as I'm pondering, okay, so now we're half an hour into all of this, that's basically the story. But where do I want to go with this?

I want to go back to Hebrews 11. I want to go back to what it says, okay? Faith, is the assurance of things hoped for, for the conviction of things not seen, for buy it men of old gained approval. and then it goes on, and it explodes. ains a lot of things, you know, by faith, by faith, we understand that the worlds were prepared by the Word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Okay? You know, Abel offered up a better sacrifice. Okay.

Enoch was taken up you know, so that his body was never, he was never buried. He didn't die here. And there's a corpse left.

Guy just simply took him. And then in verse 6, it says, and without faith, it's impossible to please him. For he who draws near to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek H.

And that's the verse that just kept impacting me, kind of rummaging around in my in my spirit this morning. So I want to read it to you from the amplified Bible. It says, but without faith, it is impossible to walk with God and please Him, for whoever comes near that God must necessarily believe that God exists and that he rewards those who earnestly and diligently seek H.

It's impossible for me to bring a pleasing offering to God if it doesn't come by faith, if it doesn't come out of my faith. I give a sacrifice of praise, I give honor and glory to God, but even that, I do by faith, because I believe that he is. And then I do believe that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.

But I also believe that when it comes to the word of the Lord, God is going to bring to pass that the promises that are made. You may have ancestors in your life who walked with God, and promises were made to them. Like me, I don't have the responsibility of fulfilling those promises or making sure they come to pass.

It's not my job to babysit them or hover over it or be a guardian over the promises of God to see that they actually get fulfilled. I have no obligation in this at all. God is the one who obligates himself.

Okay? God obligated himself when he gave the word. Because if you you give your word for something, you're the one who's obligated to fulfill your word.

If you say, I'm going to be there at 10 o'clock in the morning and you don't show up, it's not someone else's responsibility to show up for you. It's your responsibility. So when God says, here's, I'm going to show up.

I'm going to come, I'm going to do this. This is what I'm going to do. He's the one who's going to see to it that that's what he does, because his word doesn't go out and come back to him void until it fulfills the thing that it was sent to do.

His word was sent. to these champions of Fey. His word was sent to Abraham. His word was sent to Moses.

His word was sent. He spoke to Abraham. He spoke to Isaac.

He spoke to Jacob. He spoke to Moses. There's this history that's building, okay?

My grandfather had incredible heavenly encounters with God was taken up at least once that I know of. had multiple encounters with God over the years. But I can't live off of faith in my grandfather's. encounters. My mother had a life transforming experience when she got saved and truly came to the Lord.

She always always believed that God existed. You know, she was raised Catholic, went to Catholic school. So she believed in God.

But when she became born again, her whole life came. I mean, her whole life changed. She was an entire it was like flipping a switch.

She became an entirely different person. And what happened for her, I'm telling you, there wasn't anybody who had in my eyes, that had more faith in my mom. If God said it, that sealed it.

And it was like, whatever he said. If he told her something, my mother believed it, and we'd watch as he would fulfill the things he said to her. But I couldn't live off the word he gave her. I couldn't live off of her faith. I have my own faith. I got saved before my mom did. I got born again before my mother did. I was a kid when I came to the Lord. My mom was in high school by the time my mom got saved.

But my point is this. I can look back at my ancestors and go, "Yeah, there are those who followed God. There are those who walked with God."

And it's a great, it's there's heritage in that, and that's there's a lot to be said for that. But at this, same time, I can't live off of that. I can't live off of somebody else's testimony or the work that someone else accomplished.

I can't live off of someone else's prayer life. I can't live off of. I'm not going to be sustained in this life.

I can't have hope for that eternal city. I can't look to my mother. I can't look to my grandfather. I can only look to God on my own. My kids cannot live off of my faith. It doesn't work that way. They have to have their own. And thankfully, they do. Thankfully, they do.

So here's where I'm going with all of this. When we're walking with the Lord, we go through times when our faith is shaken. You know, we can look at the apostle Peter and go, when Jesus said to him, say, Satan is required to sift you like wheat, but do not you know, don't worry about this.

I got you, okay? I have prayed that your faith would not fail you. yet your faith, your faith. Your faith will not fail.

Now, Jesus prayed for him a pretty powerful prayer, okay? I would assume that Jesus's prayers would get answered. And they did, because he says to Peter, so when you get strengthened again, go and give strength to everybody else. Why? Because everybody else's faith had been shaken as well. Peter's wasn't the only one. But Peter had been sifted like wheat. And when that sifting was over, Peter came into a strength in his faith like he had never had before. There's something about when we go through times of being shaken and sifted and pounded and we go through great adversity.

Sometimes we trip over our own responses, and if Peter would have if Peter would have condemned himself for having denied the Lord, which he did, okay? We all know it. It's all in scripture, written there for the rest of us to read, you know, a couple of thousand years later was the reading about the event.

Poor Peter. Okay, can't get your break. But that's not the part that Jesus wants, he wasn't going, Jesus wasn't condemning him for that.

He's going, look, don't get tripped up over this. Here's what's going to happen. You're going to deny me, but don't worry about that.

Why? Because I've prayed for you that your faith, you're going to get shaken. Stuff's going to happen.

Don't worry about it. His response in the midst of it is not what Jesus was going after. Jesus was letting him know, look, you're going to have a point here where you're going to say something that you're going to feel like you can never take back.

You're going to feel like there's no coming back from that. But here's the thing. There is, don't let that be the thing that takes you out.

And I think in this point in time, there are many of us who are at a place or have been going through things that feel like we've done something that's taken us out. We've done something or we've said something or whatever, and we feel like, well, that's it. That's the straw that broke the camel's back, that's, I went too far.

There's no coming back from this. Well, that's a lie. You know, even if you even if you, you've, you know, you've burned your body Bible, thrown it up against the wall, told God to go off, you know, whatever, whatever it is, we have to know that's not the thing that God's hung up over.

That's the thing we're hung up over.. And we get hung up over the times when we do something stupid or we react in a certain way. Go back and read through Hebrews 11, and you will not find in there the account of Ishmael.

It's not spoken of. because what Abraham did, it says he never lost faith. We look at that, and we go, well, how can you say that when you when Ishmael was birthed? It's like, guy's going, because you don't understand how faith works.

See, we're looking at outward behavior. We're looking at, well, you did this thing. You obviously, hey, you know, you screwed up.

You screwed up, babe. That's it. You're done.

Your faith failed. No, his faith didn't fail. His flesh failed.

Well, I guess guess what? Your flesh is going to fail every day. But that doesn't mean your faith fails.

And we have to grow up in our faith. We have to grow up to the place where we realize that that our faith is not. about our emotional reactions or or what we've thought in our head. You know, don't let your thoughts condemn you.

In other words, don't let, well, hey, I had a bad thought. You know, this isn't, we're not going to confession here. Okay?

Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. I had impure thoughts this week. Well, get over yourself. put on the mind of Christ.

Shake the dust off, and keep walking, because if you let that peace be the thing that trips you up, you're just going to keep tripping up. You're tripping over your own feet. We need to stand therefore.

We need to go back to Ephesian sex. Stand therefore. Having girded yourself.

Okay, get up and gird yourself. Put on the full armor of God. Why?

So that you can stand in the day of evil, so that you can stand when when all the junk is coming at you, when all when all the forces of hell are coming against you. Well, guess what?

There's times when we fall.

There's times when we drop our sword. There's times when, you know, our shields got holes in it, okay? But it's not going to fail.

Because God's not going to fail us. God is never going to fail us. He's never going to leave us. He's never going to forsake us. He's not going to point the finger at you and go, you went too far. You're out.

You're disqualified. He's never going to say that. God's made a promise.

When he has spoken His word, it will come to pass. He will do the thing he said he was going to do from the beginning. There are promises that there are those who are listening to this message.

There's promises that you heard 20, 30, 40 years ago. Guess what? Get in line.

So do I. Have I seen them coming to pass? No., I'm still waiting I'm still waiting to see the words come to pass on the promises that God gave to my mom. Well, guess what?

So was Isaac and so was Jacob. But a day came. Here's the thing.

A day came when the word of the Lord came to pass. But because we can't see the big picture, because we're so focused on the earthly promise, we forget about the eternal promise.

We forget that it is't about this temporary residence of ours.

It's about the eternal residence. It's about it's about God, it's about being with God, and it's about spending eternity with him. And if we would become more eternally minded and less earthly minded, you notice I didn't say more spiritually minded.

We need to be more eternally minded and less earthly minded. We need to grow up in our faith and understand that our our faith, yes, will our actions follow our faith? Yeah, they will.

But there's always going to be times when our faith is shaken. And when our faith is being shaken, we have war of a tendency for our flesh to get in the way. Are we going to if we allow ourselves to be condemned for that, what we're doing is nullifying the cross.

We're nullifying the work that Jesus did and saying, okay, everything else that I've ever done, the blood covers that, but this thing, I don't know, the blood just can't cover that. It just doesn't work on this. Well, that's not true.

It either covers or it doesn't. We're either forgiven or we're not. We're either his or we're not. We need to walk by faith and not by sight. Yeah, we need to encourage each other. And we need to lift each other up when we're being shaken and when we've had a mess up and going, you know what?

Hey, Peter, look. You know, why could Peter go and strengthen his brothers? Because Peter had a pretty pretty awkward fall that night, okay, denying the Lord.

God, Jesus Jesus tells it in front of everybody. It's not like you took him aside and went, look, look, you're going to do something that you're going to really be. He didn't go into detail.

I go, look, here's what's going to happen, pal. Like it or not, this is coming. You're going to deny me, not just once.

You're going to deny me three times before this night's over. Just so you know, before this night's even over, you are going to deny me three times. Don't worry about that.

Peter could now come back and be of strength to others. He could be an encouragement to others. Why, because the Lord returned to strength into him.

Because something happened that strengthened Peter and such a way. that that mistake didn't exist anymore. He could not go forward into who he was holding on to that mistake. But he also couldn't go forward with James's faith, or John's faith, or Matthews faith, or Philip's faith, or Bartholomew's faith.

He couldn't go forward with anybody else's faith, but his own. He could only go forward with his own faith, and Jesus said, if you have faith, the size of a mustard seed, you can speak to this mountain to be lifted up and cast out and throw it to the sea. It'll happen.

Why? Because it doesn't take a lot of faith. It just takes a little thing.

See, we think we have to have great faith. I have to have great faith I have to have a little bit of faith. See, I think sometimes we think we don't have enough faith.

You got a little bit of faith? I just want to ask you. You just sit there right now.

In this place where you might be feeling depressed, you might be feeling overwhelmed, you might be feeling like you like, you know what?? I can't go another step. This is too hard, blah, blah, blah, whatever it is.

And I'm minimizing that. I'm not minimizing any of it at all. You might be sitting there in that place and going, "I don't have enough faith to go forward."

Let me ask you this. How much faith do you have? Do you have any faith?

Do you believe that God is? If you believe that God is, I guarantee you, you have enough faith to go forward. Just is he?

Does God exist? That's the beginning step.. Do you believe that God exists?

And I believe, wholehearted, that if you at least believe that, I believe you have enough faith.

Because it takes faith to believe that. Because without faith, you can't believe that he is.

Because it's. It's great. It's by grace through faith.

It's we. There's a little bit of faith there. And I want to say right now, you have all the faith that takes, because God's going to take that seed of faith that's in you.

And he is going to do something with that seed of faith. Because he's going to grow it. He's going to he's going to add grace to the faith.

He's going to add grace to the faith. See, the grace is not yours. The grace is his.

The faith is yours. The faith is yours. The faith is yours.

The grace is his. What we're saying sometimes ...The question is, how much grace is there?

Because there's more grace coming.. There's more grace coming. You may feel like you don't have enough faith right now, and that's okay, because it doesn't take a lot of faith.

It takes a lot of grace. And it's the God of all grace who's called us to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, who will himself restore secure, strengthen, and establish you. That is a promise that God made to his people back in, oh, gosh, it was like the fall of 2021, I want to say, when I was seeking the Lord and asking him for a word for what then was the upcoming year Hebrew year 5782, when the Lord gave me that scripture verse, 1 Peter 5:10.

It was after you have suffered for a little while. the God of all grace has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, Will himself restore secure strength and establish you. I got news for you. The last three, four years, they have been like hell earth.

This has been a time of great sifting. This has been a time of great trial. And the enemy has been trying to convince all of us, really, that we've blown it.

He has we've done things, okay? We've done some stuff. We've said something stupid.

We did something foolish. Whatever that is. Okay?

And God's going, I don't want that to be the thing that trips you up, that says to you, you screwed up so bad, you can't go forward. He's going, no, no, no, no. I knew you were going to go through this.

I knew you were going to have a hard time. I knew what your reaction and what your response to that hard time was going to be. And God is saying, and maybe you got yourself in debt.

Maybe, maybe you did something foolish. Maybe whatever, fill in the blank. I don't know.

But what I believe O is saying in the midst of all of this is very simple. It's okay. I've got you.

I've got you, because I'm coming now to strengthen secure and establish you. I'm coming now to bring restoration. I'm coming now.

I'm going to fulfill my word because that's what I said. I told you ahead of time, just like I told Peter, that Satan is required to sift you like wheat. If you don't feel like you've been sifted over the last few years, I don't know where you've been.

Okay, if you haven't, God bless you, because the rest of us have been through some stuff. This has been a time of great sifting. It has been a time of great trial.

It has been a time of great difficulty. But the Lord is saying, the God of all grace, is gonna come in, and now He is going to bring that great grace to restore secure strength and and establish you. And that's the promise that God is made in the cell.

He's saying, that's the word I'm coming to fulfill. And you are going to go forward and you are going to fulfill the thing, just like Peter did. See, just like Peter did.

God said, here's a's going to happen. Sorry, Peter. You're going to deny me, but guess what? Don't let't get hung up over that. Don't get hung up over the mistake you made. Don't get hung up over the Ismaels.

Don't get hung up over that. I still have a plan for you. I still have a purpose for you, that you haven't fulfilled yet, and in order for you to fulfill it, you're going to need something from me.

You're gonna need something from me. That's what God is saying, because I'm coming with a deposit of grace that you don't have right now, but I'm coming with it. And this that's what's going to it with you, and just like it did, Peter, just like it did, Peter, and you're gonna be able to stand.

You're going to be able to stand in your fed, like never before, because the grace is coming.

And that's the point. See, when you read through the epistles and you read how it's typically how Paul ended a letter.

Usually greeted him and ended him the same way. The grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. In some points, grace and peace, grace and peace.

He never said, faith, faith be with you. No, no, no. Grace and peace be with you, because God is going to take His grace. and he's going to come like a fresh wind.

He's gonna come with the rain of the Holy Spirit, and he's gonna water them. that seed effect. and you're gonna see, you're going to see the return. You're gonna see the growth. You're gonna see the evidence.

You're gonna see the product of it, because it is going to get fulfilled in this out in the name of the Lord Jesus. So I'm going to end this with a short prayer. Father God, we thank you, and we praise you for your faithfulness, that you are the God of all grace.

We thank you, Lord, God, that you have watched over us, that you have guided us, that you have directed us all along the way. I thank you, Lord God, that it doesn't take great faith, it takes a mustard seed of faith. It takes this little teeny, tiny seed to produce great effects.

because you are going to take that seed and you're gonna water it and you're gonna watch over it the seed that it grows.

So I pray over each one of these seeds that they they take root downward downward, and bear fruit upward in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. send your rain, Holy spirit, and water those seeds. Come with your grace. Come with grace in the name of Jesus.

The Lord bless you, and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord, Lift up his countenance upon upon you and give you peace.
This has been Betty with Beyond the Dalet, Shalom