

More Is Never Enough

We live in a country where the economy is based upon the principle: “more is never enough” (small wonder that capitalism works so well). We look next door and feel a little inadequate because the Joneses cranked up the materialism machine a notch with their latest car, appliance, toy, etc. We spend an inordinate amount of our time working, not for necessities, but for conveniences. Much of what we “must have” is obsolete in a week (*i.e.*, computers) or loses a disproportionate amount of its value only moments after the purchase (*i.e.*, automobiles). Yet, still we put nose to the grindstone because ***more is never enough*** (sounds like a James Bond movie title, doesn’t it).

This inadequacy sensation takes a bit of a twist, however, when applied to Luke 17:10. *“So likewise you, when you have done all these things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’”* Jesus was explaining the great power of faith in this passage (Luke 17:5-10). But, *“If you have faith as a mustard seed”* is not a wholesale endorsement of a super-faith to which everyone has access if they blindly “believe.” It is an instruction on ***WHY*** faith is the greatest power on the planet. Faith’s vitality does not rest solely in the faith itself, but in God’s power. Through obedience to and trust in God, we tap into a divine force that has no limits. Yet, when our faith prompts us to do all those things that we are commanded to do, we are still to say, *“We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.”* Why?

Jesus is teaching us that, faith in God’s word and works of obedience are both expected and necessary to our salvation. A faith only (James 2:24) or a works only (Ephesians 2:8-9) mentality does not push the button on some elevator to heaven. Great faith is empowered by God’s Word (Romans 10:17) and its employment (Hebrews 5:14), not by our blindly believing something is so and working toward that goal’s end. Faith is a servant of the Christian, and only effective when divinely authorized and used actively.

Jesus’ point: faith is not powerful because we make it so (1 Corinthians 2:5), the power of faith originates in God. And, we can never do enough, with or without faith, to save ourselves; ***more is never enough***. Faithful, active servants of God are still saved by grace.