Mountain moving Faith (part 1 and part 2)

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Part 1: Faith journey summarised

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that **he exists** and that **he rewards those who earnestly seek him**. Hebrews 11: 6 (NIV)

By the time May 2017 came around and I got baptised a second time, I certainly had a measure of faith – that Jesus did exist and that he could indeed save me from hell, which had been my great fear. I however never knew at that time that he would move in me a faith that prays and prophesies, for example:

- In November 2017. During a time of fasting, my goal was to find a theology college. God answered powerfully, he actually TOLD ME to google the name "biblical training" and in response, I found biblicaltraining.org a rich resource that gives seminary level education and it is completely free!
- You Are Here Start Grow Mature
- In May 2019, a friend had a miscarriage, but the Lord gave me a word for her, "those who sow in tears shall reap with joy". In February 2020, she told me in faith, she had held on to the word, and that she was 4 months pregnant. The Lord then revealed to me this about the child to be born: It would be a girl of quiet character, called Mary. I

didn't tell them the name, but treasured this in my heart, waiting for the word of God to pass. When the baby was born in around October of that year, it was indeed a girl, they called her Amy. I then showed her the word I wrote, months earlier. I also confirmed to her from a google search that Amy means "beloved". Mary also means "beloved"!

In the great Chapter on Faith in the bible, the writer of Hebrews in the 11th Chapter, under the instruction of the Holy Spirit begins thus:

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for".ⁱ

The journey of faith these last few years has been exciting and I have certainly had big moments, like the examples above but there have been great moments of doubt. For example, it is almost 4 years and my wife and I still live apart, her in the USA and I here in the UK. We are still waiting for the Lord to complete his purpose for us and where we will live. These are great moments of testing when your "big prayers" are not answered. It was during such a moment that I decided to review my spiritual journal. I found something surprising. Over about 3 years, while I had been praying and pleading to God to answer my "big prayers", he had actually answered at least 65 of my so called "small prayers."!

Mountain moving faith therefore is really a journey. One step at a time and often you don't know how you move from the day you get saved, to the day when you tell the mountain: "be moved and throw yourself into the sea"

Pastor Rick Warren explains this journey by saying there are 6 "D" words in the 6 phases of faith as follows:

First, God gives you a **dream** for your life. Then, you have to make a **decision** about it. The third stage is **delay**, where you wait for God to work in his time. The next stage is **difficulty**, where God tests you. Then, you might reach a **dead end**, which will make you want to give up. But in the end, God always brings you to **deliverance**, the final stage of his six phases of faith.

I am currently at the "dead-end" phase in many aspects, but this is exactly where faith kicks in. The bible explains this about Abraham, the "father of faith" when God spoke to him:

As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the presence of God, in whom he believed, the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being what does not yet exist. "

The bible also says:

Abram believed the LORD, and it was credited to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6).

It was righteousness because at the time of the promise that Abraham was going to be a father of nations, Abraham was 75 years old. He had no children and he and his wife Sarah had their bodies as good as dead – but they reasoned that God could bring his body and her womb back to life, in a manner speaking, back from dead.

Mountain moving faith is not a work of man. It is a work of God, as Jesus modelled for us – it means you start with being with God alone, on the mountain, spending time in prayer and in his word, it means being humble before him – poor in spirit. He can then pour into you his glorious spirit and give you the gift of faith. The faith that will enable you to behold that you are already in the Kingdom of Heaven (even if you also long for a city whose maker is God).

Once you hold on to that, then you can:

Heal the sick, Raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.^{III}

I therefore know that even if many of my dreams seem to be "dead", I know there is another stage coming – deliverance, because I know this, I can sing in praise for what he has ALREADY done:

Mountains are moving. Strongholds are breaking. Giants are falling.^{iv}

How about you? Where are you in your mountain moving journey?

Part 2: Faith journey in detail

Now Kenneth Hagin (RIP) of Rhema network, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit taught me that faith is an ever-present tense. Faith is, not was or what will be. Without faith you cannot please God and God is the one whose name is IAM. It means God lives in the ever present. I AM. It is then a surprise when he spoke to Abraham as the bible says:

As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the presence of God, in whom he believed, the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being what does not yet exist. $^{\vee}$

The bible also says:

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Faith is the life of Jesus.

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles. Then he went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon. Power was coming from him and healing them all. Looking at them all, he begun to teach them, what have been called the "Beatitudes". He started thus:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs **is** the kingdom of heaven.^{vi}

His first teaching was a present situation. Anyone who is poor in spirit, is already in the Kingdom of Heaven – even when they are persecuted, even when they are hungry, even when they are sick. They look up and see a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.^{vii}

By faith the poor in spirit see that this world is not their home but that they are already in the kingdom of heaven.

This is the beginning of mountain moving faith.

First, you recognise you are poor in Spirit.

God offers us salvation as a gift, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, the full payment for sin's penalty. Before we can receive this gift, we must understand that we cannot make ourselves worthy of it. Salvation is by grace through faith, not of works (Ephesians 2:8-9). We must recognize our sinfulness before we can understand our need for a Saviour. We must admit our spiritual poverty before we can receive the spiritual riches God offers (Ephesians 1:3). We must, in short, be "poor in spirit."^{viii}

Once you do, God comes to visit you to eat with you and you with him and Where the IAM is, mountains are moving, strong holds are breaking, giants are falling.

Mountain moving faith is not a work of man. It is a work of God – it means you start with being with God alone, on the mountain, spending time in prayer and in his word, it means being humble before him – poor in spirit. He can then pour into you his glorious spirit and give you the gift of faith. The faith that will enable you to behold that you are already in the Kingdom of Heaven (even if you also long for a city whose maker is God). Once you hold on to that, then you can:

Heal the sick, Raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. $^{\rm ix}$

What takes place in the "in between period" between when you come to God poor in Spirit and when you can without a doubt in your heart tell the mountain to be moved and throw itself into the sea?^x

Stage 1: Obtain a saving faith. It is when you ask Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and God. That is the first seed of faith you receive. Faith to believe that Jesus is your saviour.

Stage 2: You take delight in the Lord. Psalms 37: 4-7 gives us a clear picture of this faith journey:

Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:
He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.
Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

The picture of this faith in this psalm shows one who:

- Takes delight in God who changes the desires of your heart to be his.
- Commits the path, the way, the matter to God having faith that God will do this.
- Is still before God being patient, knowing that he will do what only he can.

Stage 3: Fan the gift into flame. Each of us has been given a measure of faith, but God is a good God and pours out his Spirit without measure (John 3: 34). Which means, Christian 1, doesn't receive a "junior Holy Spirit" while Christian 2 receives a "fire Holy Spirit". The difference is that you have to learn God's ways and part of his ways are that the gift is given, perhaps like a seed, that must be cultivated so as to burst into flame^{xi}. The gift is already in you. Just like a seed has all the ingredients to turn into a giant Oak. So likewise, you have all the faith you need, to move mountains. Delighting in the Lord (loving him) and spending time with him is part of the process of fanning the gift into flame.

The bible says:

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man." Proverbs 3: 3-4 (NIV).

God loves people who practice faithfulness. It is how you please him, winning his favour.

Stage 4: Start doing.

"Thus, also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." James 2: 17 – 18 NKJV.

You prove you have faith in God and his word by doing what it says, doing the works of God. Someone who therefore does according to the word (not just reads it and forgets what it says) therefore is the one with mountain moving faith.

Stage 5: Raise up your Shield. When you delight in the Lord and when you put your trust in him and then start moving in faith, the enemy will attack. You are after all in the Kingdom of Heaven and Satan hates everything connected with God. You must therefore be prepared to raise faith as a shield to quench out the enemy's darts (Ephesians 6: 16). What is this shield of faith? It is the promises of God that you have. What are these promises? These are the promises contained in the word of God. What do you do in raising this shield? You recite the word of God. How do I know this is the correct thing? The bible says:

"they overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony^{xii}".

This testimony is the witness of Christ. Meaning this word is the word of Christ and the word resides in the bible. You therefore pray, unceasingly (Luke 18:1) and you pray using the word.

Why pray unceasingly even when the word is already given and God is ever present IAM? It's because part of mountain moving faith is a journey and part of that journey includes delay. The enemy often attacks during the delay phase. These 6 phases of faith being:

- **Dream.** First, God gives you a **dream** for your life.
- **Decision.** Then, you have to make a **decision** about it.
- **Delay.** The third stage is **delay**, where you wait for God to work in his time.
- **Difficulty.** The next stage is **difficulty**, where God tests you.
- **Dead end.** Then, you might reach a **dead end**, which will make you want to give up.
- **Deliverance.** But in the end, God always brings you to **deliverance**.

Where are you in your mountain moving faith journey?

Let us pray.

How can I pray for you?

- You are a believer but the faith journey has worn you out. You need the Lord's help to be reenergised.
- You used to be a believer, but are a prodigal son/daughter. Nevertheless, the Lord is calling you back, saying "I reward those who diligently seek me"
- You have never received the gift of Christ, being eternal life and neither have you received his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit who gives you faith as a gift.

Write to me so I can pray further for you: <u>dwasake@shaweleroad.com</u> Be blessed. END.

Next steps

• Visit our website to see the full faith journey which shows the steps it takes to get there.

Information notice board

- About me. Before I became a devoted Christian, I spent 20 years of my life being a hedonist one who seeks pleasure for the sake of it, yet Love also brought pain! Since God humbled me to turn me into his servant and I got baptized in May 2017, he has enabled me to overcome sin ruling my life and to live by the Holy Spirit. You can read my full testimony <u>here</u>:
- 2) About these series. The Lord Jesus gave me a single word "Go" as I was praying for a word for this season and series. This word will define a series of 12 topics he has also given me to tell his church in order to fulfil the "Great Commission". This lesson is one of those messages.
- 3) Pray for us! Without the Lord, our effort is in vain. Pray that we remain faithful, humble servants.
- 4) **Subscribe to** our <u>YouTube Channel</u> and keep up with our videos which support the website.
- 5) Looking for a ministry to partner with (pray, volunteer, give, subscribe to)? Visit our ministry page for inspiration: <u>Get involved | shaweleroad</u>

Notes

^{vii} See Hebrews 11: 16

^{ix} Matthew 10: 8

- ^{xi} See 2 Timothy 1: 6
- xii Revelation 12: 11

ⁱ See Hebrews 11: 1

[&]quot; See Romans 4: 17

iii Matthew 10: 8

^{iv} From Travis Greene, "Made a way", 2015

^v See Romans 4: 17

^{vi} See Luke 6: 12 – 20 and Matthew 5: 1-3

viii What does it mean to be poor in spirit? | GotQuestions.org

^x See Mark 11: 23 - 25