Faith – Steven Barr
who had the greatest, the disciples or us?

Hebrews Chapter 11.

We walk by Faith, we live by faith and we believe by faith. Expand!

Not what our eyes have seen but what we believe, we walk by faith not sight.

Our Faith grows by what we have heard, Rom, 10:17 tells us this, "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing of the word of God", It is good to sit and hear the word of God, each sermon is like another building block for your faith, like miracle grow on your plants, it boosts and energises, causing your faith to grow.

Faith grows by what we have read if we are reading the same word God that we are listening to it stands to reason that there will be an increase in what we believe, in our faith, and knowledge/understanding.

Faith grows by what we have seen the miracles we have witnessed, the souls we have seen saved, the prayers we have seen answers to.

The prayers we have had answers to that we don't like or understand, bring maturity, and develop Trust in God teaching us, if we let him, that his ways are higher than our own, and that he knows best. He is God after all.

Faith grows by revelation of by the Holy Spirit. Read the word all we like but without revelation it has no life or meaning.

Faith grows by spending time in Gods presence. When we are still and know that he is God the Holy spirit reveals. That's when revelation is most likely to strike, when the seed is most likely to grow.

All these things are fuel to your faith.

Did you know that faith was a Gift from God?

We have each been given this gift of faith.

To each of us we have been given the same amount, the bible calls it a measure.

Romans 12:3 says, "For I say through the grace that has been given to me (Paul), to everyone among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of Faith".

Paul goes on to say that if our gift is prophecy, etc, then we should prophesy etc, in proportion to our faith.

Now that may make you think that some are given more than others, but like all gifts from God, if we exercise them they will grow; stronger, bigger, fitter, healthier. If we leave them unattended they will grow, dull, flabby, and far less effective than if we exercised them regularly.

Regardless of who you are, what miracles you have seen, you were given the same measure of faith. The same as Reinhardt Bonnke, same as Billy Graham, same as Moses, same as Thomas.

By Faith the walls of Jericho came down.

The weather on the Community fun day 18/08/2012 started out wet and grey, up until about 10:40am, I Prayed like you all did I'm sure, God I can do nothing, but I know that you can, and apparently Sunshine was in accordance with Gods plan and will for the day, because it was a Glorious afternoon.

So what you believe for, if you believe with the faith that has been gifted to you, (of a mustard seed), and it comes to pass because it is in line with Gods will, it shall increase your faith, your faith will grow.

Luke 17:6 Jesus says, " If you have faith as a mustard seed....."
and again in Mark 4: 31 "... mustard seed, When it is SOWN, into the ground, is smaller that all the seeds on earth, but when it grows up and becomes greater than all the herbs and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under it's shade"

OK let's stop there a minute:

1. When it is sown! When it's planted When it's given nourishment, When it is exercised.
2. When it grows up! When it expands, When it matures.
3. Becomes greater! Becomes stronger, Becomes surer, Becomes able to stand when the storms come!
4. Has purpose! Has destiny, Has Reason.
5. Provides shelter! Provides security.
6. Provides a resting place! Provides a calm place of reassurance.
7. Provides a safe haven! Provides a place where you and I want to and need to be.

Wow!

Your Faith when you sow it, when you use it, when you exercise it, becomes like this.

That's how great men and women of Faith operate, they sow, they exercise. They plant their faith in the word of God, they exercise their faith in purpose and destiny. The purpose and destiny that God has given them.

Plant your faith in the word of God and the purpose and destiny that he has given YOU!

That's why Jesus said Mulberry trees and mountains could be moved with faith as little as a mustard seed.

Perhaps like me you like to dissect things and find out what they are.

What is Faith?

The Greek: Pistis. To Trust or Strong persuasion. To Believe. Strong's puts it like this in reference to Jairus in Mark 5:36: "Do not be afraid only believe", To have faith is to relinquish trust in ones self

and put that trust in another. The woman with the haemorrhage had put her faith in the doctors for years, to no avail. When she put all her trust, all her faith in Jesus, she was healed.

Hebrews 11 starts off by saying.

" Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen..".

So faith is a substance? Faith has substance, faith is tangible. A physical gift from God.

What is substance?
The Collins online dictionary defines it as this:

1. "the tangible matter of which a thing consists"
2. "a specific type of matter, e.g. a homogeneous material (i.e., similar uniform or identical parts) with a definite composition"

What is evidence?
The Collins online dictionary defines it as this:
"ground for belief or disbelief; data on which to base proof or to establish truth or falsehood".

So faith is a real and tangible gift with a definite composition, uniform in it's make up of data that proves grounds that establish truth.

In other words our faith is founded in God and is very, very, real and is steadfast and immoveable, unshakeable.
2 Cor, 5:7 states that "We walk by faith not by sight"

Jesus said after his resurrection, whilst in front of Thomas, that because he had seen he had believed, then went on to say that Blessed are those who believed yet had not seen.

That is us, me and you.
We walk daily in a faith that has been given to us by God, allowing us to believe in what we have not seen.

But we are given a faith that is;

So faith is a real and tangible with a definite composition, uniform in it's make up of data that proves grounds to establish truth.

It doesn't matter that we have not seen with our eyes as the disciples did, we are all the more Blessed because we have not seen, yet believe.

Thomas heard the reports about Jesus being Risen, yet wanted to, chose to hold back his faith/belief until he saw Jesus for himself. He let doubt in.

How often are we like that?

When we have no need to be, no right to be, yet God remains faithful, because he cannot deny himself.

God cannot refuse to believe himself, to withhold, to give up, it is his nature.

2 Tim 2:13 States that even if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for God cannot deny himself.

This does not give us the right of way to be a faithless people, for what would that accomplish anyway, but rather shows us that the amazing Grace and mercy of our God on high picks us up . Even when we are without the faith for a situation, he will supply it and the outcome for God cannot be faithless.

Do you have the faith to believe that?

If we took on board everything that we heard on T.V news we should all be miserable and hopeless. Thank God we know more than what we see, that our understanding is greater than the sum of the worlds knowledge.

We would be in a terrible state if we took it all in. We see with future eyes, we see with eyes of faith, we see the bigger picture, we see the greatest day in history displayed in our mind. Our Salvation. Our gift of Faith.

This is something that the disciples never had a problem with to the same degree as ourselves, because they saw Jesus in physical form every day, they never had issues of believing. With the exception of Thomas, who chose not to believe. They had faith because they saw, because they were there.

This brings me back to the question, “who had the greatest faith, the disciples or us”?

We read in Matthew 8:10, that Jesus has never seen such great faith as in the Roman centurion, not even in Israel. Which would rule out any of the disciples having the right to lay claim to such a title.

But the question is not whether The centurion had more faith than the disciples, it is whether we have more?

These 12 men walked and talked with Jesus every day, saw miracles, sat in front of him and listened to his teaching with what one can only imagine as such an awestruck wonder in them, that; we can only as the song says, “Imagine”.

Their faith was built on sight, their faith was built on circumstance, and on the reality of their daily lives.
Can you imagine, “Simon talking to James, have you seen Andrew, Oh he just went to the village to get some bread with Jesus, they'll be back soon”

Not all the daily stuff is documented in the bible, no daily diary of life, but these guys spent their lives with Jesus, spent years with him, yet the word of God, the word that in the beginning was with God, the word that is God, says that, our Faith is the,

“evidence of things not seen”,

that we “walk by faith not sight, and that we are,

“Blessed; because we have believed, even though we have not seen”.

And remember, your faith, your living faith, is a real and tangible faith with a definite composition, uniform in it's make up of data that proves grounds to establish truth.

In other words our faith is founded in God and is very, very, real and is steadfast and immoveable, unshakeable.
2 Cor, 5:7 states that "We walk by faith not by sight"

Your faith as small and insignificant as a mustard seed is a Great Gift from God:

When it is sown! When it's planted When it's given nourishment, When it is exercised. When it grows up! When it expands, When it matures.
Becomes greater! Becomes stronger, Becomes surer, Becomes able to stand when the storms come!
Has purpose! Has destiny, Has Reason.
Provides shelter! Provides security.
Provides a resting place! Provides a calm place of reassurance. Provides a safe haven! Provides a place where you and I want to and need to be.