

Give God your Mud (Faith)

By Jacob Rodriguez

When the author of Hebrews penned, “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for...*” he gives us great insight into how valuable faith is. Essentially, he is saying that faith is the material that God uses to build and create the things we hope for. If God were a silversmith, faith would be the silver he uses to create fine utensils. If God were a potter, faith would be the clay he uses to mold and shape ceramic objects or earthenware.

What silver is in the hands of a silversmith; what clay is in the hands of a potter, *faith* is in the hands of God. Because God exists in the unseen spiritual world, he uses our faith in Him to build and create the answers to our deepest desires. Our faith gives God something to work with. It gives him access to orchestrate events, experiences, people and resources to meet your needs and accomplish his purpose for your life.

The craftiest and most skilled potter in the world is fruitless without clay. He can imagine and desire to create a masterpiece so beautiful that it would leave you breathless. However, without the raw materials, he is unable to produce what’s in his heart. As great and mighty as God is, he will only respond based on the faith you have. Your faith doesn’t make God *more* powerful, but enables him to work his power in your life.

Certainly God doesn’t need our faith to demonstrate his authority and power. He created the sun, moon and stars with nothing more than his spoken word. The issue here is not God’s ability. But our ability to believe he is able.

Matthew chapter 13 tells of a time in Jesus’ life when he was not able to perform miracles. Although He was God in flesh, he was unable to reveal his power and change people’s lives. The bible says, “*Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief*” (Matthew 13:58).

Was it because his miracle tank was on empty; Or because he had a power-outage? Absolutely not. The reason Jesus was unable to operate miraculously was because the people lacked the necessary faith. Unbelief crippled their potential to see God’s power and command. They gave God nothing to work with. They had no spiritual substance to offer him. Because of their unbelief, not God’s unwillingness to work, that they missed a miracle moment.

The citizens of Nazareth made the mistake of equating Jesus Christ to nothing more than a carpenter’s son. They couldn’t accept him as the all-powerful Messiah. Needless to say, people still struggle with this today. Instead of viewing God as the mighty Creator, whose power and glory is endless, he’s viewed as a carpenter’s son. These types of people won’t receive much, because they don’t expect much.

It is you and I, not God, who limits his influence in our lives. Whether you need physical healing or a new job, God uses your faith to bring about change. And if it's absent, nothing happens. God always uses the combination of our faith and his power to accomplish the impossible. The formula is that simple.

In John chapter 9 we read of a story where a man who was born blind received a miracle of sight. Unlike other accounts of miracles, this particular man had an unusual experience. In most cases Jesus healed infirmed people with a simple word or touch.

However in this instance, Jesus did something that no one could have ever expected from him. His behavior was borderline offensive, and probably filthy to the bystanders who stood and watched. Yet, Jesus has a purpose and lesson for everything he does. With that, let's look at what this miracle teaches us about the substance of faith.

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing (John 9:6-7).

In this scene, Jesus' method of healing was rather unconventional, even for today's standard. He spit on the ground and made mud from the saliva. Then he applied the muddy clay on the man's eyes.

With mud spread over his blind eyes, Jesus instructed the man to go wash himself off in the pool of Siloam. Spectators probably looked on with confused faces and doubted that this exercise would even work. But to their surprise, and the blind man's amazement, his vision was restored. All the years of blindness and disability had come to an end! In that moment, a whole new world opened up for this man.

Here is the secret message behind the miracle. Consider the mud that Jesus used as a symbol of faith. This was the *substance* of the miracle. The lump of mud in his hand was a mixture of dust and the spit from Jesus' mouth. The dust represents our faith, our total belief in God. Dust or soil always represents man (i.e. man was created from the dust of the earth). The spit symbolizes the living waters that only Jesus can give.

When you bring your faith (dust), together with God's power (water), you have an answer that will **stick** and bond to the impossibilities in your life. All you have to do is give God your faith, and he'll do the mixing and applying to your life. He will apply his divine touch to your heart, dreams, relationships and purpose. Without doubt, this blend of faith and power works for moments of healings or miracles. However, our focus isn't just on a single moment, but a lifetime.

God desires for us to walk in the dimension of faith; because with your faith, he has substance to work with. He wants to build something solid in your life. He wants to strengthen your marriage, relieve your burdens, and empower you for your calling.

What are your hopes and dreams?
What do you hope for, more than anything?

If you know the answer to those questions, then I can confidently say that your hopes are waiting for your faith. As the author said, "*faith is the substance of things hoped for...*" Often times we slip into the abyss of wishful thinking. We play the lotto with our dreams and purpose, and think that if we're lucky enough, good fortune will strike us. Sadly people adopt this mentality into the Kingdom of God. They roll the dice with wishes, and don't exercise their faith.

Give God something to work with and you will discover possibilities you never even imagined.