

Have Faith In God

Mark 11:20-25

Key Verse 11:22

“Have faith in God, Jesus answered.”

Welcome to the thanksgiving festival for our 30th anniversary. We have assembled to remember the mighty work of God during the past 30 years in and through the UBF church in Bonn and give thanks to our God. We thank the Lord for may co-workers and friends from Bonn, from Germany, and from all over the world, who have prayed for us and who have come to thank and praise God with one heart and mind. This time we want to think about one word of God, which has been our key verse for as much as 20 years, “Have faith in God”. God has used various incidents, hindrances and difficulties to teach us faith in God.

In Mark 11:20-25 Jesus taught his disciples a three fold faith. Firstly, faith that moves mountains. Secondly, faith that prays. Und thirdly, faith that forgives. May God teach us the faith in God, so that we may challenge the spiritual restoration of Germany and Europe by faith and serve the work of God for the next 30 years victoriously.

1. Faith that moves the mountain

When peter passed by the fig tree, which Jesus had cursed the day before, his mouse stood open in amazement. He said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig-tree you cursed has withered!” Peters amazement had no limits. But Jesus did not want his disciples just to be surprised, but to learn his power and authority. Therefore he taught them: “Have faith in God!” Of course the disciples believed in God’s existence. But there thought world was stilled concentrated on the physical world , so that they did not even consider God’s hand. They did not fully believe that God holds everything in his hand and hears their prayer. Jesus wanted to raise his disciples as leaders for the world mission ministry and send them out to the ends of the earth. Jesus had faith, that these ordinary young men would be changed into history makers. Jesus wanted to teach them faith, that can move the mountain of world mission into the sea.

Look at verse 23: “I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.” The character of a mountain is his immobility. But when we overcome all doubt, fear and unbelief in our hearts and have absolute faith in God

Almighty, we can even command the unmovable mountains to throw themselves into the sea.

30 years ago, when missionaries from Korea arrived in Bonn the raising of disciples of Jesus looked like an unmoveable mountain. Humanism, individualism and self-righteousness were deeply rooted in the hearts of young people. But they challenged this mountain by faith in God Almighty.

They had personal faith. By faith they accepted the word of God and obeyed God's calling. Although they had great career opportunities in Korea, they denied themselves and came to Germany, learning the language like a new born baby again and often just surviving on low-paid jobs. By faith they served the students with bible study and gave themselves for the salvation of the young people. Sometimes they served one person faithfully, only to learn that after years he suddenly disappears without saying thank you. By faith many co-workers build a vessel of co-working with M. Dr. Peter Chang. M. Stephanus had many ambitious plans for world mission, but he denied it and co-worked with M. Peter for nearly 30 years, preparing a good environment for the work of God. By faith we could also purchase a centre building, despite our financial situation, and remodel it from a cold cellar to a beautiful bible centre with our own hands.

When all co-workers fought by faith in this way, God blessed our disciple making ministry, so that during the 80th several good bible teachers could be raised. They learned the faith of the missionaries and during the 90th founded 12 God centred Mission house churches. Also 2nd generation missionaries learned their faith and co-worked for the ministry with one heart, so that now we can be used as a spiritual head quarter for Europe and world mission.

2. Faith, that prays

Look at verse 24, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Prayer is the expression of faith. When we pray and do not doubt, we will receive. By faith we can do a mighty work of God.

The disciple making ministry in Bonn is also a work of prayer. God helped us during 30 years not to give up the early morning prayer with Daily Bread, but to start each day with the word of God and prayer for the students, the ministry and the world mission. Co-workers gathered as early as 4 or 5 am to study one word of God through Daily Bread and build an altar of prayer. We also had many prayer meetings in the evening of during the day on campus to pray together and invite new students. There were many different prayer meetings. When we prayed so persistently, we experienced how God raised 12

disciples of Jesus and next 12 house churches. Finally God has blessed us as a head quarter for world mission.

Through preparation of the European Summer Bible Conference 2009 we also learned the power of prayer. Nobody could believe that 1000 participants would attend. But when co-workers around the world brought 1000 times united prayer to God, God blessed abundantly and more than 1.100 came and the hope of God for Europe was revealed to be a shepherd nation for world mission.

3. Faith, that forgives

Verse 25 says, “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” It is not enough to believe in God Almighty, we must also practice forgiving love in Jesus . Sometime to forgive is even harder than to move a mountain.

May students came to bible study and left again. Anyway the missionaries loved these sheep more than their own children and gave their lives for them. Also in the time of defamation and misunderstanding, they did not fight with people, but rather prayed for them.

We thank God who has worked mightily during the past 30 years, by teaching us “Have faith in God.” Now God wants to revive Germany and Europe spiritually. Today God says to us, “Have faith in God.” By faith in god we can challenge to teach the word of God in the bible to young people. By faith we can challenge that our native shepherds and second generation do an even greater work of God in the 30 years to come. By faith we can spread the one-to-one bible study to 1700 universities and collages in Europe through one house church each. May God use each one of us as a history maker in the 21st century.