

## The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.”

(Luke 17:5 NIV)

This week I “heard” two things—“Ever increasing faith,” and “More than a conqueror.” I know I am struggling this week with one of those battles where my faith just seems to come up short again and again.

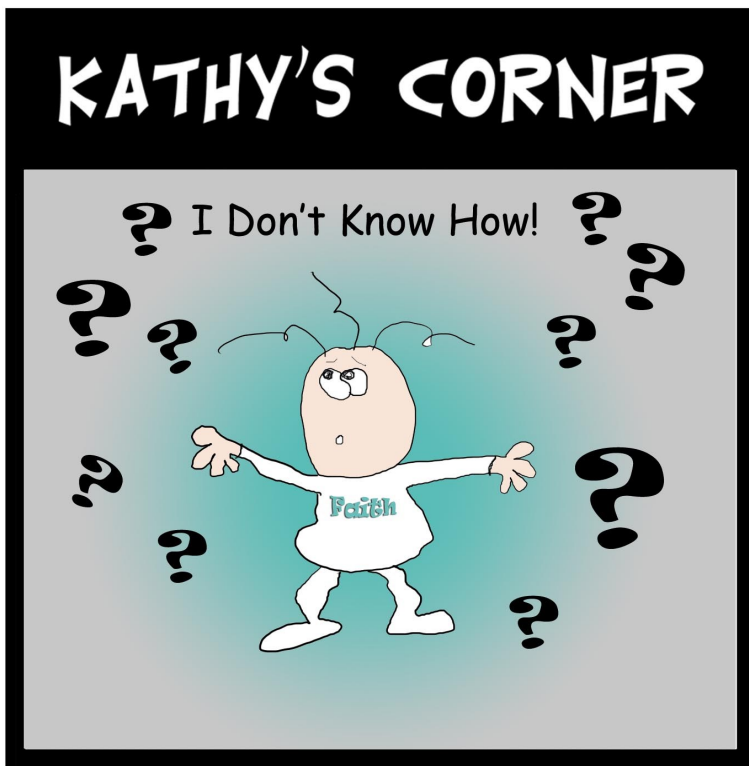
I firmly believe that God hasn’t held back anything that we need, as the scripture says that we have all things that pertain to life and godliness. I realize that the Holy Spirit had not yet been given when the disciples asked the Lord to increase their faith, yet in awareness of their lack the apostles knew Who to look to when they desired an increase in faith. In another case, a man seeking healing for his son said, “Lord I believe, you help my unbelief.” Since Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith, I don’t believe it is wrong to pray to Him for an increase in faith with an expectancy that He will faithfully work it out. Also, since faith/faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit it should increase as I humbly allow the Holy Spirit to lead.

The scripture says that we all are given a measure of faith. (From Romans 12:3) On my journey I am aware of areas that my faith is not yet where it should be. I look at God’s promises. Although I get a glimpse of them, their possibility seems to be just out of my reach many times. In other areas my faith is strong, as I have personally seen God to be trustworthy in those areas in the past. Now, when I consider the mustard seed in regard to faith that Jesus pointed out—its size being irrelevant to what it could do, I have to believe that faith is already ours in seed form, just as so much else is given in that new life we received when we were born again. What will it take for it to reach its full potential and capabilities? The increase and enabling must be from the Holy Spirit working those things of Christ that are in us—bringing them to reality.

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**Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?** (Galatians 3:3). Increasing faith is not something I can do myself. I surely don’t want to have an evil heart of unbelief. If there were a recipe, I would eagerly follow it step-by-step instead of relying on Him. Who would then get the glory? When He comes through in the hard things, those bring Him the most glory. We do, however, have a place of cooperation with the Holy Spirit. As in everything spiritual, our cooperation cannot be separated from our coming to know the Lord in our personal relationship to Him by spending time in prayer (listening and speaking), through the Holy Spirit enlightening us through God’s word and His vessels, by maintaining a teachable spirit, and importantly by being in the presence of a family of faith.

Paige has pointed out the importance of a faith family numerous times. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: **“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so,**



**because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.”** (NIV) Here in 2 Thessalonians 1:3 we see growing faith and increasing love—now that’s a faith family. We have this at NUMA.

Now, for a few positive quotes from Smith Wigglesworth’s book *Ever Increasing Faith*:

“The blood of Jesus Christ and His mighty name are an antidote to all the subtle seeds of unbelief that Satan would sow in your minds.”

“...Hard things are always opportunities to get to the Lord more glory when He manifests His power.”

“All the impossibility is with us when we measure God by the limitations of our unbelief.”

“...By faith we have power to enter into the wonderful things of God.”

“It is when we are at the end of our own, that we can enter into the riches of God’s resources. It is when we possess nothing that we can possess all things.”

Wigglesworth was more than a conqueror. According to Romans 8:37, so are we, but knowing in my mind is not the same as having the reality, so I pray, “Lord, increase my faith!”