



“Mountain Moving Faith For 2009”

Matthew 17:20; Hebrews 11:1

On January 20, 2009, President-elect Barack Obama became the 44th President of the United States of America and is the first African-American to hold this office. It was an historic moment as the entire world looked on with a sense of renewed hope that America would again live up to its noble creed of fairness, justice, and equality for all. This young mulatto of African and American heritage seems to epitomize the American dream. He is biracial, bicultural, intelligent, and spiritual minded. With those God given traits he has another characteristic which has propelled him to become the leader of this great nation.

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA HAS FAITH!!

People around the globe are trying to comprehend the scope of the victory of this rather obscure, young politician’s rise to fame. I believe that his victory and success are grounded in his faith. His ability to believe that all things are possible if we trust, obey and have total faith in God (Luke 1:37; Matthew 17:20). The Bible says without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). True faith is not based on empirical evidence but on divine assurance, and it is a gift from God (Hebrews 11:7; Ephesians 2:8). In 2009, if your life is to have any meaningfulness, and successfulness, you must acquire more faith in God (Luke 17:5) and act on your faith (James 2:17). This morning I want to share three simple aspects of faith, which will bring out a mysterious abstract into the practical arena where you live.

This sermon is taught, not to suggest that you do not have any, or very little faith, but rather to challenge you to develop your faith in 2009 so that you may experience the abundant life which Jesus has promised you (John 10:10).

I. Faith Depends on Its Object

The fact that you claim to believe is not the issue of faith. The issue is what you believe or whom you believe in that will determine whether your faith will be rewarded. Everybody walks by faith in *something*. When faith is damaged or lost it is difficult to restore. Your belief is not your problem; the object of your faith is your problem.

The ultimate faith object is not the sun, but the Son, “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). It is His immutability—the fact that He never changes—that makes Him trustworthy (Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6). He has never failed to be and do all that He said He would. He is eternally faithful. Many people try to live by faith with little or no knowledge of God and His ways. They are trying to live by faith in faith, NOT FAITH IN GOD. Faith is dependent upon the object of faith.

II. The Depth of Faith Is Determined by the Depth of Your Knowledge of the Object.

Your struggle with faith in God is not because you do not believe in God or that your faith object is insufficient. It is because most people have unreal expectations of God. They expect God to answer prayer a certain way and when He does not, they say, “Forget you, God!” God, however, is the perfect faith object. In 2009, increase your understanding and knowledge of Him (Romans 10:17).

III. Faith Is An Action Word – James 2:17, 18)

Faith is active, not passive. Faith takes a stand. Faith makes a move. Faith speaks up. Faith without action is not faith. Faith and action are inseparable. Internalize that GOD CAN DO ANYTHING, BUT FAIL.

REMEMBER:

1. GOD LOVES YOU — JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.
2. GOD LOVES YOU NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO.

In 2009, CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN, WHICH YOU WILL FACE.

Pastor Gerald L. Durley