

The Way to Increase Your Faith
International Bible Lesson
Luke 17:1-10
Sunday, May 1, 2016
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“The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’” (Luke 17:5).

The Bible teaches believers how to increase their faith in God. When Jesus told His followers that they must forgive one another, even seven times or more in one day, even if someone keeps sinning against them and repeatedly repenting, His disciples thought this was impossible. How could they expect anyone to change or anything good to come from a fellow Christian who repeatedly sinned against them if they repeatedly forgave them every time they repented? When they considered Jesus’ expectations, they exclaimed, “Increase our faith!” Jesus began to increase their faith by telling them that they only needed faith the size of a mustard seed (or less) to obey Him. After all, they only needed to consider the fact that with faith the size of a mustard seed they could cast a tree into the sea and it would obey them (Luke 17:6). Obeying God was easier than that! The best way for believers in Jesus to increase their faith in God is by obeying Jesus. Every believer has, or will be given by Jesus, enough faith to obey God. Jesus went on to teach them that He expected them to obey Him, even as an employer expects his employees to do what they are told. An employer does not thank his employees every time his employees fulfill their job description. Jesus told His followers that God will not thank believers every time they do what He commands. They should not expect thanks from God as though they were worthy to receive thanks from God every time they did their duty. We can increase our faith in God by simply obeying Jesus and believing that Jesus knows what is best.

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Thinking Further

1. What, if any, is the difference between “influencing someone to sin” and “causing someone to stumble”?
2. How serious is it in the eyes of God when someone defrauds another person of money by deceiving them in some way?
3. What are some of the possible benefits from rebuking someone?
4. What are some ways believers in Christ can increase their faith?
5. From your study of this Bible lesson, what new truths did you learn and how can you apply them in the days ahead?