

Moving a Mountain with the Touch of Jesus

Fran Richardson

Has anyone here ever moved a mountain? As the year of faith has begun for our Catholic church, what exactly do we mean by having expectant faith? The word expectant means we have a strong excited feeling that something is about to happen and we are “expecting” it to happen such as the birth of a child. The word faith means we have a belief and trust in something for which there is no proof. We have faith when we are going someplace on the plane and we expect that our plane will get us to that destination. So when we have expectant faith we have trust and a strong expectation that this event will happen despite a lack of proof. We have no doubts that what we are expecting to happen will happen because otherwise we would not bother to get on the plane.

Having expectant faith is sometimes more difficult for adults than for children because children generally have more faith and trust that something will happen whereas adults often are distrustful. Adults may not believe it will happen. As adults we tend to question and doubt each situation more as we grow and experience life. We have all had things in our lives that may cause us to question whether our prayers will be fulfilled. In Matthew 17:20 He said to them, “Because of your little faith, for truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there.” And it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” Christ is very strong in letting us know that those who ask with boldness will receive answered prayers.

So the questions that now arise are, “How do we get this expectant faith?” What will make us move mountains? First we need to look upward and come face to face with Jesus. We need to get to know Him in an intimate way just as we would with a new friend. We get to know Christ through the sacraments and most especially through the sacrament of reconciliation which will humble us and transform us into His ways. When we enter into reconciliation we are face to face with Christ which can be a very difficult task at first until we get to know Him and trust Him.

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We will then die to our old ways and it will rid us of our pride that gets in our way. Pride keeps us from seeing Christ because the only person we see is ourselves. The next step to moving a mountain is our prayer life. We have to grow our roots deeply so that we will feel secure and stable. Just like a flower, if the roots are deep it is much harder to uproot them. Flowers also need water and sunshine. We get our watering and sunshine through our friendship with Christ when we receive the sacraments and in times of Adoration with Him when we can best hear Him speaking to us. The word of God helps us to know Him in an intimate way. As we pay attention to the words, they become so much more meaningful to us and enable us to help others get to know Him and we become transformed and in turn we are able to move mountains. We need to know His expectations which are so well laid out in Colossians 3:12-17.

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. ” Colossians 3:12-17

Lastly, by transforming ourselves we will be given the fruits of the Holy Spirit that will dwell in us to give us peace, joy, love, wisdom, knowledge, fear of the Lord, and piety. Everyone faces trials and there are mountains that we need to move in life. Some mountains will be easier than others but with Jesus’ touch our strength will be great and the mountains will be moved.

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Ways that Jesus was an example of Expectant Faith

Jesus felt compassion.

Jesus was led in a prayerful way by the spirit.

Jesus discerned God's will that he was empowered to minister to a specific person as God was authorizing Him.

Jesus looked for faith in that person that he was administering to.

If the person that Jesus was administering to was possessed, unconscious, or dead, Jesus looked for faith in their relatives or friends.

Jesus would speak a word or laying on of hands and the power went from Him to the sick person.

Taken from Expectant Faith by Pat Collins CM

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