Hebrews 11:1-3 Sunday 8/16/2026

I. A Letter of Gratitude and Farewell

This is our letter ofhasta luego, not goodbye. We do not say goodbye; we say, "Until next time."

Dear brothers and sisters, the day has finally come. It is hard to believe that this is already the last Sunday of our trip, and I truly cannot think of a better place for us to spend it with you. I had to put these words into a letter because I know that if I tried to say them out loud, the tears would probably not let me finish. There is so much in my heart that I would like to say, but I will try to express it in just a few words.

You may never fully know what a tremendous blessing you have been to our family. Being in a country that is not your own is never easy. Please do not misunderstand me. We love the United States, but Costa Rica is our home. It is where we were born and raised, where we have spent our lives, and where our ministry is. Being far from home, especially during a time filled with uncertainty, was difficult.

We had tried to plan everything carefully for this trip. We were not careless or irresponsible, but sometimes the Lord allows our plans to change so that our faith can be stretched and strengthened. Suddenly, something as basic as having a home, a safe place for my children, a clean and peaceful place where our daughter could bring our new baby became uncertain, and then God used you.

You did not simply help us find a place to stay. You went far beyond that. You thought of details we had not even thought of ourselves. You made us feel comfortable, cared for, and at home. In fact, you made us so comfortable that part of us does not want to leave.

But as important as all those material blessings have been—and they truly have been—the greatest gift you gave us was something that cannot be bought: your love. And not just with words, but with sacrificial love, sincere love, the kind of love that reflects Jesus Christ. Here, far away from our home, God gave us another church family. We never imagined that we could leave Kansas City with so many people that could genuinely call us friends. But God knew exactly what we needed before we ever arrived here, and He used you to provide it.

Thank you for allowing yourselves to be instruments in the hands of God to encourage and care for His missionaries. And I want to encourage you as well to not change. Jesus taught us that we would know that we are His disciples by the love we have for one another. We have not simply heard the truth preached here; we have experienced it. You have shown our family what kind of love looks like.

Please know that from this day forward, you have a home in Costa Rica. If the Lord ever gives you the opportunity to visit us, it would be one of our greatest joys to welcome you, serve you, and return even a small portion of the kindness you have shown to us. And I know that when our plane takes off on Thursday and begins carrying us back home to Costa Rica, not all of us will be leaving Kansas City. Because a little piece of our hearts will remain here with our friends, with

our family, with our church, with Old Path Baptist Church. Thank you for loving us. We will never forget you. With all of our love and gratitude, the White family. Thank you.

II. Returning the Kindness

And I am very jealous that you guys are going to Africa, and I am good jealous. I am jealous that I hear you go and want to go to the Dominican Republic, because I think, "Well, why don't you come down to Costa Rica again?" You know, I tell churches that Costa Rica is an easy country to go to, because it is a very safe country still. And if you trod that same old path down there, it gets old, like the old path. And then it is easier to walk that path. So come on back down to Costa Rica, plan another trip. We would love to have you, seriously. We love this church, and y'all were a huge blessing.

I even called the pastor when I called for a meeting here. I said, "Pastor, I'm sorry, I kind of mistreated or roughly treated some of the guys when they were working, because y'all were so nice to us." Then I felt bad. Man, I kind of pushed them and beat them up a little bit, but that is what he wants. He wants y'all to be four-wheel-drive missionaries, to be able to adapt in any situation, even if somebody is kind of rough. I didn't yell at you, though. But I did tell you, "Get back on the roof and paint." I was. They were getting down. They thought it was going to rain. I am like, "I don't want it to rain. Get up here." But I enjoyed y'all very much, and I am jealous to see y'all go somewhere else. I would love to have you.

III. Introduction to Subatomic Faith

Today, I thought I would be talking about discipleship, but honestly, y'all have taught me more about discipleship than I could probably teach you. So the Lord changed my message, and I am going to be talking about something I have learned recently. I knew it, and I practiced it, but to understand it and live in it is a whole different thing.

The title of this message isSubatomic Faith. Subatomic faith. And before we go into what that title is, I want to read verses that are incredibly important. Let us go to Hebrews 11, which is the chapter of faith, the Hall of Heroes of Faith. Hebrews 11:1-3 says this, and you know this by memory:

Hebrews 11:1-3

1. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

The very first verse I memorized as a child, when I was five or six, maybe even earlier, was Genesis 1:1. You know this verse:

Genesis 1:1

1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

That is the first verse I memorized as a child. This is very important, and it is a very important verse. It is the foundation of the whole Bible: God created the heavens and the earth.

But to have and exercise faith, there needs to be a wonder, an awe, and a fear of God. Do not change that word "fear" for "respect." I really do not like that. I do not think that is what the Bible says. Fear—and I talk about this with my son all the time—is look at that, pastor, they use the word respect again, changing the Bible. It is fear. If you get close to God, and you read His Word, and you know what He is capable of doing, you are going to fear Him in a good way. Like you fear your daddy when he tells you, "Go to your room, I'm going to spank you." I remember that. You sit there for fifteen minutes, and then you hear your dad walking in, and he is going to spank you because of what you did. That is a good, healthy fear.

The awe and wonder of God produces faith, and it comes from reading His Word, learning about Him, walking with Him, and seeing who He really is without any filter. I want to talk about it, and I want to compare it to what the Bible compares it to.

IV. The Smallness of a Mustard Seed

Jesus talks about faith as small as a mustard seed. If you go to Matthew 17:20, and also Luke 17:5-6, you can go there real quick, but keep a finger there in Hebrews 11 as well. These are the base verses that I want to be using.

I am going to compare that smallness of faith to an atom for a reason. I have a reason for it, and I hope it is encouraging to you. If you go to Matthew 17:20, it says:

Matthew 17:20

20. And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Has anybody ever seen mountains moved from faith? Literal mountains? I have. My dad, he prayed for a mountain to be moved, and it moved. Not miraculously like an instant, big miracle, but it moved in a couple of months. He did not have to do anything or pay for anything; the Lord moved it. The property y'all went to work on had a big hill in the middle of it. It is not there anymore. That was just the type of faith that he exercised and lived in. But I have seen it happen, going from having a hill to it being completely gone.

Luke 17:5-6 says:

Luke 17:5-6

5. And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

6. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

There are so many things in here that are logical. One of them is, I was thinking at the end of it, it says it is going to be planted in the sea. Trees do not grow in the sea. That would be another miracle in itself. But the idea of the smallness of faith, when I look at it, I think that I have even smaller faith than a mustard seed. I have lived a life of almost insignificant faith compared to what I should be living in.

In 1905, Albert Einstein published a study about something no one could see: atoms in motion. Many people still doubted their existence because they were too small to observe. But through his calculations, the world finally accepted that this invisible matter was real, and today all modern science rests upon that truth.

In the same way, faith in Christ Jesus is invisible to the eyes, yet it is real and powerful. Even though we do not see God with our physical eyes, we believe in His work and His Word, and that faith moves everything in our lives, just as those invisible particles uphold the universe. And with just the right action, just the right reaction, you can unleash unimaginable power. Unimagable.

As we planned our trip up here, we tried to plan everything. But you have to exercise faith at some point and just take a step. It is so small. That first little movement forward, you are just going to lean forward into it, and then take the next step and the next step, and hope, and have faith, and pray, "God, You called us into this. We are going to move."

So we came to the States. Actually, we were planning to come at the end of this year, but Lily was already on the way. So we had to plan it so that we could have my grandchild in the States for citizenship reasons and things, but we were planning it later on, and it happened sooner, and we had to move. We had to stretch our faith and move. If I could tell you everything God did, we would be here all day. But He moved the universe for that child to be born here. You may not understand our tears, but for us, it was very miraculous that He would answer stuff we did not even ask for. But that is the God we serve.

So we need to teach this faith. Teach it. Show it. Hebrews 11:1 says, again:

Hebrews 11:1

1. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

This is one of the best descriptions of faith in Jesus Christ. We did not see Him die on the cross. We did not see Him live His thirty-three and a half years on this earth. We did not see Him walking with the apostles, doing all these miracles. We are hoping to receive the Word of His Bible, to grow, to obey, to please Him. That is faith.

The true believer walks in faith. We are waiting for someone to come back, are we not? That is one of the reasons why we come to church, because we are hoping it will happen right now. People forget that. People who leave the church disgruntled, they forget that one of the main reasons I step through those doors is that hope. Wouldn't it be bad if it happened when you were doing something you are not supposed to do? The best place for it to happen is in church right now, this morning. Sorry for you guys that are trying to get married, saying, "Wait, wait until I

get married." That was always the feeling when I was trying to get married, but I always console them, saying, "Well, you are going to get married to somebody in heaven."

That word "evidence" means proof or conviction. Faith gives us the ability to know spiritually. Even though we have not physically seen Jesus or His miracles, we believe in Jesus and in His saving work in a spiritual way. Because the Holy Spirit does something inside of us. Before we get saved, He just moves something, breaks something, we repent, and we see the truth and say, "No, we are rotten, dirty sinners, and we need somebody to save us, desperately." That is the Holy Spirit's work, the convincing.

But we need to teach faith. We need to tell people they have to believe. I spent a lot of time as a young man researching all the translations and the high criticism of the Bible. At the end of all that study—it was like three years for me, and the internet was very useful back then, it was just starting to come out and you could access all kinds of information—at the end, I said, "Lord, I just want to believe that this is true." There is so much evidence anyway, but there are also some questions that I cannot answer about Your Word and how it came together. But this is amazing. At the end, I just said, "I want to believe it." That is final. I want to walk with it.

I do not understand how people will study theology or study the Bible and come out of it saying, "Oh, I can't trust that anymore." I do not understand that. I honestly think they are low IQ. They may have doctor's degrees and titles, but they did not meditate far enough on how miraculous this Word of God is and how it came to be. We need to teach it. Because once you teach this, it produces faith in people. It really does. I came out of it with more faith. That is what the Bible promised it would give me, what it would produce in me.

You know, faith comes by hearing rather than by seeing. I believe that.

Romans 10:17

17. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The Bible repeatedly teaches that faith is produced through hearing and receiving the Word of God.

Acts 4:4

4. Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

Ephesians 1:13

13. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise;

John 5:24

24. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 20:31

31. But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

2 Timothy 3:15

15. And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All these passages teach the same truth. Faith grows and is strengthened by hearing the Word of God.

Hearing versus seeing to believe. Actually, Jesus strongly rebuked anybody who demanded visual proof. Did He not? He rebuked them harshly.

Matthew 12:39

39. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

John 4:48

48. Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

John 20:29

29. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

I like that one. That is for us. Two thousand years later, we are here and we believe it. And we are going to be blessed, because I wonder what that is going to be. The apostles walked with Jesus, and He was telling that to Thomas.

Jesus used the term "blind" many times to describe the Pharisees and religious leaders spiritually. Isn't that ironic? They wanted a sign, and Jesus rebuked them, saying they were an evil generation that asked for signs, yet He called them blind. Because even if He showed them the sign—which He did, they saw what He did, they saw the people He healed, they saw the demons flying away from Jesus, getting away from Him—they saw that, yet they did not believe. Because they did not believe what they were seeing.

We cannot always trust what we see. You have to be careful with that, Christian. You cannot always trust what you see. Just look at AI today. Look at the technology and what it can do. The internet used to be a purer place; now you cannot believe anything you see online anymore. It is such a shame that our own technology has made things more corrupt and worse. I know it is a wonderful tool and you can do wonderful things with it, but people do horrible things with it and deceive so many people.

People who are unsaved are just in their carnal self. They have a dead spirit. All they have are their eyes to see. They want to see something real. And that is Satan's job: to use that and deceive them, and he does it so well. He has destroyed so many people.

It also reminds me of the false healers and television preachers who create spectacles and fake miracles. I believe in miracles, but what you see on TV, what they are doing, that is not real. That is a show. Jesus never did shows. He never did. He never called all these professional organizers and lights and said, "We're going to heal people, but only certain people, the ones we chose, they're going to be in line to get healed." Of course, they are actors. They need to make the thousands of people trust in men.

But the Bible talks about a faith that is small, actually. That is why I call it subatomic faith. It is very small, and it is childlike.

V. Childlike Faith and the Next Generation

One of the greatest examples of faith is what a child does when their mommy and daddy tells them a story and they believe it wholeheartedly. They believe it wholeheartedly.

In Costa Rica and across Latin America—I do not know if it happens here—but parents, because they do not want to spank their kids and obey what the Bible says about discipline, what they will do is lie to their kids. If they do not want their kids to go to a certain place, they will say, "Oh, don't go over there. There's a creepy monster over there." Or, "Don't do that because..." and they will make up all these horrible creatures that are sitting behind a tree or around the corner so the kids will be afraid. After a while, the kids realize, "Ah, you're full of it." They get to be teenagers and they have no respect for their parents because all their lives, their parents used lies to discipline them or try to teach them something.

Be careful with that. Be careful with what you do because if you are lying to your kids, they are going to be very disappointed in you later. So do not use that. Children will believe you wholeheartedly at first. They will. That is why those times are very crucial.

In Luke 18:17, it talks about this, and I want to look at it closely because I want to talk about something here at the end of this point:

Luke 18:17

17. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

He had these children there, and the apostles were getting on to the parents, saying, "Hey, get all these kids out of here." And Jesus said, "No, no, no. Let those children come to me." That is a beautiful scene of Jesus wanting to use children to teach something about faith.

Faith like a child is humble. It trusts without reservation, without malice, without unbelief. It just believes. As adults, we have so much in our minds. We have so many problems. We grow to have malice and corruption in our minds and distrust of everybody and everything. In a way, this is a sort of "woke-ism." We talk about people being woke, and of course they are not woke; they are perverted. That type of woke-ism today is perversion, literal perversion.

But Christians can be "woke" too, in a bad way. We are woke to bad habits, woke to bad conversations, woke to worldly dealings, and we think we are smart because we distrust

everybody. "I can't trust nobody. I don't trust nobody." We have all these negative trickeries and things that we live with in our jobs and with the people we deal with, and it just makes us so we do not trust anybody. And so when you come to the Word of God, or you see a pastor or a church, you are going to come distrusting this church and everybody here, thinking, "Oh, those people are fake. That's not real. That love is not real. I don't believe that." That is corruptness. I think that is part of the work of Satan that he does in us. He just wants to make us completely unbelieving, so we do not trust anybody or anything.

Sadly, our children are exposed to this earlier and earlier. Every generation, they are exposed to it earlier. Now it is just over your phone or the tablets; they are exposed to all the videos they get to see or that you let them see. Parents, we need to be careful because they are going to lose that childlike ability to believe. Then it will be harder to talk to your children. Isn't it already? It is.

That is why you have teachers here. I love how you guys take such an important mind and heart towards your children and your teenagers, because that is a crucial time to teach them the Word of God. Your Sunday school teachers are a crucial part of this church. What you do with the children is wonderful. Like I said, my first verse was Genesis 1:1. It set the foundation for my whole life. I am an avid, strong defender of creation—a six-day creation. God is powerful enough that He could have done it in one day. He could have done it in an instant, and He did, but He could have done everything in an instant. But He put an order to it, and there is a beautiful order to that. That is a whole other message.

But we also need to teach this faith to our children. Parents need to have faith, and they need to have a strong testimony about it. You need to be showing your kids through your actions that you believe in the Word of God. You believe in its promises, you believe in its methods, you believe in its wisdom, and you use it. Your children need to see that.

When the Bible says we need to bring up our children in the admonition of the Lord, it means that every time you do anything, any kind of dealing, it needs to point to the method of the Bible. It needs to point to God and how He would do it and how He told us to do it in His Word. So they need to be exposed to us and the way we walk in faith.

And let me tell you, our faith leaves a deeper footprint than you can imagine. If I can remember anything from my dad, it is his faith. The Bible tells us to put our eyes upon the men that lead a church, a pastor, and the people who lead this church, and to look at their faith and walk and imitate it. His faith showed me that it is incredibly important that you teach it that way with your actions.

Now, it is not something that you fabricate, or something artificial that you just show while everybody is looking at you, and then in your secret life you have no faith at all, because you will get found out pretty quick. It has to do more with a transformation. You need to be different. You need to change. You need to change your negative, untrustworthy attitude and be more simple like a child. Yet, you have got to be wise.

VI. Living as Pilgrims and Strangers

Faith teaches us to live a pilgrim's life. We are always walking through this earth. We are not conformists. One of the things that Brother Bob was saying is, "I just want you to be exposed to different situations, get out of your comfort zone," because we are not here to be comfortable on this earth. Do you know this earth is about to be recycled? It is going to be burnt up into nothing, and then God will make a new one. Why do you conform to this earth so much, and the material things that it has? You are in one of the hardest nations to escape this conformity, which is the USA. So you are in a very tough situation here.

You need to start believing in what the Word of God says about what is coming, walk as a pilgrim in this world, and try to save as many souls as you can. Of course, we do not save souls, but we present the gospel of Jesus Christ to as many people as we can because we are just walking by. We are just in a temporary state, strangers and pilgrims. This faith teaches us, the more you walk in it, it makes it your reality and makes you understand you are not here to be a citizen. You are here to be a stranger. You become a stranger to this world, a pilgrim.

Faith prepares our children to face their own trials as well. Abraham was tested with Isaac, and later Isaac, then Jacob, and Joseph were also tested. They overcame the trials because they had a model of faith in their parents. Isn't that wonderful? This is the reason why the whole eleventh chapter of Hebrews was written: to show us the testimony of these great men and women of faith. The Word says, "Look, this is faith, look at it. This is the testimony they left." We need to imitate it; we need to walk in that.

So what is the importance of faith, and how do we exercise it? Hebrews 11:2 says:

Hebrews 11:2

2. For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Faith gives that testimony. Even when our faith is put into action for others to see, it moves people's lives, it really does, and it brings glory to God. When you see somebody exercise faith, it really opens people's eyes that, "Whoa, there's something going on here that's not normal. That person did not plan that. He didn't have full control of that. He didn't have the material for that, yet he has it now. How did that happen?" The only thing that people can do at the end, their conclusion is going to be God. So it points to God.

This is a very important point for people who are weaker in the faith or have no faith at all. Because remember, they are looking at you with their carnal eyes, and when they see it, they are going to be changed. When they see how powerful God is and how He acts because somebody obeys and is a faithful servant, that inspires others. It inspires them to ask questions inside themselves: "Why? Who? How?" That points to God.

We need to live a life that makes people wonder, "What in the world is going on with that person? How does that happen? How does he get that? How is he doing this?"

When a missionary goes to other countries, a lot of people think—because most of the missionaries that come from the United States are considered to look like walking dollars to everybody outside the US—that they are just rich. But I have seen missionaries who go from

Costa Rica to Panama, and they also look like walking dollars to the Panamanians. So it is so much easier for them to show them their faith and what God can do. And we need to be careful with that ourselves. When we become missionaries and go to other countries, we need to be careful not to show how rich we are, but how faith works in us and how God uses us. People need to see that.

After a while, people understand. "How did your dad do that?" I still have people come to us in Costa Rica. At the beginning, they will tell me, "You know, I thought your dad was just a rich missionary, but now I know you guys didn't have anything." No, we didn't. My son tells me when he went to high school and I came up in my old ten-year-old pickup truck, people thought that I was some kind of narco drug lord or something like that. And Ethan is like, "No, you should come down and see. He's not." And he has brought all kinds of people from high school to come and see. And we are not. We are just normal people living by faith. It takes them a while, but when they see it, it moves them. That is the testimony that you see in all of chapter 11 of Hebrews, the testimony by faith. These people did this and that by faith.

VII. Overcoming Excuses and Limiting God

Now, faith in God versus blind faith in what the world has. The world has an idea of the beginning of the world. We talked about it a little bit at the beginning about evolution and how it took millions and millions of years, and they believe something came from nothing. Almost like magic. They believe, however, that by adding time, then things can happen. Of course, that is completely against science. It is not how science works at all.

I hope if you are here, you believe in a God who is powerful enough to create everything in six days. I hope that you do, because that is the foundation. Genesis is our foundation. And if we do not understand the power of God and what He is capable of doing, and we are not in awe of that foundation, then we are going to exercise very little faith. It is always going to be, "Oh, well, we need to figure this out. Everything needs to be explained. We need to control every little detail." And you are going to just walk in your own strength and in your own mind.

Let me tell you something: if you are going to be a missionary, or a "four-wheel-drive" missionary, and you rely on yourself, you are going to be exhausted. In two or three years, you are going to be exhausted and burned out. Faith gives you rest. It gives you peace that God is in control, that He is working out every single detail like He did in creation. And it does not take time and time and time for God to work. No, God is waiting to work. He is waiting on a faithful and obedient servant to act, to walk towards what He wants you to do.

I love the saying that you have here, and I hear it every time I come: "If God ordered it, He's going to pay for it." I love that. The first time I ever heard it was here. That is very true. Very, very true. I cannot tell you enough how true that is.

God already has wonderful, good works that we need to walk in, already prepared for us to walk in. He is just waiting at every single point of those works. He is sitting there waiting for you to take a step towards that good work. He is already there. He is like, "Hurry up, Bob. Hurry up,

Sam. Come on, trust me." But yet we are like, "Ah, things aren't right now. This doesn't feel right."

So many Christians limit God. My concern is always that we limit God. We limit Him completely. A lot of missionaries, if they do not have everything in line for them to go to the field, or everything in line for them to get into a ministry, they will not move, they will not budge an inch. They think they need to have a job to be able to pay for that ministry, or they need to have a successful career, or they need to go raise support for three or four years. I wonder about that.

I did not raise support. I went to the field with two or three churches supporting me because they knew my dad from West Virginia. And then I have been raising support for twenty-five years, little by little, because I wanted to be in the action. God never failed me. I wanted to go. He told me, "Go," and I said, "I'm going to go. If you want to support me, great, but I'm leaving. I've got things to do." I wanted to get in the action. I wanted to get in the saddle and not waste any time.

In Costa Rica, churches will not support anybody raising support who has never been on the field. They will not even consider him. They want to see him take some steps of faith. So until that missionary is there, and they find out that he went without any help, and they find out that he is suffering a little bit, only then will they start supporting him. It is like they want to see him take those steps of faith. They test him. That happened to Nahum, and it happened to Alex, the guys that we sent. The church did not get behind them until they were there serving. That is rough. That is a real practice of faith, and it taught me a lot, the way they did it. It taught me to have a deep respect for those boys.

So you do not have to have everything in proper order. Are your ducks aligned and everything perfectly ready? You do not have to plan every single detail. God does give us the ability to plan before we act, and that is fine. But if He told you to go, and you have confirmation with other Christians and with your pastor, you have confirmation that is what God wants you to do. You need to walk towards it. You need to go take that step. Do not wait.

You need to be in awe of this because when we start doubting is when we get away from God, really. When you start living in your carnal self, walking or ministering or living a Christian life in a carnal way, you are actually just forgetting who God is. You forgot that He made everything from nothing. He did it in a few days. He is capable of everything. He is all-powerful, omniscient. You forget that. You do not believe that. It is a lack of faith, and I believe it deeply offends God when you are not in awe of Him all the time. If you are not in awe of Him all the time, and in prayer, and confessing, then you are not believing in Him. You are just forgetting Him. You are doing something else.

Well, how can you do that all the time? You just have to pinch yourself every day and do it. I do not know how else to explain it, but it is not like you are born with it. The disciples asked, "Lord, increase our faith." First of all, He told them they did not even have faith the size of a mustard seed. He said, "You don't have faith that size, at least." And it is not something you have and then you are always going to have.

Let me tell you what: every time I have to trust in the Lord, I have to go back to Him, be in prayer, and cry a little bit. And I am always doubting because I am always fighting with myself about this. I do not have more and more faith as I get older as a Christian. No, that is not how it works. I just exercise the faith. Maybe I take bigger risks in a way every time I grow in it, but it is like every time I have to do something out of raw faith, I have to relearn it again. And it makes me dependent on the Lord even more so. Because I am not way up here as "the great man of faith" who is always going to have perfect faith. That is not how that works. As long as you are in this skin, you are going to fight with this.

The problem is a lot of people do not fight it. They will exercise faith one time, they might see something miraculous one time that God does, and then maybe something does not turn out the way they wanted it, and they say, "No, I'm not gonna do that anymore. I don't believe in God." And you completely go against everything and everyone that wants to practice faith and serve in the ministry. You are just all negative about it because you had a bad experience. That bad experience stretches your faith and actually makes you stronger if you stand up again and trust the Lord. You just stand up again, dust yourself off, and trust the Lord. Maybe that was not the direction He wanted you to take, so He smacks it down. It has happened to me a million times.

And you know what? We accuse God, saying, "Lord, You are just not moving in my direction. You are not fast enough." No, you are in the wrong ministry, you are in the wrong direction, or you are with the wrong people. Actually, it is not that we have to wait on the Lord, though a lot of people try to; they actually try to jump ahead of the Lord or go beyond the Lord. They are just in the wrong place. If you are in the right place, He is already there waiting for you. He said it in the Bible: He has already prepared these good deeds that we should walk in them. So walk in them.

What are they? It is the hard ones. It is the ones that are going to test our faith even more. A lot of people just make endless excuses. "I don't have time. It's too far. It's too much. I'm too sick. I have all kinds of health problems." Do you think missionaries do not have health problems, and pastors, and people who serve? We all have serious health problems. I do not know of any missionary who does not have health problems. They are actually older missionaries, and they are doing more while sick than they ever did when they were healthy, because they do not depend on their own strength and their health.

"I don't have transportation," some people say. "I can't go to church because I don't have transportation." In Costa Rica, this happens a lot. They fear everything outside. They fear all the circumstances. You fear man. You are supposed to be fearing God, not man. You know the Bible says in Matthew 10:28:

Matthew 10:28

28. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

That is a strong verse that should wake us up and say, "No, I am more afraid of what the Lord will do to me because I am not obeying and I am not serving the way I should." Because He is like a daddy who is going to discipline me. I am afraid of that. I am.

So, if faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains, then believers today, I think, have more of a subatomic faith. We even have less than that. But let me tell you what: there is hope in that. Because when I studied this little atom that Einstein was talking about, you know a mustard seed is about ten million times larger than an atom. It is a quadrillion times larger than the nucleus of an atom. In other words, if an atom were the size of a mustard seed, that would make the atom the size of a mountain.

And I honestly think that is my faith. I do not even have faith sometimes as a mustard seed. Yet, that little atom of faith that God put in me, I act on it. One right reaction, the right obedience, the right combination of my attitude, and it unleashes God's power. It does. I have seen it in my life, and I know it will happen in you too, even though you think, "I don't have much faith." You may not have much faith. Your faith might be like that little atom. But if you obey and you practice and you just trust in the Lord and depend on Him, it works.

It reminds me of the verse when Jesus was teaching the disciples how to pray. I forget where it is at, but it is in Matthew 6. It says, and we pray wrong. When we pray for our food, I believe we pray wrong. It is not wrong; we just pray out of order. Because we pray, "Thank you, Lord, for this food," when we should be praying, "Lord, supply our daily bread," or, "Give us our daily bread."

Matthew 6:11

11. Give us this day our daily bread.

That little phrase there is key to faith and trust and dependence on the Lord. Because for something so insignificant as a little bit of food, we are asking, "Lord, will You supply it today? Will You supply it right now? This little bit of bread so I can continue." That is the type of prayer of faith. That is how small it is. That is how it starts.

And when you are walking in the ministry, even if it is something as small as, "I forgot my keys," or, "Lord, the ministry is about to start. Where is it? Could You help me find..." I do not know how many times I have asked, "Lord, help me find something," because I have to go do something for the Lord, and the Lord is right there. Little, tiny dependence on God. Just all these little things. Just as an atom will unleash its power, so will subatomic faith unleash God's power. He is waiting to do it.

VIII. Seven Practical Applications of Faith

➢ 1.) I must develop a greater awe and fear of God.

- My faith grows when my understanding of God grows. I need to remember who He is, what He has done, and what He is capable of doing. A greater God in me produces greater faith. That is for every moment of your life, not just every once in a while when I see a sunset and

say, "Oh wow, God is great." No, I must thank God even for my body running well. "Wow, God, thank you for letting my organs be running well today."

➢ 2.) I must build my faith through the Word of God.

- That is where I build it. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. I cannot depend on what I see, what I feel, or what the world tells me. I must believe God because He has spoken. That is powerful.

➢ 3.) I must learn to trust God even when I cannot see.

- Faith is believing what God has said even when the answer, the future, or the outcome is invisible to me. I must walk by faith and not by sight. One of my best friends in the ministry and one of my favorite preachers is a blind evangelist called Terry Sanders. That is his favorite verse: "I walk by faith, not by sight." He does not use a cane, he does not wear glasses, and he does not have a seeing-eye dog. He just walks around and preaches all over the world. He is a powerful speaker, and he really believes what he says. He walks by faith, not by sight.

➢ 4.) I must stop limiting God by my own resources and circumstances.

- I cannot keep saying, "I don't have enough. I don't have time. I don't have money. I need everything prepared before I go." The God who created the universe does not depend upon my resources. I must depend upon His.

➢ 5.) I must put my faith into action.

- Faith is not merely something I believe; it is something I do. I must pray, obey, serve, give, witness, and step forward when God leads me. Faith without action will never demonstrate the power of God through my life. If you read the whole book of James, it talks about this.

➢ 6.) I must live a faith that others can see and imitate.

- My children, my church, and those I minister to need more than my words. They need to see me trust God. My faith leaves deeper footprints than my words. The faith I live today may become the faith that the next generation follows tomorrow.

➢ 7.) I must remember that God can use even my smallest faith.

- Jesus said that faith as small as a mustard seed can move a mountain. Therefore, I should not become discouraged because I feel that my faith is small. The power is not in the size of my faith; the power is in the greatness of God in whom I have placed it.

Can we exercise faith? Can you live a life of faith? Absolutely. Even if it is the size of a little atom, even if it is the size of a nucleus, God will use it. And I pray that this church will continue to walk in faith as you have. You have got a lot of plans: Africa, the Dominican Republic—I do not know how many more plans you have got. The pastor cannot be the only one exercising faith. It has to be every single one of us.

IX. Closing Prayer

Let us pray.

Lord, Heavenly Father, thank You for this beautiful day. Thank You so much, Lord, for Your power, and for Your presence, and for Your Word, Your promises fulfilled so perfectly, so beautifully. Lord, that just gives us hope. Lord, we are so miserable. We are so small. Lord, help us just understand who You are and fall into Your arms, and just trust You.

Lord, help this church. Help every parent here to exercise their faith and be a testimony to their children. Lord, I pray that we can open our mouths. It does not matter if we think we cannot even speak right, but let us open our mouths and mention Your name, Lord. There is power just in Your name.

Lord, I pray that You will give us this understanding of who You are. Help us meditate on our lives. Wake us up and help us have a humble and simple, childlike faith, because we are desperate. Thank You, Lord, for Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for us. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.