

The Smallest Faith by John Piper
Solid Joys, desiringGod.org

It depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (Romans 9:16)

Let us make crystal clear at the beginning of the year that all we will get from God this year, as believers in Jesus, is mercy. Whatever pleasures or pains come our way will all be mercy.

This is why Christ came into the world: "in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his *mercy*" (Romans 15:9). We were born again "according to his great *mercy*" (1 Peter 1:3). We pray daily "that we may receive *mercy*" (Hebrews 4:16); and we are now "waiting for the *mercy* of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life" (Jude 1:21). If any Christian proves trustworthy, it is "by the Lord's *mercy* [he] is trustworthy" (1 Corinthians 7:25).

In Luke 17:5-6, the apostles plead with the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And Jesus says, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." In other words, the issue in our Christian life and ministry is not the strength or quantity of our faith, because that is not what uproots trees. God does. Therefore, the smallest faith that truly connects us with

Christ will engage enough of his power for all you need.

Events

TODAY
College & Career Lunch
1 PM
Pastor Fortner Retirement Party
5:30 PM
1/11 Flourishers Christmas
Party 6 PM
1/12 Ladies Missionary Society

Pastors

Gary Hendrix	Stephen Byrd
Robert Fisher	Stu Johnston
Bob Prentice	Michael Lopes

But what about the times that you successfully obey the Lord? Does your obedience move you out of the category of supplicant of mercy? Jesus gives the answer in the following verses of Luke 17:7-10.

"Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

Therefore, I conclude, the fullest obedience and the smallest faith obtain the same thing from God: *mercy*. A mere mustard seed of faith taps into the mercy of God's tree-moving power. And flawless obedience leaves us utterly dependent on mercy.

The point is this: Whatever the timing or form of God's mercy, we never rise above the status of beneficiaries of mercy. We are always utterly dependent on what we do not deserve.

Therefore let us humble ourselves and rejoice and "glorify God for his mercy!"

Give



Upcoming Events



Service Times

—Sunday School 9:30 am
—Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
—Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
—Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm
919-563-9249
www.grbc.net

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GRACE
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

January 6, 2019

“I know
the plans I have for you,
plans for a **FUTURE**
and a **HOPE**”

JEREMIAH 29:11

Morning Worship

Call to Worship

Pastor Stephen Byrd

Opening Hymn

All Glory Be to Christ

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise this house, In vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, Tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn, all glory be to Christ

**(Chorus) All glory be to Christ our King, all glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ**

His will be done, His kingdom come, on earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread, Praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, all glory be to Christ **(Chorus)**

When on that day the great I AM, the faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain, Is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us, And be our steadfast light
And we shall e're His people be, all glory be to Christ **(Chorus 2x)**

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Scripture Reading

John 16:16-33, page 902

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

I Love You Lord

I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship You, O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my King in what You hear: may it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

Text and Music: Laurie Klein © 1978, 1980 House of Mercy

We Will Glorify

We will glorify the King of kings, we will glorify the Lamb;
We will glorify the Lord of lords, who is the great I Am.

Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty, we will bow before His throne;
We will worship Him in righteousness, we will worship Him alone.

He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth, He is Lord of all who live;
He is Lord above the universe, all praise to Him we give.

Hallelujah to the King of kings, hallelujah to the Lamb;
Hallelujah to the Lord of lords, who is the great I Am.

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Preparatory

Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us,
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation, I turned to heaven, And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness,
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written, Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory, To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven, The King of Kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever, Jesus Christ, my living hope

**(Chorus 2x) Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me, You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name, Jesus Christ, my living hope**

Then came the morning, that sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breathe, Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me *(repeat verse)*

Jesus, Yours is the victory! (Chorus 2x)

Jesus Christ, my living hope

Oh God, you are my living hope

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Sermon

Pastor Stu Johnston

Evening Worship

Call to Worship

Pastor Stu Johnston

Opening Hymn

**#269 Glorious Things of Thee are
Spoken**

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:1-16, page 977

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

There is a Higher Throne

There is a Higher Throne, than all this world has known,
where faithful ones from every tongue, will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand, made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace; salvation comes.

**(Chorus) Hear Heaven's voices sing; their thunderous anthem rings
Through emerald courts and sapphire skies; their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, power, strength, thanks, and honor
are to God, our King, Who reigns on high forevermore!**

And there we'll find our home; our life before the Throne.
We'll honor Him in perfect song where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King, we'll reign with Him.
(Chorus 2x)

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Preparatory

Agnus Dei

1. Alleluia, alleluia for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia, alleluia for the Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia.

**(Chorus) Holy, holy are You Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.
You are holy, holy are you Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen**

2. Alleluia, alleluia for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia.
(Chorus)

**You are holy, holy are You Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen**

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Sermon

Pastor Gary Hendrix