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Your Miracle Power

Mayan Revelation Number 170

Moving Mountains

Prayer

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Beloved Centurion:

Your instructor experiences great joy in bringing this series, YOUR MIRACLE POWER, to you. Preparing it is like an exciting adventure; words and expressions come to me almost more quickly than I can put them on paper - for once you have learned to use your Miracle Power there is nothing that can defeat you.

This may sound like an extravagant claim, but it really isn't. It is a simple statement of fact.

Many of your Companions have found this to be true. Some are still struggling for the key which will unlock the door, but they are getting closer. If you are one of these, I hope that this lesson will be the turning point. It can be.

There is not a great deal that I can put into the prologue of this Lesson by way of explanation of its contents. Suffice to say that I feel there is great strength for you in the message which is to follow, and when you have studied all in this lesson, I hope that it will inspire you to immediately go about doing that thing which you have felt was too difficult.

It is my sincere wish and prayer that you will begin accomplishing immediately, in the very instant you finish, while the mood is upon you; and know that you have the blessings of your instructor as you quietly repeat together the words of the following prayer:

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, keep me mindful that I
am traveling a wonder road, and that
the way leads on.

Amen.

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AS A GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED:

As the career of Jesus began to turn toward its climax three significant things happened. First, he set his face toward Jerusalem and all it meant, and told his disciples that he "must" go. That word must is a kind of one-way turnstile that kept him from turning back and that keeps any dedicated person from doing so. The one with a purpose has a path of consecration, and he does not trifle with it. He must follow it.

The second thing was that he chose a time and took the inner three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John, and led them to the summit of a high mountain, probably Mount Hermon, a 9,000 foot peak on what is now the Syria-Lebanon boundary, and allowed them for a moment to see him in his heavenly form, together with Moses and Elijah, both of whom had long since departed from the earth-life. There the little group realized two things definitely - the divine nature of the master and the nothingness of so-called death.

The third thing happened when they had descended from the mountain. It taught them once for all that every mountaintop of vision has its waiting valley of need and duty.

There waited the father of a son grievously ill of an epileptic condition. He knelt before Jesus to plead that everything he knew had been done for the boy, and that he had even asked the disciples who did not go to the mountaintop for help, but they too had failed.

The master spoke the healing word which united with the father's faith and restored the boy to health. The puzzled and astonished disciples looked on, then they pressed around Jesus to ask why they had not been able to bring about the healing.

The reply of the master was that this was a condition requiring a special degree of devotion and power. Fasting and prayer were necessary, but even they were effective only if they generated definite and positive faith. Even enough faith to balance against a little grain of mustard seed, he said, motioning toward the mountain at the foot of which they stood, had so much power that one who had it could say to that mountain to be moved into the midst of the sea, and it would do it.

Then he went on to say an even more sweeping and amazing thing. He declared that to such a person literally nothing would be impossible. That is surely a statement as universal as one can be made. Think of it, nothing impossible to one who has even a little faith, provided that faith is definite, positive, and real.

If such things could be done with faith as a grain of mustard seed, what could be done with faith as a mountain, or as the earth? It is a stupendous thought. Dwell on it awhile, and see where it leads you.

One who has a charter like that should never suffer from frustration, or indecision, or weakness. Of course, faith is moving material mountains every day with trust in engineering skill and earth-moving machines, but there is a harder kind of mountain to move, a kind to which only faith is adequate, but to which faith is always adequate. We shall enumerate some of its forms later.

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PILGRIM ROAD:

Let us now consider and visualize the fact that we are travelers on a

pilgrim road. Indeed we might call this series of lessons a new Pilgrim's Progress, only instead of John Bunyan's Christian the pilgrim is you or any one of us. This is the road to your destiny, temporal and eternal, earthly or universal. A road always suggests the idea of progress, - of going on. One of the points to which Christian came was Morality Town. He might have stopped there, but he did not. We might stop anywhere, but there is always the road calling us to go on. A town is a stopping place, but a road is a challenge. A house says, "stay", but a road says "go". Destiny is always on ahead.

Our pilgrim road is not the wide and easy one anyone may travel without obligation. It is the straight and narrow one of courage and endeavor. It leads not to some empty nowhere, but to success in whatever your commanding purpose or purposes may be in both great things and small. You could never get over that road without some adequate secret of progress and achievement.

Yet, Pilgrim Road is not too hard to travel. It is well within the strength of those willing to do their best in faith. Nor is it a way of gloom. It is much more fun to do something with the challenge of a little difficulty in it, especially when one has the assurance he can succeed.

Why do people love to work puzzles? Because they present problems that require effort and ability to solve. It is as foolish to look for easy tasks as it would be to look for easy puzzles.

It is not the easy things but the hard ones we do that give us pride and that we like to remember and speak about. If Pilgrim Road were easy no earnest-minded person would care to travel it or be proud of anything to which it would bring him. We like adventure, and doing things that take all our ability and more is that.

Those of us who have made long journeys, especially on foot, have learned that when one thinks of the entire trip at once it seems very long, so much so that some give up early or do not even start. But when we disregard the total journey and think of only the stretch before us the idea is not dismaying at all. There is always the rewarding thought that we are getting on, too.

Think of yourself, then as a modern Christian with your own Pilgrim's Progress to make. Think of the barriers he encountered. They were really like forbidding mountains across his road, but they were all removed by faith. You will find similar ones. They will be just as forbidding, and removing them will be just as thrilling. That will be a great blessing when you come to the end of your power and are driven to God for help, for it will teach you once for all the power and availability of faith. There are many wells of wisdom along Pilgrim Road.

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HEART'S DESIRE:

We talk of mountains and of going forward, but there is an important question that must be settled first, and perhaps gradually revised as we go along and

learn more about life. In general we are all seeking the goal of heart's desire, but what is that? The heart can desire things that are not worth attaining and even things it would not be good to attain. One has to consider what he wants out of life, what he feels is worth aiming for and attaining, what he desires to be the sum total of his living in this world.

Since we are talking about accomplishing things by faith we have to take care to seek for the things we have a right to use faith to get, things that are worthy of the faith by which we seek to empower ourselves. We have to take more than mere desire into account. We must seek things by faith that will be a credit to us and that we will be glad to know we have achieved. Mere desire can lead us to shame, but faith never does.

We also have to consider whether our desire for this goal or that is a permanent one. Sometimes aspirations change as we move along, and time and experience make our judgment wiser and more mature. A good way to test this is to look ahead five, ten, twenty, or any number of years into the future and try to decide what kind of life and achievement will mean most to you then. If that is a bit difficult, observe how it has turned out with other people. When you find the right road, get started on it now, by faith, for we must remember that what we are to be we are now becoming. The thought of that fact will help steady our courses.

What do you want to achieve? No one but yourself can know that, but we can assume that there are certain things every person desires. Each wants to be a refined, cultured, respected person. Each wants to converse well, to think and act with accuracy and precision, and to be well-informed. Each wants to be skilled at some worthwhile endeavor, and to have and keep good friends. These are but a few instances.

An essential part of true culture and good personality is always to have a real and effective religious faith. Since so many things must be achieved by faith one cannot conceive the idea of a really superior life without it. You have at least some understanding of it from your Bible, your minister, your own inner guidance, and the sanctuary of prayer. It is as necessary to your overcoming as a mainspring is to a watch or a motor to a car.

The average person has problems he must do something about, and wishes he only knew what that something is. Most of us are handicapped in one way or another - body, condition, or something else - and we have the problem of overcoming these handicaps. About all some of us get done is to worry about them and feel helpless. They are the mountains across the road, mountains we must move by faith.

There is always a special goal, or work, or mission, or something, to be accomplished by us. That is our central responsibility. The people who have felt that call and applied faith to the need are the ones who have made the real history of the human race.

No doubt there is some good thing you have always wanted to accomplish. Well, WHY WAIT? WHY NOT APPLY THE NECESSARY POWER AND GET IT MOVING NOW - TODAY? They say it is never too late, but it is getting later all the time.

A DAY'S JOURNEY:

We have already said that if one thinks of an entire journey at once the thought is likely to be discouraging, even defeating. But we do not shrink so much from the idea of a day's journey at a time. Then we do not rise in the morning under pressure to finish the whole trip that day. We plan only to go as far as we can go. We know where we hope finally to bring up, but for the present our only thought is to finish the portion of the distance for that day.

Now let us look at this same thing from another angle. The whole proposed achievement in life is too much to think about at once too. That would make it discouraging and leave us impatient. Do not trouble yourself with the thought of how far you are from the goal. Rather be glad you are as far on the way as you are and that you have made some progress today, and are nearer the goal than you were yesterday.

As long as one is making progress there is nothing to worry about. He knows that if he keeps on doing so the day of his arrival will come. That is true by the simplest kind of calculation, and it is enough.

Make a game of it, and be glad as long as you are winning or as long as it is not too late to win. This latter time seldom comes. How many games are won in the last inning or the last moments of the last quarter! But that would never happen if the players become discouraged and let down, saying it is no use like we sometimes do about our problems. Let it be as it was with Longfellow's village blacksmith:

"Toiling, rejoicing, sorrowing,
Onward through life he goes.
Each morning sees some task begun.
Each evening sees its close.
Something accomplished, something done,
Has earned a night's repose."

These things are said to induce you always to keep the guards up against that defeating thing called discouragement. St. Paul, who overcame so many difficult and dangerous obstacles from his victorious way, wrote this significant sentence, "I never lose heart."

Never lose heart, and you will get on and win through. How can one keep from losing heart? The answer is, do your best and keep your faith strong and sure. Remember always how the master told the discouraged disciples that to one with even a little faith nothing is impossible.

Probably you cannot finish accomplishing a major purpose today, but you can begin. The total aim of life is achieved by specific deeds, and you can never do the last one unless you have done the first. Great goals are usually reached over long roads, and the larger the aim the more has to be done to accomplish it.

The same applies to the lesser things you have to do - overcoming wrong habits and cultivating right ones, learning the necessary things, sloughing off bad influences, and the like. You do not know how long it will take, but regardless of that you can get started.

Along the road by which Abraham journeyed to Canaan he built a chain of altars where he kept watch with God. That was why he succeeded. Leave a chain of places of prayer along the road you go, - places for seeking and renewing the faith by which you must remove the mountains on your road.

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SOME OF THE MOUNTAINS:

The first mountain that stands in the way of many is Mount Uncertainty. We have to know what road we want to go before we can do much about getting started. We do not want to undertake the wrong thing because we realize the loss of having to begin again. We have our leanings, our notions, and our temporary impulses, and we are wise to be careful about acting on them thoughtlessly. Just approach Mount Uncertainty with a prayer that it may be removed and that your purpose may come clear.

After that is likely to come Mount Inertia. That is a tendency when you know where your road runs not to get started, not to do anything about it. Only the dead things in nature are inert. You do not want to be like them. Let faith waken you to a sense of duty and opportunity. Duty might as well never call us if we do not answer. Opportunity might as well never knock at our doors if we do not open them.

We all have to deal with Mount Need. God understands that and has made provision for our material necessities. His means of supply are limitless. Despair does not open the doors. Strife may obtain things, but it does not keep them. It is faith that opens the channels of supply and enables us, with proper effort, to obtain our share.

There is Problem Mountain. The average person has some special problem that stands in the way of progress and peace of mind and that human means cannot remove. Faith sometimes solves these things overnight and it always does sooner or later. It often happens in some surprising way, and it sometimes happens in some invisible way. You look, and the mountain just isn't there any more.

Does Mount Worry stand across your road? At first it was a little hill you could climb over or get around, but now it is a tall peak you could never cross. Too, the effort is weakening you so you no longer have strength to cross. All you have got out of it is a weary body and an uneasy mind. Faith can remove that mountain, because faith does not worry; it trusts. It knows things will work out all right, and even that some things that fret us today will turn out to be actual blessings in disguise. It looks for the rainbow in the cloud, and believes the best.

Akin to Mount Worry is Mount Fear. It, like Mount Worry, and all the others really, does not come from afar, but is built up within ourselves. The first thing to do is to stop furnishing material for its further growth. The next is to listen to the voice of faith saying, "Be not afraid." Most things people fear never happen, and those that do happen we can bear if we must. Fears melt away when we face them and make friends with the conditions about us.

There are countless mountains we might mention that get across the road of the pilgrim, but let us notice just one more, Sickness Mountain. God created all of us from the patterns in his own mind, and it is inconceivable that those patterns should have been anything but perfect. Things begin to go wrong when we slip from those perfect patterns. There is health in right thinking, which is thinking in faith.

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SOME MOUNTAIN MOVERS:

Charles William Eliot in childhood was burned in such a way that one side of his face was permanently disfigured. He thought his problem through, and resolved to cultivate a personality so attractive that people would forget to look at his scarred face. He kept faith with his resolution so well that today the memory of it is entirely lost in the brilliant record he made as a scholar, educator, and public servant.

Booker T. Washington started out with bare hands to do something to make honorable and useful citizens of members of his race released from slavery and unprepared to make their way. Tuskegee Institute was the result, with all the trained graduates it has sent out into the world. The founder was a man who could not try to enrich himself but who could work for others. This great institution shows what can be done when one works not for self-interest but by faith.

In 1796 Doctor Edward Jenner completed a long train of efforts to develop a preventive of smallpox by vaccination and first tested it on a human being. He was ridiculed in public, and all kinds of misrepresentations were made of him and his work. But he had faith in it, and today his treatment is common practice. Like so many others, he found the road of service one of sacrifice, but he had the faith to follow through and succeed.

Florence Nightingale set out to improve the miserably poor standards of nursing the sick in England. In 1854, against bitter opposition, she took thirty-eight nurses to the scene of the Crimean War, set up two hospitals, and cared as best she could for the war-wounded. Returning home, she founded a school of nursing, and today "the lady with the lamp" is practically the patron saint of that profession. The remainder of her life was devoted to the religion in which she had found the faith necessary to accomplish so great a work.

Jane Addams, concerned with the degradation of the poor in large cities, founded Hull House in the West Madison Street district in Chicago, where it has

been doing uplift by association for nearly sixty years. The method is that of Jesus - touching low grade lives with higher grade ones till they get the idea that they too can upgrade themselves. The motive power? Faith, of course. What else would be strong enough to make such a work succeed so well?

Many mountains stood across the path of Jesus. Three of them were very large ones. The first year of his ministry it was obscurity. The second it was popularity with its temptations to misuse. The third year it was opposition, fierce and determined. Why did he spend so much time recharging the batteries of his faith? In order to have that with which to move these mountains out of his way.

These are a few great names, but endless would be the list of the humble and nameless ones who have done the same kind of thing according to their own needs and opportunities. Somewhere in that list is a place, a task, and a destiny for you. The mountains may vary, but the means is always the same - faith.

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HOW UNFAITH WORKS:

In closing this lesson let us notice some of the ways unfaith works, for as faith breeds success unfaith breeds failure. Its negative voice has several stock pleas it makes to us to keep us from going on with things. Here are a few of the things it loves to say to us, and which if we heed we will fail:

It offers various reasons why you can't do a given thing. It likes to point to some condition or situation you would disturb or that would stand in the way of accomplishing your aim. It may look forbidding enough, too; but before the power of faith it would melt away like a morning mist.

"The thing is too big for you", unfaith likes to say. "It is too much for even those who are strong and influential, and you are neither." Faith would reply that one never knows the difficulty of a task till he undertakes it, that you may find it one of the easiest things you ever did, and that you may succeed where some famous person failed.

Unfaith sometimes speaks to us through the bad advice of others. "Why you couldn't possibly accomplish a thing like that", they say. Faith would tell you not to listen to everyone who wants to tell you what to do or not do. The average person is not fit to give advice for he knows nothing about either the problem or you. He is most likely to be a negative-minded person who never did or attempted anything of special importance himself. You will find that the people who have accomplished worthwhile things will invariably encourage you to be and do something worthwhile.

Unfaith is very fond of pointing to what it calls the custom of the times and to tell you with an air of self-importance that what you aspire to or the

kind of life you feel you should lead and for what purpose "just isn't being done." If you will analyze the statement you will discover that the fact is that it just isn't being done by the indolent and low-minded. There are plenty of people everywhere who are doing worthwhile things and making their lives count for the best, but they are not the folks who take their cues from unfaith.

Another favorite argument unfaith makes is the claim that you do not know how to do what you aspire to, not even how to begin. It is sometimes very convincing about that too. The answer is that unfaith knows nothing about it, or at least is not telling the truth. Faith says if you don't know how, learn how, and then trust God to guide you to success.

Another plea unfaith likes to make is the claim that it has never been done before. Faith would tell you that this may be the greatest reason why it should be done now. The test is not precedent, but need. The question is not whether it has been done before, but whether it should be done and whether it is your duty to do it. What has already been done is only the foundation for what is yet to be done.

Let us notice one more reason unfaith loves to offer to hold you back from your destiny, the procrastination plea. "Why bother with it now?" is the word. "Why not put it off till some other time?" Faith's answer to that is that when the inspiration comes is the time to act. If you do not do it then, the chances are you never will. Like the blacksmith, you must strike while the iron is hot. Like the iron, when the heart cools the time has past.

ALL OF WHICH MEANS THAT UNFAITH IS YOUR ENEMY, WHILE FAITH IS YOUR FRIEND.

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AFFIRMATION

Faith opens my road of purpose,
and I follow through.

