

How Much Faith



DO YOU NEED

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How Much Faith Do You Need?

"Have you ever prayed for something and then not gotten it? Have you ever wished for something to happen but it didn't?"

You ask yourself, "Why Couldn't I..."

"...make peace with my brother or sister?"

"...love my neighbor?"

"...save my marriage?"

"...lose the weight?"

"...get that car?"

Or anything else you prayed for that you didn't get an answer for. You wonder why God didn't answer your prayers.

It may surprise you to learn that you may have had a part to play in your prayer not being answered!

It may be because you had so little faith! Your faith was too little to accomplish it!

"What?" you ask. "My faith? My prayers weren't answered because of MY faith? How could that be?"

Peter, James, and John had the same question. These disciples couldn't figure out why their prayers weren't being answered either.

In Matthew 17:19, they asked Jesus about it:

Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "Because you have so little faith..."

Because they had so little faith! It was their lack of faith that kept their prayers from being answered.

Sometimes it's hard to have faith for something isn't it?

We pray about something, but feel it is such as large request, we don't even believe ourselves that it can happen.

If we want healing, or a new car, or a solution to a problem relationship, sometimes it the answer seems so impossible, we don't have any faith for it. We just pray to God to somehow take care of it for us.

However, as we walk along with Jesus, we find that in most every part of our relationship, **He has His part to play AND WE HAVE A PART TOO. It is not a one sided relationship.** As far as getting prayers answered, our part is to have FAITH.

We started talking about faith last week. We found out that faith is believing that **what God says is true because it is God who said it**. Believing in what God says is true and acting as if it was so.

That is our part in getting our prayers answered. Faith. But sometimes things just seem impossible and we don't have much faith at all.

How much faith do we need?

Well, you'll be happy to learn that all we need is a little to get started with.

Jesus told the disciples, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

What does Jesus mean by moving mountains? Surely He doesn't mean that you can tell Mount Trashmore to move across I-264!

What is meant by 'mountain' here is the 'mountains' we face in our lives, like sickness, depression, fear, anxiety, relationship problems, weight issues – all these things that can be mountains to us because they seem impossible to get over.

So, to move THESE Mountains out of our lives, He said,

All we need is FAITH the size of a MUSTARD SEED!

If you have the smallest amount of genuine faith, you can do all things!

Let me say that a little differently – JESUS can do all things in you because of your faith. Jesus is the one who answers our prayers, not us! But Jesus needs something to attach His promises to, and that something is FAITH. And a small, tiny amount is all He needs to get started.

The beginnings of faith are small.

At first, faith is weak, easily injured, and very exposed. Like a little seed that just shot up the first two little leaves. A tiny stem and two tiny, fragile leaves. One heavy rain or someone stepping on it can destroy it easily.

That's how we feel when we first start believing for something, isn't it? We just start getting the glimmer of hope that our prayers can be answered, but one negative thing can come along and wipe out any faith that we had, right?

Even though our faith starts out so fragile, it can grow into mountain moving faith with the right nurturing.

Here are some interesting facts about the mustard tree that Jesus spoke about:

- You know the mustard seed is a very tiny seed, but the tree it produces can become one of the largest trees.

- The seeds were remarkably small, but had the ability to grow into a great sized tree. Even large enough to sit in.
- It grew to an enormous size with large branches for birds to perch on.

But, it took several years to actually grow into a tree and then produce fruit.

The size it grew to depended on the climate. It grew larger in warm climates than in cool climates

So, it is with our faith.

It starts out very small. If you needed to have faith as big as the Grand Canyon, you would never be able to start believing for anything. It would be too big!

Don't ever feel that just because you start out with little faith that it won't be enough. God can do mighty things with the smallest amount of faith!

It has the ability to grow very large. Large enough for our hopes and dreams and visions to sit in.

It takes time and nurturing for it to grow. And the better the climate, the surroundings, and the nourishment we give it, the bigger it will grow.

If we bask in the warm glow of God's love and the peace and confidence His love gives us, it will have a good environment to grow in.

If we read and study His Word, our faith will develop the root system, the foundation for our faith to grow on.

If we put it into practice – let the birds sit on it and try it out – it will grow stronger because of the use.

**How do we get the results that we need from our prayers?
How does our small faith grow into mountain moving size?**

The very first thing we need to make sure of is that the things that we are asking God to give us fall in line with what His Word says, right? We can't go asking God to answer our prayers for things that are contrary to His Word. That is the very first thing we need to make sure of!

How do we know? We can be pretty sure it is along God's will if our prayer is for something that is good, wholesome, pure, honest, and from a heart of love. What is your motive?

Then if your request is about healing, ask, 'Would God want me healed?'
If it is about relationships, "would God want this relationship to work?"
If it is about paying your bills, "would God want to supply all of my needs?"

You can be sure that these types of prayers fall in line with God's will for your life.

Now, let's take a look at Mark 11:22

Here we will find the secrets to mountain moving faith:

‘Have faith in God,’ Jesus answered. V.22

“I tell you the truth, if anyone say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. V.23

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” V. 24

1) First, we need to have faith in God. We need to have faith in GOD to bring it about. We have to believe Him, trust that He will do it for us.

The Word says in Mark 11:22, “Have faith in God,” and then in verse 23 “It will be done for you.” Even though we believe it, it is God who actually does it. We believe – that is our part. God does it – that is God’s part.

We have to have faith in God and that He will do it for us.

Do you believe that God will help you or are you still depending on yourself?

If you are depending on yourself, you are not giving God the authority that He needs to have to give you the victory in that area. You are still in charge.

Remember the prayers that God has answered in the past for you. Your faith will be built as you recall the wonderful answers He has had for you in the past.

2) Secondly, we need to believe we have received what we ask for. Believe we have received.

To bring our faith into being we need to ‘see’ it in our minds. We need to see the thing that we are praying for already accomplished in our minds already. SEEING IT AS IF IT WERE SO.

The Lord gave us a wonderful tool for this. It is called ‘imagination!’

Why do you think He gave us imagination?

- He gave it to us so that we could dream dreams and see the vision of how our lives could be.
- To look beyond what our current circumstances were. So that we could reach out to the infinite things of God.
- So that we could build our lives on the mighty possibilities that He has for us.

We need to picture the way our life would be if the particular promise of God was working in it.

There were two little girls, playmates, who were counting over their pennies. One said, “I have five pennies.” The other said, “I have ten.” “No,” said the first little girl, “you have just five cents, the same as I.” “But,” the second child quickly replied, “My father said that when he came home tonight, he would give me five cents, and so I have ten cents.”

The child's faith gave her proof of that which she did not as yet see, and she counted it as being already hers, because it had been already promised by her father.

3) Do not doubt in your heart. We need to confess the answer to our prayer daily, over and over – both in our minds and with our mouths.

No matter what the situation looks like. Don't let what you see in the physical keep you from believing what is happening in the spiritual; Don't let it keep you from believing that God is taking care of it.

**When we see the lack in the physical, we need to say in our spirits
"God is taking care of this."**

Do you know that you can say one thing with your mouth and believe something else in your mind – your heart?

God sees what you truly believe. There is no fooling God.

So the faith that we need to have must be genuine. It must be real in our hearts. We can't just say we have faith, regardless of what the size is, and not really mean it.

Now, as you are doing these things, what do you think that God is doing? We are doing our part, what is God's part?

- 1) You have faith in God and that He will answer your prayer.
- 2) You believe that you have already received it. You see the answer in your mind.
- 3) You do not doubt it.

While we are doing this,

God is looking to and fro. He is looking into our hearts

***For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him?
2 Chronicles 16:9***

God is looking at your heart.

He is looking for that tiny mustard seed of faith that He can attach His power to. He is not looking at how tall you are, or the color of your skin, or if you are fat or thin. He is not looking to see if your hair is perfect, or your clothes are perfect. He is looking to see what is in your heart. He is looking for patience, obedience, trust; and He is looking to see if there is faith in your heart.

Faith; the size of a mustard seed; child-like faith; that is what matters to God. "I see that Rose has faith in me to do this – I can do this in her life. She will believe me for this, so I can do it."

You see, if God sees the faith in us, He can do His work. That is what He is looking for. If we have faith operating in Love, God can do anything!

God looks to show Himself strong. God does the miracles. God looks where He can do them. He looks for certain conditions of the heart. He is looking for faith.

He wants to bless you. He wants to answer your prayers. He is looking for people to do His will in. He is looking to see what He can do in your life.

What kinds of prayers are you waiting for God to answer?

Do you have the mustard seed sized faith you need for God to answer? If so, be assured that your answer is on its way. It will probably arrive when you least expect it.

If you don't even have the mustard seed sized faith yet, renew your faith in God first. Realize that He is powerful and mighty and wants to answer your prayers. Start reading the Bible and let His Word build up your faith. God will meet you where you are. He wants your faith to grow.

REMEMBER:

You have a part to play in the answer of your prayers – you need faith.

How much faith? The size of a mustard seed is enough to get you started.

Your relationship with God is not one-sided. God has his part, and you have your part. Your part is faith.

Believe that you have received what you asked for in prayer. 'See' the answer to your prayers. You need to use your imagination to stretch our limited thinking and see what God wants to do for you.

You need to realize that it is God Who will answer your prayers – not you! You do not have the power to answer your prayers. You need to step aside and let Him answer them in whatever way He chooses to. You need to give up the control.

You need to BELIEVE AND NOT DOUBT. Confess, or confirm, your answer daily. You need to believe that it will be answered regardless of what your physical circumstances look like. There is a lot going on in the spiritual realm that you will never know about. God is working on your behalf in ways that you cannot see.

If you have faith that is increasing, and expanding, faith that is growing, and strengthening from small beginnings, Jesus can accomplish the hardest things through you.

If you keep believing, your faith will grow to such strength that it can move the mountains in your life. Mountains of bills, sickness, anxiety, fear, and disappointment. They can all be moved by God starting with the simple faith that you have in Him.

This week, I encourage you to think of the things you have been praying for and examine them.

See if you truly have faith that God will answer them, or if you need to start over and plant that mustard seed of faith.

If you haven't asked God for answers to a particular problem in your life, why not ask Him to help you?

Realize that He is waiting and He wants to bless you. He knows what you need and He wants to help you. He is a loving God and can take care of all of your needs. Ask Him to help you this week.

It is almost impossible to overemphasize the necessity for faith. Numerous scriptures tell us this: Heb 11:6 tells us that we can't please God without it; "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that he is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Faith is the only way to be victorious: "this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith." (1 John 5:4)

We can't live without it! Hab 2:4; Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; and Heb 10:38, all tell us that "the just shall live by faith."

Whatever is not done in faith is actually counted as sin; "for whatever is not from faith is sin." (Rom 14:23)

If we can't please God without it, can't win without it, can't live without it, or if we do, we're in sin, and then the subject of faith demands our attention, and serious study.

Though there have been many sermons on the subject of faith, most have simply declared that we certainly need this thing called faith. There has been very little teaching emphasizing how to live a life of faith.

The first thing to grasp is the fact that we as Christians have all the faith we need to win in life. In the new birth, every one of God's children received all the faith they would ever need in their recreated human spirit.

2 Peter 1:1 - Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

2 Peter 1:1 makes a very clear and definite statement regarding our faith. Peter was obviously one of the 12 original foundational apostles of Jesus. Yet here he says that Christians (those to whom he was writing) has already received the same kind of faith as the rest of the apostles. In other words, whether someone had the calling of apostle or not on their lives, they had exactly the same faith as an apostle.

Knowing this fact changes everything. We do not study faith in order to try to get it or to reach out for it. No the Christian, with the mind renewed to the word of God, starts from the position of having received faith at the new birth, and now studies how to use that which has been given to him by God. To use an illustration from the auto world; we are not Ford Escorts trying to operate like Ferrari sports cars. No, we are Ferrari's now learning about the power and potential built into us under the hood! God

has put faith on the inside of us as believers, and we are learning how to release what God has already put within us.

Mark 11:22 - So Jesus answered and said to them, **"Have faith in God."** Jesus was obviously functioning with faith in His Father by speaking to a fig tree, and seeing it obey His word. The tree dried up from the roots within a 24 hour period. Now He was teaching that anyone could do the same thing if they worked by the same law He was using; that is, if they operated in faith. Because Jesus was operating by spiritual law, He was saying that all believers, following the same law, could do the same thing. He went on:

"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.'" v.23, 24

The fact that Jesus says "whoever" means that this is a law and will work for all believers. In the same way that gravity works for everyone, so does this law of the kingdom of God. When God grants this kind of faith, it will always accomplish God's intended purpose.

Verse 23 teaches that someone operating with faith in God believes in the heart that which is said with the mouth will come to pass. Jesus declares that someone operating in this kind of faith "will have whatever he says." Faith believes that what is said will come to pass, and then speaks it!

Eph 2:8, 9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." The salvation, the grace and even the faith that saves us are each the gift of God, not the result of human effort and will.

In saying that we all have the same faith, I am not saying that we are all functioning in all of it, just as we do not all function in all the love of God poured out in our hearts (Rom 5:5). God says that the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Of course, I don't know of too many people who are functioning in the love of God, 100% of the time. But, according to God, now that we are Christians, His love is already in our hearts, and He is waiting for us to release that love to others in His Name.

What is true about the love of God is also true about this kind of faith also in one sense.

The Bible speaks of at least two kinds of faith. In the new birth, God gives us a faith to trusts in Him for salvation. It is what I call "communion faith" - the faith God gives us so that we can commune with Him. It is a supernatural kind of faith that was never the product of our old nature. It is entirely God's gift to us.

But the scripture also talks of a "gift of faith" (1 Cor. 12:9) which is sovereignty given to believers. It is distributed "as he wills" (1 Cor. 12:11). This kind of faith moves mountains. We could call it mountain moving faith. When God imparts this faith, it is almost as if one is emptied of doubt. I've seen this occur perhaps only two times in my ministry, but the results were remarkable and God gets all the glory for the miracles that took place.

So the faith we need for everyday life is already present in our spirits, and we are already "complete in Him" (Col 2:10). 1 John 4:17 says, "As He is, so are we in this world." Jesus said, "Most

assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to the Father," John 14:12. It is only because we have received faith in the New Birth that we can do the same works as Jesus. Jesus actually expected believers to do exactly what He was doing. This would be totally impossible if we were given fewer resources than Jesus had in His earthly walk. And in the new birth God gave us a supernatural faith; and by the will of the Sovereign Holy Spirit, the "gift of faith" operates to accomplish seemingly impossible things - mountains are removed.

Jesus declared, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for He has anointed me to preach... heal... deliver... restore sight..." etc. Luke 4:18. And that's why He could expect any of His disciples, once they were filled with the same Holy Spirit to do everything He was doing.

ALL HAVE THE SAME FAITH, NOT ALL THE SAME CALLING

Although we as Christians have each received faith on the inside of us, we need to be aware that we each do not have the same call from God on our life and ministry. Rom 12:3 says, "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you..." In other words, "to you Christians in Rome," which would also apply to the Christians in Phoenix, Sydney, London, or wherever else you are from. He wasn't writing to sinners, or to the world, but to believers - to Christians. He goes on, "I say... to everyone among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." Here, as the context shows very clearly, Paul was not referring to the kind of faith we receive in the New Birth, but the faith to receive and exercise the gifts and ministries God calls us to do once we were saved. The distinct measure of faith that we each receive corresponds to the distinct role that God has given us individually within the Body of Christ. Verse 4-6 continues, "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body... Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them..." Then he lists some of the gifts God has placed within the Body.

In Romans 12:3, God is saying, "don't be high minded, or think too highly of yourself, but think soberly, as God has dealt to each one the faith needed to fulfill their distinct role within the Body." You have faith to fulfill your ministry in the Body, and I have faith to fulfill mine. But understand, we are not in competition with each other, just as the hand is not in competition with the eye or the ear.

An Evangelist has faith to fulfill his ministry which would make most other saints go nuts overnight, if they took on just financial pressure of his ministry! (I know of one who currently needs more than \$1,000,000 a month, just to break even!) This man would probably not do too well as a Pastor because that is not what he was born to do - in other words, it's not his call from the Lord. But if the Pastor teams up with the Evangelist and the Evangelist teams up with the Pastor, and the souls saved through the Evangelist's ministry outreach are brought into the Church, that becomes a very powerful team! That's the way God set up His Body, with each part having a specific job to do.

WHAT FAITH IS

Seeing that we have a definition for faith in Hebrews 11:1, let's look at the verse in a number of different translations.

"Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see."
Moffatt

"Now faith is a confident assurance of that for which we hope a conviction of the reality of things which we do not see." Weymouth

"Faith is the realization of things hoped for - the proof of things not seen."

Twentieth Century New Testament

"Now faith is the assurance of the things we hope for, the proof of the reality of the things we cannot see" Williams

"Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we hope for], being the proof of things we do not see and the conviction of their reality; faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses."

Amplified

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." New King James Bible

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." New American Standard Bible - Update Edition

1. FAITH RELATES TO THE UNSEEN

FAITH IS THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN

Faith is the evidence! The word "evidence" means "that which supports the existence of something," or "that which supports that fact a thing exists." If I have evidence of something, that means that I don't actually have the thing itself, but have some substantial substance showing that the things exists. Therefore, evidence proves the existence of something else. The Word declares that faith is the evidence of things not seen. Just because we cannot see a thing, does not mean that it does not exist. Just because a thing is not perceived by the senses, does not mean that it is not real. For instance, right now, there are many different radio waves present in the atmosphere. Just because we do not see or hear them, does not mean that they are non-existent. Simply by turning a receiver on, and adjusting the frequency, we can tap into many different radio programs, which were certainly in existence before we turned the radio on. The radio receiver is not the source of the broadcast, but simply allows us to perceive with our senses what is real in the realm of the radio waves.

Similarly, faith perceives as real fact, what is not revealed to the senses, but is revealed by the Word of God. Faith is certain of the existence of something, when our senses have yet to taste, see, hear, smell or touch it! In fact, when something is perceived by the senses, faith is no longer necessary. When you can see it, you no longer have to believe it is there, you know it is there. When I am up front teaching this lesson, you don't have to believe I am there; you can see me and know that I am there!

What is faith's certainty? The Word of God! Faith is certain of God's Word when the senses have no evidence to support faith's conclusion. All faith needs is the evidence of God's Word!

2 Cor 4:17,18 "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Here Paul tells us that the things which are seen are only of temporal order, they are subject to change. Think of that! Everything we can see is not of an enduring nature or substance. However, everything in the unseen realm is eternal. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Word will by no means pass away!" The unseen realm is the realm of the Spirit, where God's Word is law! It was in fact God's Word in the unseen realm that created the world and all that is in the seen realm. God says, "Don't look at the things which are seen." Obviously He is not saying that the seen things do not exist.

If they do exist, we would not be able to look at them anyway! No, He says, don't look at them, or don't live your by the conclusions your senses give you, when that which is seen is contrary to God's Word. God's Word is of a higher order, and has power to change that which is seen! God's Word tells you what is real is the unseen realm, just as a radio tells you are real and happening in the realm of the radio waves. Smith Wigglesworth said it well: "I am not moved by what I see, or by what I feel. I am moved only by what I believe, and I believe the Word of God."

For instance, when you are sick, although it is true that your sickness is real, don't be moved by that, but be convinced of the realities of the unseen realm, made known to you through God's Word. It tells you that "by His stripes you were healed." 1 Peter 2:24. You do not need to deny the existence of the sickness saying "I'm not really sick." for that would not be true. Your body is sick! However, you are not looking to your body as a source of truth, "the things which are seen," but to the unseen eternal realm, where the Word of God is law. You are not therefore to deny the existence of sickness; merely it's right to continue to exist in your physical body.

LACK OF FAITH -VS- GOD'S PROVIDENCE

None of our own attempts and efforts can save us without the help of God, but neither can God's help be beneficial to us without our own wish for it.

No other subject was brought up by the Lord to His disciples so frequently as lack of faith. He warned everyone against lack of faith not only by His words, but also by the multitude of events which amazingly proved the power of faith and the powerlessness of mistrust or doubt in God's protection and salvation from danger.

Lack of faith comes in different forms: some people have little faith in God because He does not punish His enemies; others doubt they would be able to entreat God to grant them their desires, especially when their conscience bothers them with the thought that God will not forgive them their sins; still others fear that God will deprive them of all earthly goods and subsistence. This triple manifestation of lack of faith estranges many people from God and immerses them in various forms of perdition.

The source of our lack of faith is our excessive conceit, i.e. when we think more of ourselves than of God, rely more on our own powers than on God's help.

What is the reason for God allowing the destruction of such a great number of people, who are injured or killed through sorcery? It is not surprising: lack of faith has become so widespread among the people that it merits punishment. Many do not look for other doctors except sorcerers (extrasensorists), or other pharmaceuticals except deviltry. God justly punishes us by the same means that we use to sin against Him.

As our faith and hope in God increase, so increase His mercy and benevolence to us. But woe unto us, that there are so few of us who believe in God with all their heart! If we analyze human customs and habits, we will see that in all places and at all times lack of faith becomes prominent and widespread, which gives rise to empty and false fears. People often fear a shortage of food supplies; sometimes they fear that they will lack necessary items during an illness; at times they fall into despair over ever-

growing rumors of war. All of this occurs because they have an erroneous and doubtful understanding of God's benevolence and His omnipotent strength: this is also the cause of our mind's poor and sad concern over temporal things, as opposed to a concern for achieving a blessed eternal life.

God's Providence manifests itself with the greatest wisdom: not every transgression is normally punished straightaway; however, neither is it left totally unpunished. If God never punished vileness, many people would think that there is no Providence. On the other hand, if every transgression were immediately followed by punishment, it would then be thought that there is no reward or punishment after death. Therefore God, by punishing only some people, reveals His Providence; by not punishing others directly after their transgressions, He threatens them with punishment directly after death, in the next life, if they do not repent in this life. Everything is done by God with great wisdom and forethought.

In a like manner, all the contradictory manifestations that we come across in our lives, are all wisely directed by God's Providence; all earthly misfortunes are transformed by God into a benefit and advantage for us; even sinful transgressions are tolerated in order to bring us to our senses, and to achieve our salvation through repentance. For to do good deeds and to tolerate heinous ones is characteristic exclusively of divine Providence, since God would never allow the existence of evil were He not as mighty and good as to produce good consequences from all evil deeds.

God's Providence is concealed from us, unfathomable to us, but it comprises an all-encompassing order for ruling the world rationally and justly. We are usually quite observant of the external order of universal and particular events; however, the wondrous and wise Providence of God, which activates the cosmic mechanism and preserves and directs its activity, is hidden from us, and we cannot see it. It is for this reason that many people, seeing a contradiction from a human point of view in the well-being of bad persons and the tribulations of good ones, assert that God's Providence does not exist, but that everything occurs through man's will and reason, or through blind luck or misfortune.

However, all these things are seen and understood quite differently by those who believe in the great wisdom of God and in His Providence, which directs everything to the good. If, seeing how God-fearing people are often humiliated and insulted, while heinous scoundrels prosper, we think that Providence is sleeping, this is because we are looking upon only one side of God's Providence, while the other side is hidden from us because of our narrow viewpoint, which is unable to extend itself to fully encompass God's destinies. Only in the second coming of Christ will we learn of God's just judgment of everyone and everything.