



My Beloved Children,

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

We are blessed with the Feast of the Holy Nativity and the Feast of the Epiphany this month, both I believe are important Feasts regarding our faith. Believing and celebrating feasts in our Church are important parts of faith.

The Lord Jesus Christ commends us for our faith. What exactly is faith? Faith can be small acts or humble words; it is what we ourselves can offer to the Lord. Even the smallest faith is a significant one.

“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “move from here to there,” and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. (Matthew 17:20)

Faith does not have to be grand, loudly spoken, or perfect. Faith is your willingness to believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was born, that He was baptized for the remission of your sins, and that you trust in His saving grace. Faith is the confidence there is a God. Faith believes that God cares about you and is with you in all your efforts.



confidence that with God all things are possible. The image of the mustard seed was common in the Lord Jesus Christ's earthly days. Though not the very smallest of seeds in existence at that time, they were indeed small seeds. The Lord Jesus encouraged the disciples' belief with the example of the mustard seed. Continue to pray. Continue to love one another. The disciples did not have to figure out all the problems of the world, they only had to take one small step at a time. Even the smallest step was a good and profitable one for faith.

Great teachers in the Lord Jesus' earthly days used the image of moving mountains as a way to encourage the people to overcome difficulties. He used the image of moving the mountain to teach the disciples that even the hardest tasks can be accomplished with a little amount of faith.

If we turn our best efforts over to God and trust in Him, He will use them for our benefit. Always remember one very small candle lit in the dark, can chase away the dark.

God be with you and may your faith find THE WAY in this New Year,

His Grace Bishop Youssef
Bishop, Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the United States