Matthew 17:20-21

A little is a lot in God's hands. These are words that seem to fall on deaf ears because we are so accustomed to having large responses made to our requests. We sometimes forget that it is the Holy Spirit's power in the back of our giving and our participation that grows whatever it is the church is attempting to accomplish.

Paul tells us that God's grace is sufficient to meet every situation we find ourselves in. **2nd Corinthians 12:9 says, "My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.**" Grace is God's power to strengthen us in the midst of the things that are going on in our lives. Grace is the power of the Holy Spirit acting in and, on our behalf, to get us through whatever the trial and circumstances may, in fact, be. God uses us even when it appears that we do not have a lot. When our strength is low, grace can give us strength. When our faith is low, grace can give us strength. When our courage is low, grace can give us courage. Grace, however, is always coupled with faith.

1 Corinthians 3:6 reminds us when Paul says, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." Our job is to plant. Our job is to plant the seed. Our job is to have faith. Our job is to trust in God. It is God's job to give the increase. We must learn to trust God with little things. Trust God to believe that God will take the little things and grow to honor Him. A little girl did just that, and God blessed her efforts beyond anyone's imagination.

A sobbing little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because it ‘was too crowded.’

“I can’t go to Sunday School,” she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by.

Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason and taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday School class.

The child was so touched that she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus.

Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings, and the parents called for the kind-hearted pastor, who had befriended their daughter, to handle the final arrangements. As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and crumpled purse was found, which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside was 57 cents, and a note scribbled in childish handwriting that read, “This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday school.”

For two years, she had saved for this offering of love.

When the pastor tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocketbook to the pulpit, he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building.

But the story does not end there! A newspaper learned of the story and published it.

It was read by a realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands. When told that the church could not pay so much, he offered it for a 57-cent payment. Church members made large subscriptions. Checks came from far and wide, and within five years the little girl's gift had increased to $250,000.00 – a huge sum for that time (near the turn of the century).

Her unselfish love had paid large dividends.

When you are in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, with a seating capacity of 3,300, and Temple University, where hundreds of students are trained. Have a look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sunday School building that houses hundreds of Sunday schoolers, so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside at Sunday school time.

In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history. Alongside it is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr. Russell H. Conwell, author of the book, "Acres of Diamonds."~

Let us learn to trust God with our efforts. It does not matter how meager; if it is our best, God will and can use it. We must learn to trust with our lives. It does not matter how we perceive ourselves. God will qualify the unqualified and restore hope to the hopeless. Remember,

ours is the effort, and to God belongs the outcome.

Blessings,

Pastor Gool