

INCREASE OUR FAITH

- 1. Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!
- 2. It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.
- 3. Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.
- 4. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.
- 5. And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

When I read this passage of Scripture I was wondering to see the response of the disciples` to Jesus` statement. Jesus was very clear in his teaching of forgiveness. That kind of teaching of the forgiveness might have been shocked the disciples. In those days punishment of any crime was stone to death. In such a situation the word forgiveness was completely vanished, was not at all existing. Further Jesus said that if anyone trespasses against you seven times in a day forgive him.

All disciples present were respecting Jesus as their Master and teacher and they did not understand what to say but requested Jesus to INCREASE THEIR FAITH. All disciple might have thought that the teaching is very tough and to obey the teaching on forgiveness needed more faith. Look how Jesus replied to their request, "And the Lord said, if ye had faith as agrain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you." (Luke 17:6).

Bible says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). Faith comes by hearing the Word of God and then that faith if we keep on practicing will surely increase. Total obedience to the Word of God makes the difference. Jesus` commands are not hard to obey if we take a step of faith to obey them, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28).

We may be already doing what our good Lord has asked us to do. But by faith we can increase this year 2017 for the Kingdom of God by continue to obey Him!

May our good Lord continue to bless you and your families. Prema and I love you so dearly and pray for you daily! Write us for we love to hear from you!

Remember, <u>Jesus is Lord</u> and take with you <u>the Word of God and Faith,</u> excellent traveling Companion. (Psalms 119:105; II Corinthians 5:7)

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