

A LITTLE BIT GOES A LONG WAY

The title is rendered in a bold, sans-serif font with a 3D perspective effect. The letters are yellow with a dark brown outline. The text is slanted to the right and appears to be floating above a dark brown shadow that recedes into the distance, creating a sense of depth and movement.

By

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A Little Bit Goes A Long Way

10 For who hath despised the day of small things?
Zachariah 4:10

How many of you have ever undertaken a task that, in your sight, was overwhelming? Did you feel that that the task was greater than your ability to handle it? Well, I see that you are still here. That must mean that one way or the other you made it. Did you asked yourself why God would allow you to go through such an experience? Would you like an answer? There are at least two reasons why we have been blessed with such encounters; the first is so that we can know beyond a shadow of doubt that it was God that did it and not by our own power or by our own might. When you heard about that mother that pick up that car that was own her child, did you really think she was Superwoman? What about the maid who gave a million dollars to a college for scholarships to underprivileged children? She did not win the lottery, nor was she a stock market guru. It was merely her faith in Gods ability to make the little bit she had go along way. I'm reminded of the widow who lived in an area that was going through a famine. When she had exhausted all

of her food and had just enough meal left for one hoecake to share with her son before they died, along came a prophet who stopped by and ask for lodging and a meal. Rather than be selfish, and justifiably so I might add, she shared that last little bit with the prophet and every time she went back to the meal barrel there would always be enough for the three of them. When the prophet finally left, the widow found that the barrel was now full. She found out that **A Little Bit Goes A Long Way.**

It's no different than when the little boy presented Jesus with his five barley loaves and two fish. With that little amount of food Jesus was able to feed 5000. Clearly **A Little Bit Goes A Long Way.**

The second reason I believe that we are blessed with these challenges is because there are some here today who are now faced with similar challenges and they need to hear your testimony of how, in your own life, you have come to know that there is nothing to hard for God.

There are some present today that need to know that not every mountain that comes into their lives was meant to be climbed. Sometimes those mountains are meant to be moved! They need to

know that if they surrender their lives to God, He will take them and make them , like you , instruments of his will and the net result of that is that He will take their **little bit and make it go a long way.**

The question is asked; For who hath despised the day of small things? All too often we look at the limitations of our resources in comparison to our goals or dreams and if we aren't careful we give in to despair or we give up hope of ever reaching those goals or fulfilling those dreams. What happens is the carnal reaction overwhelms the spiritual reality. Another way of putting it is that though the spirit may be willing the flesh is too weak. Again, we need to remember that with God **A Little Bit Goes A Long Way.**

Let us for a moment look at the backdrop from which our text is drawn. There is a reason the Lord wants us to appreciate the significance of small things and as we look again at this passage it will be my prayer that the Spirit will illuminate the word in such a way that we will be able to embrace the blessings that come with small things.

The writer of our text is the prophet Zechariah who, along with the prophet Haggai ministered to the children of Israel around 520 B.C. to 508 B.C. His objective in his prophetic writings and preaching was to encourage those who had returned from captivity in Babylon to rebuild the temple. In addition to the two prophets that were on the scene there were two other men entrusted with responsibility of leadership. They were the High priest whose name was Joshua and the governor who was called Zerubbabel. In this 4th chapter Zerubbabel is identified as the one who was given the responsibility to lead the rebuilding efforts, In fact, he was the one to start the rebuilding and according to the text he would be the one to see it through to its completion. You might say that Zerubbabel was the author and finisher of the building program. There were many Jews, however, who did their best to discourage the rebuilding efforts. Their arguments were that it would never be as good as the first. They didn't have the craftsmanship that the original builders had, and they didn't have the resources that were available to the original builders. They were being mocked and ridiculed for their inadequacies and as a result they began to have

doubts about not only their abilities, but their fitness for the task. They were constantly told that the enormity of the task exceeded their grasp and just who did they think they were to take up such an ambitious challenge. What the mockers and scorners fail to realize was that they were not doing this for themselves. They were operating under the auspices of their God. They must have forgotten the story of how Gideon started out with 32,000 soldiers to fight against the Midianites, but only went into battle with 300. Or how David went up against Goliath with only Sling and 5 smooth stones, or how Sampson with the Jawbone of an ass slew 10,000 men. They had forgotten that in Gods Hands **A Little Bit Goes A Long Way!**

*"Who art thou, O great mountain! that thou shouldst stand in God's way and think to stop the progress of his work? Who art thou that lookest so big, that thus threatenest, and art thus feared? Before **Zerubbabel**, when he is God's agent, thou shalt become a plain. All the difficulties shall vanish, and all the objections be got over. Every mountain and hill shall be brought low when the way of the Lord is to be prepared,"* Isaiah 40:4. **Faith** will remove

mountains and make them plains. **Christ is our Zerubbabel**; mountains of difficulty were in the way of his undertaking, but before him they were all levelled; nothing is too hard for his grace to do.

While doing research for today's message, I discovered that if we could harness the power of a paperclip -- that is, turn every one of its atoms into pure energy -- the paper clip would yield about 18 kilotons of TNT. That's roughly the size of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945. If we can harness the mustard seed faith the Christ empowers us to have, Mountains, rivers, nor storms can stop us because **A Little Bit Goes A Long Way!**

This shall effectually silence those that looked with contempt upon the beginning of this work. Who/where, is he now that despised the day of small things, and thought this work would never come to anything? Their enemies despised the wall when it was in the building phase. In God's work the day of small things is not to be despised. Though the instruments be weak and unlikely, God often chooses such, by them to bring about great things. As a great mountain becomes a plain before him when he

pleases, so a little stone, cut out of a mountain without hands, comes to fill the earth. Though the beginnings be small, God can make the latter end greatly to increase; a grain of mustard-seed may become a great tree. Let not the dawning light be despised, for it will shine more and more to the perfect day. The day of small things is the day of precious things, and will be the day of great things.

Who would have believed that a baby born in a manger would grow up to become the Savior of the World? Who would have thought that a carpenter's son would become the King of Kings and Lord of Lords? Left up to man and his limited devices it would have been impossible. But let us not forget that there is nothing too hard for God and that in His hands **A Little Bit Goes A Long Way!**