Increase our faith

The Gospel reading for the day is from Luke 17.5-10, which begins: '***The apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith!***' We further read the Lord's replied, '***If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you'***….

Is it inappropriate to pray for 'more faith' in order to have more power? It could be argued that as faith is God-given, we already have sufficient faith to do what God needs us to do here-and-now.

Of course, it's OK to pray for faith - 'sufficient for the day', and to grow over time. Either way, the door always remains wide open to grow-in-faith anyway, in deference to the Epistle of James, in which he states "***Faith without deeds is dead***". In other words, faith in itself isn't enough, but only truly comes alive when it's demonstrated in our daily lives, by our acts of love, compassion, and obedience to God's way of doing things.

Thoughts for the Week: Given that Jesus showed us how to live-the-faith, His idea of discipleship should make us willing servants, as He was. That implies that obedience isn't a great deed in itself, it's fulfilling a duty that we owe.

Faithful, humble service involves living, as Jesus did, as a servant, and that embracing our own (faithful) obedience is a required service, not a 'favour done for God'.

Lord, give us the faith that overcomes the world, and enables us to face both life and death, calm and unafraid. Give us the hope to look beyond this mortal life toward the things unseen and eternal. And give us the love that brings us closer to you and to each other.

Adapted from a prayer by Frank Colquhoun