The Mustard Seed and the Moon

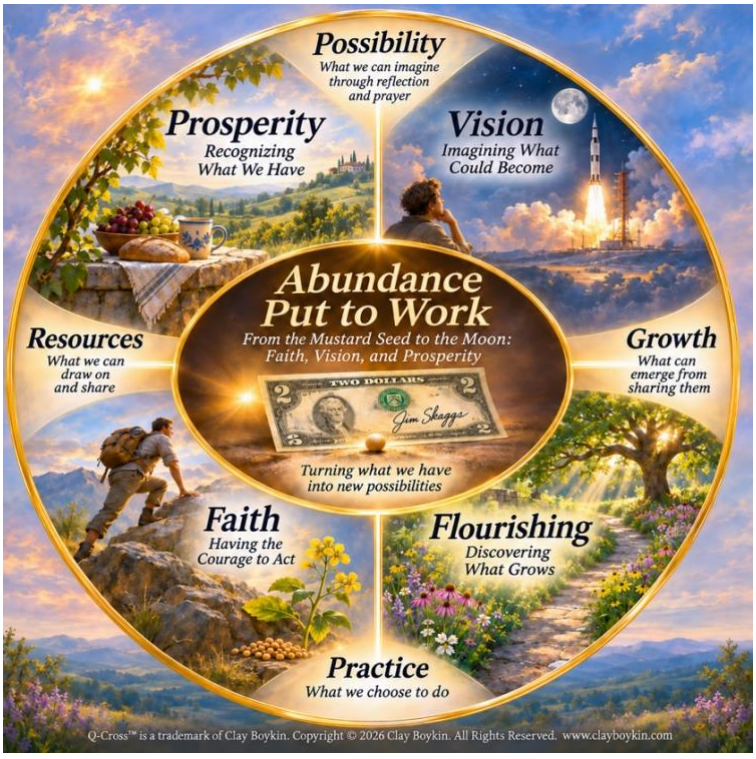
Faith, Vision, Prosperity, and Abundance Put to Work

In Matthew 17:20, Jesus speaks of faith as a mustard seed, suggesting that even something seemingly insignificant can move mountains. The passage is often understood as a lesson about the amount of faith we possess, yet its language and historical context invite us to consider another possibility. What if faith is not simply about how much we believe, but about what becomes possible when belief finds expression in our lives? Elsewhere in Matthew, the mustard seed represents something small that grows far beyond its beginnings. Together, these teachings invite us to explore the relationship between faith, vision, prosperity, and the willingness to act.

Jack Frick explores these themes with his special guest, Jim Skaggs, who at age 30 became one of NASA's six Directors of the Apollo Program and was the youngest official at his level in the federal government. Following the historic 1969 moon landing, Jim achieved success in numerous major business ventures, most recently pursuing advances toward a cure for cancer. His journey illustrates how faith, vision, and action can make the seemingly impossible possible. Yet moving mountains need not mean reaching the moon. Sometimes it begins with a simple two-dollar bill.

The Two-Dollar Bill

Someone gifts you a two-dollar bill bearing their signature. You receive it with gratitude. When the moment feels right, you add your signature, or sign a fresh two-dollar bill, and pass it to another person. As you do, tell that person why you thought of them, and invite them to carry the gesture forward. First issued by the U.S. Treasury in 1862, the uncommon bill has long been associated with luck and prosperity. Here, it becomes a reminder to receive with gratitude and give with love. Its monetary value remains unchanged, but its meaning grows with each exchange. We cannot know where it will travel, whose hands it will reach, or what kindness it might inspire.



Four Perspectives on Abundance

The Q-Cross™ to the left explores this exchange through two intersecting axes: **Resources and Growth**, representing what we have and what might emerge, and **Possibility and Practice**, representing what we can imagine and what we choose to do. Their relationships reveal four interconnected perspectives.

Prosperity — Recognizing What We Have. Prosperity is more than financial well-being. It includes our health, relationships, wisdom, time, and opportunities to contribute. Where Resources and Possibility meet, we recognize forms of abundance already present in our lives. Someone's encouragement, a lesson shared, or a simple act of kindness may become a resource we can offer to another.

Vision — Imagining What Could Become. Vision brings Growth and

Possibility together, allowing us to imagine something beyond our present circumstances. The Apollo program began with such a vision, long before anyone knew exactly how to accomplish it. In our own lives, vision may mean imagining a renewed relationship, a new direction, or an opportunity to serve. In the spirit of the words posted at our church, "With God all things are possible," we can ask what good might grow from what we already have.

Faith — Having the Courage to Act. Faith brings Resources and Practice together. It is the willingness to take a bold step without knowing exactly how things will unfold. The mustard seed reminds us that meaningful beginnings need not be impressive, while the image of moving mountains challenges our assumptions about what is possible. Faith asks us to act on what we believe is right, trusting that something meaningful may emerge, perhaps in ways we could never have imagined.

Flourishing — Discovering What Grows. Flourishing brings Growth and Practice together. It is the ongoing realization and expression of potential through meaningful action. More than happiness or success, flourishing is living fully, developing our capacities, and putting them into practice. Like the mustard seed, what begins small may grow beyond anything we imagined.

Abundance Put to Work

At the center of the Q-Cross is **Abundance Put to Work**. These four perspectives are not separate steps but interconnected ways of understanding how possibility becomes reality. Prosperity reveals what we have, Vision helps us imagine what might become, Faith gives us the courage to act, and Flourishing reveals what can emerge. Together, they invite something new rather than simply reinforcing what we already know.

The mustard seed, the Apollo moon landing, and the two-dollar bill represent very different expressions of possibility. Yet each reminds us that what begins as something small may become far greater than we can imagine. We need not put a human being on the moon to make a meaningful difference in someone's life. Sometimes the smallest gesture becomes the beginning of something extraordinary.

What bold step would you take today if you trusted that the right thing could unfold?

Acknowledgment and the Q-Cross™

This essay and its accompanying Q-Cross graphic were inspired by Jack Frick's reflections on the mustard seed and his conversation with Jim Skaggs. Jack is an insurance professional, educator, and longtime member of Unity Church of the Hills. Jim, a founding member of the church in 1995, brings a lifetime of experience in leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship, along with an enduring commitment to exploring new possibilities and making a difference in the lives of others.

The Q-Cross™ is a visual thinking companion that explores how different perspectives interact to reveal new possibilities. The ideas and experiences brought to an inquiry give rise to two axes whose intersection forms the center. Considering all four quadrants together can help us discover relationships and possibilities that might otherwise remain unseen.

The Q-Cross™ methodology was developed by Clay Boykin, life coach, facilitator, and author of *The Mandala Within: A Guide for Intuitive and Logical Minds* and *Circles of Men*: A Counterintuitive Guide to Creating Men's Groups. - clayboykin.com

Download Essay