

## The Butterfly Effect,

Ah, yes, Edward Lorenz and his meteorological work. They sought out to be able predict weather, and found it to be UN-predictable. In fact, his work PROVED it to be unpredictable. Well, to any degree much beyond looking out your kitchen window upwind. I mean, if the Coast Guard spots a hurricane 100 miles off shore moving 15 miles per hour in your direction - guess what! ... it will be there by morning! No, or should I say, YES! ... Lorenz's work was the beginning of the end ... *of the modern age*. Indeed the largest computer working on the simplest equation  $F = ma$  can't hammer even a stripped down weather model in a meaningful way out any significant distance into the future. Because of the ... The butterfly effect.

Do you know what this means to us as CHRISTIANS! Everything. Nothing less than EVERYTHING!!! Just as the weather is specifically undetermined out past a few hours or days - so our lives! So human history. So Jesus' coming. Could it be that a simple saint's prayer WITH FAITH has the effect of that little poof of air from that butterfly? ABSOLUTELY! Jesus said that if we have faith as small as a grain of mustard seed. Butterfly poof ... pretty small. Mustard seed ... pretty small. Faith as small as a poof of butterfly wind! ... global proportions ... may end up as part of a hurricane, or perhaps gentle rain, or peaceful snowfall.

Oh, yes, just as the weather will never get very many miles away from the surface of the earth (there are overall `bounds') - the unwritten history in front of us will never get outside the bounds of God's overall purposes. But the specifics, small and large (the *weather* in the analogy) - are yet entirely up to us.

So let us not feel the need to muster up *big* faith, `hurricane' faith (to change the world) - let us simply *have (poof) faith in God*. We don't need to roar - we just need to `poof'. Proper `poof'. Poofs of faith. `Poofs' with effectiveness. And mountains will move. Nations may be at sway. God's created universe is waiting for our poofs - so as to arrange tomorrow.

Matthew 17:20-21 ...

And Jesus said unto them, because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove: and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

I have always read this verse thinking - yikes - I need more prayer and fasting to be the more spiritually powerful.

But that doesn't make sense with what Jesus just told his disciples. They couldn't cast a demon out – and he was responding to their inquiry as to why (not). Could he be saying (as though to rub it in - drive home the point):

~~Howbeit~~ you people think this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

I wasn't there - so I don't know just *how* Jesus said it, or what he said exactly, or what he meant in what he said - but I do know Jesus is stripping the religion / religiosity out of my Christianity - and simply wants right 'poofs' that resonate with his creation, spiritual, natural, and personal.

Oh, could it be that even the most subtle poofs in our lives have cosmic consequences ... I dare say YES, absolutely.