

2. Developing Overcoming Faith

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Sub-title: We have a faith that speaks

In late May, we embarked on a new series of messages on the subject of faith, to (re)learn and be reminded of:

- what faith is
- how faith works
- how to get faith
- how to live by faith
- how to release faith into every area of our lives

1 John 5:4–5 (NIV) For everyone born of God overcomes the world. **This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.** 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

A. Jesus Christ will be looking for Faith at His 2nd Coming

Luke 18:8 (MSG) ... *how much of **that kind of persistent faith** will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?*

B. What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV84) Now *faith is **being sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see.*

C. Every Believer has been given the Measure of Faith

Romans 12:3 (ISV) ...*by the grace given to me I ask every one of you not to think of yourself more highly than you should think, rather to think of yourself with sober judgment on **the measure of faith that God has assigned each of you.***

D. All Things are Possible to him who Believes

Mark 9:23 (NKJV) **Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”!**

E. Faith always has an intended End-Goal

1 Peter 1:9 (NKJV) *Receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.*

1. Learning from a Faith Lesson from the Life of Jesus Christ

Matthew 21:18–22 (NKJV) *Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. 19 And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, “Let no fruit grow on you ever again.” Immediately **the fig tree withered away**. 20 And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, “How did the fig tree wither away so soon?” 21 So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done. 22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”*

- On the road between Jerusalem & Bethany, Jesus gave His disciples a lesson on how faith works
- He spoke to a fig tree (a thing!) & said: Let no fruit grow on you ever again
- His disciples took note that the fig tree withered away
- They asked Him how the fig tree had withered away so soon
- Jesus answered their question, and told them that they can use faith in the same way, and make it work for themselves for “whatever”

- First, there was a demonstration of faith
- Then, there was a question about faith
- Then, there was an answer to the question, and an expanded explanation about the use of faith for all areas of life

Let’s take a close look at Jesus’ answer to His disciples’ question:

Matthew 21:21–22 (NKJV) *So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done. 22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”*

- Jesus said: If you have faith ...
 - Romans 12: 3 says: We have been give the measure of faith ...
 - Romans 10: 17 says: Faith comes by hearing the Word of God ...
 - We have heard the Word preached, so we have faith now!
- ... and do not doubt ...
 - We are believers, not doubters!
- ... you will not only do what was done to the fig tree ...
 - We can speak to our own fig trees (things!) to practice our faith!
- ... but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done

- Here, Jesus shifts the discussion of faith declaration from fig trees to mountains
- Mountains are obstacles, and things to be conquered
- There is no point to speak to literal mountains, but we can certainly speak to mountainous obstacles in our lives, and see them removed
- ***And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.***
 - Jesus said: Whatever things ...
 - These “whatever things” need to be in line with God’s will for our lives
 - These “whatever things” need to be covered by one of God’s promises
- Conclusion: Prayer includes both:
 - Asking God for things
 - Speaking to things

The main point of Jesus’ faith lesson: We must learn to speak to things!

2. Jesus spoke to a fever

Luke 4:38–39 (NKJV) *Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. But Simon’s wife’s mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. 39 So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.*

- Jesus came for a visit to Simon Peter’s house
- Simon’s mother-in-law was sick with a high fever, and they asked Jesus concerning her
- He rebuked the fever, and it left her

Luke 4:39 (LB) *Standing at her bedside he spoke to the fever, rebuking it, and immediately her temperature returned to normal, and she got up and prepared a meal for them!*

The main point of this faith lesson: We must learn to speak to & rebuke sickness!

3. Speak the Word only, and my servant shall be healed

Matthew 8:5–10,13 (NKJV) *Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” 7 And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.” 8 The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having*

soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! ... 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

- A Roman centurion requested Jesus concerning his tormented servant
- Jesus said: I will come and heal him
- The centurion said: There is no need for you to come to my house
- ***But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.***
- The centurion then explained his understanding about faith. He said:
 - I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me
 - I say to this one "Go", and he goes
 - And to another "Come", and he comes
 - And to my servant "Do this" and he does it
- When Jesus heard the centurion's understanding of faith, He said:
 - I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel.
- He said to the Centurion: Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.

The main point of this faith lesson: To operate in great faith, we must:

- **Be under authority**
- **Speak & command from a position of authority**

4. We are a speaking spirit

- God created the whole universe by speaking (Genesis 1:3-25)
- We have been made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27)

2 Corinthians 4:13 (NKJV) *And since we have the same **spirit of faith**, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," **we also believe and therefore speak.***

- Faith comes by hearing
- Faith is released by speaking