

3. Developing Overcoming Faith

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Sub-title: Hold fast to the Confession of your Faith

We are journeying through a 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. Learning from a Faith Lesson from the Life of Jesus Christ

Matthew 21:19 (NKJV) *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.*

Main point of this faith lesson: We must learn to speak to things!

B. Jesus spoke to a Fever

Luke 4:39 (NKJV) 39 *So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.*

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

C. Speak the Word only, and my Servant shall be healed

Matthew 8:8 (NKJV) *The centurion answered and said, “Lord ... only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.*

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

- Be under authority & speak & command from a position of authority

D. We are a speaking spirit

God made us in His image and in His likeness

1. Jesus issues a Faith Command

Mark 11:12–14 (NKJV) *Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. 13 And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. 14 In response **Jesus said to it, “Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.”** And His disciples heard it.*

- This is Mark’s account of Jesus cursing the fig tree:
 - Jesus said: Let no one eat fruit from you ever again
- Vs 14 says: His disciples heard it
- Evidently, Jesus didn’t whisper or mumble to the fig tree
- Instead, He issued a strong faith command

2. We declare & decree things

Job 22:26–28 (NKJV) *For then you will have your delight in the Almighty, and lift up your face to God. 27 **You will make your prayer to Him, He will hear you, and you will pay your vows. 28 You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways.***

- This Scripture speaks about two different expressions of our faith:
 - i. Prayer to Almighty God (in the name of Jesus Christ)
 - ii. Declaring (decreeing) things, and speaking directly to things, conditions or circumstances
- The 1st expression of our faith (prayer to God) has to do with our God-given authority to approach God and ask for His help (Hebrews 4:16)
- The 2nd expression of our faith (issuing faith commands) has to do with our God-given authority in the earth to deal with things directly
- In the case of the fig tree, Jesus used His God-given authority as a man anointed with the Holy Spirit, to declare a thing, and it was established

Mark 11:20–21 (NKJV) *Now in the morning, as they passed by, **they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.”***

- Jesus’ words affected the tree from the roots upwards (from the unseen part of the tree to the seen part of the tree)
- Peter called Jesus words “cursing”

- Curse – Gr. *kataraoimai* - primarily signifies to pray against, to speak evil against a person or thing; hence to curse
- We need to realise that through our words, we release the power of either life or death (Proverbs 18:21)

3. Have the God-kind of Faith

Mark 11:22 (NKJV)... *Jesus answered and said to them, “**Have faith in God.**”*

- Have faith in God
- The footnote in the KJV translation says: **Have the faith of God**
- The Greek scholar A.T. Robertson says: **Have the God kind of Faith**

4. We can have what we say

Mark 11:23 (NKJV) *For assuredly, I say to you, whoever **says** to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he **says** will be done, he will have whatever he **says**.*

- Notice how the word ‘believe’ is only mentioned ‘once’, but the word ‘say’ is mentioned ‘three times’
- We should focus more on speaking than we do on believing

Luke 17:5–6 (NASB) *And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”⁶ And the Lord said, “**If you had faith** like a mustard seed, **you would say** to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and be planted in the sea’; and it would obey you.*

- Notice Jesus’ words: ... **If you had faith ... you would say ...**
- It’s not the size of our faith that counts, it’s what we do with what we have
- Again, Jesus equates having faith with speaking to things

5. Jesus Christ is the High Priest of our Confession

Hebrews 3:1 (NKJV) *Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, **consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus.***

- Jesus Christ is the Apostle sent from God to represent God before man
- Jesus Christ is also the High Priest to represent man before God

- Confession – Gr: homologia – homologeo
 - to say the same thing as another
 - to agree with, to declare
 - to verbally acknowledgment the truth
- Christianity is also called “The great Confession”
- Based on our confession of Jesus’ Lordship over our lives, Jesus represents us before the Father in heaven as one of His own
- Furthermore, He ensures that what we say will come to pass in our lives

Hebrews 4:14 (NKJV) *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast our confession.***

- Keep speaking the Word of God
- Keep declaring God’s will over your life
- Keep commanding that circumstances & situations line up with God’s will

6. Three areas to maintain a strong & bold confession of God’s Word

- Confession of who you are in Christ**
- Confession of what belongs to you in Christ**
- Confession of what you can do in Christ**

- Remember, we cannot rise above or move beyond the level of our confession