



LESSON 122 MARK 11:22-26

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. (Literally this is "Have the faith of God, " which Jesus defines for us in the next verse.) **23** 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. **24** Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

OTHER PRINCIPLES OF POWERFUL PRAYER

After you have forgiven anyone that the Lord reveals to you (refer to lesson 122), begin to pray against your problems as Jesus taught in this passage:

a. Have God's kind of faith. (v. 22) When God commands, He never doubts that what He has said will come to pass. That is the kind of faith we are to have, never doubting His Word will accomplish what He has said it will.

James 1:2-7 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Usually we believe too little, not too much.

b. The mountain represents anything bigger than you are or something that seems impossible to you. Speak aloud to the problem, not about it. (v. 23 "whoever says..."). Jesus practiced this. Here are two of many examples: **Mark 4:35-41, On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." ...And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"**

Luke 4:39-41 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. So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.

Why should we speak aloud? Faith has to be in two places: in our hearts and in our actions. True faith includes an action as a part of it. (James 2:20) Words spoken become an action, an outward

evidence of our faith, and are recorded in heaven. Spoken words, backed by faith based on the Word of God, directed by the Holy Spirit, and not doubted, are powerful.

A note about the direction of the Holy Spirit: He directed Jesus as to the fig tree, but notice He did not direct Jesus to move the nearby Mount of Olives, as a demonstration of the lesson being taught. It's important to listen to the Holy Spirit and do only what He tells you.

Why speak aloud? Did you know evil spirits cannot read our minds, only God can. **1 Kings 8:39** **whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spreads out his hands toward this temple: then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men), that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.**

So when we speak faith out loud, we declare the victory to the spirit realm, as if it were already done. Abraham did that, when he told Sarah, his wife, that the Lord had said they would have a child, even though both were well beyond the ability to conceive a child...sounds like a mountain for sure! **Romans 4:16-21** **Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he (Abr) believed — God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; (Abraham) who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb (she had been barren all the years of her marriage). He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He (God) had promised He was also able to perform.**

A part of faith is expectation. Faith believes and then looks to see the fulfillment of the request that very day, or if not that one, the next day, etc. Faith rests on the Word, the promise of God, and believes 'till the manifestation of it occurs. Faith begins to thank the Lord for the answer when yet the answer is unseen, just as Abraham did, "**giving glory to God...**"

c. Be specific. (v 23 "**whoever says to this mountain, be removed and be cast into the sea**") ...address the problem and tell it where to go, what to do, etc. Actually there wasn't a sea close to where they stood, so Jesus was also saying, "Call for it to disappear completely." You are using the authority that the Lord Jesus gave you. It is not your power; it is the power of His name and the authority He has given each believer.

d. Do not doubt what you have prayed. (v 23 "**and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done,...**") Remember **James 1:6-7** **But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**

This is an important point. Your faith is like a key that unlocks a door that looks chained shut. However, many times we start out in faith and when something doesn't happen immediately, we let doubt enter the picture. The devil sends us an idea that our prayers aren't good enough, we're

not worthy, we didn't use the right words, etc. The devil tries to get us to focus on ourselves, rather than on God and what He said. Don't fall into that trap.

If we knew we had the right key to the door, we wouldn't give up; we'd keep expecting it to work. Powerful prayer is the same. We don't get to put a time limit on God to answer our prayer. He may have things that must readied in other people's hearts, or be put into operation before the answer can come, but we can begin to thank Him for the answer as if it were already manifest, and trust Him as to the timing of it. Abraham did not waver at the promise of God but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God (which, I'm sure, included thanks for the son to come, and was fully convinced that what He (God) had promised He was also able to perform.

e. Expect the results you have asked for, or something even better than your imagination could produce. **Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

God is sovereign. He teaches us to pray powerfully and boldly (**Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**), but we must never get presumptuous and think that God is our servant and He must do as we say. God responds to His Word, our faith in it, and our humility, not our arrogance. **Isaiah 66:2 “Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool...For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist,” Says the Lord. “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.** Heaven moves in response to a forgiving, believing, obedient Christian.

There's so much more in the study of prayer and faith, but that's all for now.

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