



Daily Verse and Comment

Matthew 17:17-21

(17) Then Jesus answered *and* said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you *in your unbelief*? Bring him here to Me." (18) And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it departed from him; and the boy was healed from that hour. (19) Then the disciples came to Jesus privately *and* said, "Why were we not able to cast it out?" (20) And Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a *tiny* mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Remove from here,' and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you. (21) But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Mark 9:23-29

(23) And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to the one who believes." (24) And the father of the little child cried out at once, saying with tears, "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief." (25) Then Jesus, seeing that the multitude was running together, rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and dumb spirit, I command you to come out of him, and you are not allowed to go into him any more!" (26) And after crying out and throwing him into severe convulsions, it came out; and he became as dead, so much so that many said, "He is dead." (27) But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. (28) And when He came into a house, His disciples asked Him apart, "Why were we not able to cast it out?" (29) Then He said to them, "This kind cannot be made to go out by anything except prayer and fasting."

A Faithful Version

This miracle teaches that *it takes the power of [faith](#) to overcome the enemy* ([Matthew 17:20](#); [Mark 9:19](#), 23-24). Why had the nine disciples failed? They

had been careless in their personal spiritual walks and had neglected prayer and fasting ([Mark 9:29](#)). The authority that [Jesus](#) had given them was effective only if exercised by faith, but faith must be cultivated through spiritual discipline and devotion. The apostle Paul uses Abraham as an example of this:

No unbelief *or* distrust made him waver (doubtingly question) concerning the promise of [God](#), but he grew strong *and* was empowered by faith as he gave praise *and* glory to God, fully satisfied *and* assured that God was able *and* mighty to keep His word *and* to do what He had promised. That is why his faith was credited to him as righteousness (right standing with God). ([Romans 4:20-22](#), *The Amplified Bible*)

Half of the healings Christ performed happened due to the prayer of loved ones and friends. The father of the demon-possessed boy remains a monument of faith, timid yet true, through his [love](#) for his boy. His pleading, "Have compassion on us, and help us," was highly honored by Jesus.

The key to the exercise of such faith is not its quantity, but the God to whom it is directed; therefore, even the smallest faith—"like a mustard seed"—will see spectacular results ([Luke 17:5-6](#); [Matthew 17:20](#)). Jesus says in [Mark 9:23](#), "All things are possible to him who believes." Faith acts as [an open door](#) into a relationship with God and as a shield that protects God's people when they are under spiritual attack.

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:

[The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Exorcising a Young Boy \(Part One\)](#)

Related Topics:

[Exercise of Faith](#)

[Neglected Prayer and Fasting](#)

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