



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? Bring him here to Me." (18) And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. (19) Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" (20) So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. (21) However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Mark 9:23-29

(23) Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes.' (24) Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" (25) When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" (26) Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, 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 had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, 'Why could we not cast it out?' (29) So He said to them, 'This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.'

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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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