

## “Faith Like Jesus”

*Scripture: Mark 11:13-24*

The Christian faith is just that ‘Faith’. Before we were called Christians, we were called ‘people of the faith.’ For some time, ‘we were referred to’ as belonging to or of the Faith. In Acts 13:8, Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. However in Acts 14:22, Paul, through his teachings, taught about ‘confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, understanding we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.’ Therefore, Christians were called as being of the faith. However, we were not yet called Christians until after the Gospel had reached the Gentile world. In Acts 11:26, the Bible said, “And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.” When looking at these scripture references, we see how important and vital faith is to the Christian’s life. As Christians, we are to seek the face of God, and please God, by performing good works. Good works does **NOT** save us but through our salvation, we are saved **FOR** good works. Paul stated in Ephesians 2:10 that ‘we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.’ In Titus 3:8, the apostle Paul states ‘these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.’ Therefore since our salvation is not of works, we cannot boast as if we earned it. It was only obtained by grace through faith in the redemptive work of Christ. Without Faith, as we see in scripture, it would be IMPOSSIBLE to please God (Hebrews 11:6). However, it is through the faith we place in Jesus Christ that allows us to receive the rewards God has for those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). By understanding the foundation faith plays in one’s life, we can go back and look at Jesus demonstrating faith to the disciples. This story, found in the gospel of Mark, serves to teach us about faith. Let’s take a look at the story of the cursed fig tree in Mark 11.

“And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it. (Mark 11:13-14). Now skip down to verse 20, “And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them (Mark 11:20-24). When we look at this passage a few questions may arise. Do you really believe Creator of all living things, which included the trees, didn’t know that

the fig tree didn't have any fruit on it? Do you believe this tree, the tree that he made, tricked Jesus? I don't think so. I believe Jesus allowed this in order to teach his disciples to 'have faith in God.' In fact, the Bible reveals that Peter remembered what happened the previous day and what Jesus said to the fig tree. He remembered Jesus cursed the now withered tree. But notice Jesus' response. It was a short but clear statement. "Have faith in God." Clearly Jesus was not seeking glory, but rather was teaching a kingdom principle, 'have faith in God.' Jesus went on to reveal that faith can and would move mountains along with anything else you needed, ***IF*** you believed when you pray. Do you trust He can move your mountains? Do you believe He is able to speak to your situation and bring about a different outcome? Do you ***REALLY*** 'have Faith In God?'

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, help me to really put my faith and trust in you. Regardless of my circumstances, allow your light to shine through my darkness. Teach me your ways by creating avenues for my faith to be displayed. Though it may not always be easy, give me the strength to face whatever mountain, or valley, that stands in my way. In Jesus Name, AMEN!*

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