

THE LAW OF FAITH By Sam Fife

In this study we are going to share with you one of the greatest teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ on faith that is found in all the Bible. We will read from Mark 11: 12-24, then go back as the Spirit of God leads us and search out each wonderful truth.

Mark 11:12-24 And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: [13] 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. [14] And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it. [15] And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; [16] And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple. [17] And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves. [18] And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine. [19] And when even was come, he went out of the city. [20] And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. [21] And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. [22] And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. [23] 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. [24] Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. (the translation here does not make the past tense thought as clear as the original Greek. The original Greek reads, "Therefore I say unto you, ALL things whatsoever you desire when you pray, believe that you HAVE RECEIVED them and you shall have them.")

Now we are going to go back in order that we may lay a foundation and tell the story in our own words. One afternoon more than 1900 years ago, Jesus and his disciples were walking into the city of Jerusalem from the hills outside of Jerusalem to teach in the Temple.

Jesus was hungry. He saw the fig tree and He thought perhaps there might be figs on it. But then the time of figs was not yet. Jesus cursed the fig tree. He said to it, "You'll die, no man will ever eat fruit of you hereafter forever."

Then He walked on by it, into the city of Jerusalem. He cast the evil moneychangers out of the Temple and taught. there, Then that evening they came back out and spent the night in the hills outside of Jerusalem.

Then the next morning as they were passing by going back into the city, Peter saw that the fig tree Jesus cursed had really died. He said, "Look Master, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. "Then Jesus said, "Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say to this mountain be moved and doubt not in his heart that which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, ALL things whatsoever you desire when you pray, believe that you have received them and you shall have them."

The first thing that we want to see is the reason Jesus cursed the fig tree. It certainly was not because he was angry with it, because there were no figs on it. Our Lord never foolishly lost His temper like that. Besides, the Bible says the time of figs was not yet.

When I was a young seminarian, I was presented another view of why Jesus cursed this fig tree, a view that seemed very plausible and almost for some years made me miss the real truth that is here. That was the view that the fig tree was barren, therefore, a type of barren Israel. Jesus put the curse on it as a prophecy that Israel would be cursed by God.

I accepted this at that time. But I went back and studied the context of this Scripture. We find Jesus cursing the fig tree certainly had something to do with His teachings to His disciples on having faith in God, as it was used as an example, as a springboard from which He taught them to have faith in God.

This brings us to the real truth of why Jesus cursed the fig tree. He did it to show His disciples what

faith can do. He knew that it would be recorded in the Holy Word of God for every generation. He did it as the Spirit of God led Him, TO SHOW US ALSO what faith can do. He did it in order that He might show His disciples, by example, that there is a power that operates through faith that can cause a fig tree to die simply by one who has the faith, speaking the word of faith. It was for this reason he demonstrated to them what He was going to teach them the next day with words - the power that is ours through faith.

The second thing that we want to see is the way Jesus cursed this fig tree. He said to it, no man will eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever, Now the fig tree did not die as soon as Jesus put the curse on it. If it had, Peter would have seen that it was dead right then. But Peter did not notice that it was dead until the next morning when they were passing by. It died sometime during the night. When Jesus walked away from that fig tree, the leaves on it were just as green as they were before He spoke the words which put the curse on it. Nevertheless, it was a dead fig tree because Jesus had believed it was done in His heart. Because Jesus had done what He taught His disciples the next day to do. He had believed He had received it, and therefore, it was done. This is God's definition of faith: believing that you have received something BEFORE you have received it. It does not take faith to believe you have received it after you have received it. We will have more to say about that in a moment.

Thirdly, I would like for you to see the simplicity in the faith of Jesus. He looked at the fig tree, and He talked to it just like He might be talking to a person. He spoke to the fig tree, He said, "You will die." In simple faith, He spoke the WORD OF FAITH. So we see the childlike simplicity of the faith of Jesus, and we begin to learn a little bit of the secret as to the power of Jesus and the reason for it. We begin to learn a little bit of what He meant when He said to us, "Except ye become converted and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of Heaven."

Now if someone were to see me talking to a fig tree today, right away they would want to call the paddy wagon to come with a straight jacket and haul me away. That is because a thing called "Simplicity - childlikeness" has come into disrepute in our sophisticated world today, and a thing called sophistication has become the god of humanity today. It is when we come back to the simple childlike faith that enabled Jesus to look at that fig tree, and in simple faith speak to it, talk to it, speak the word of faith as He said to it, "You'll die. No man will ever eat fruit of you hereafter forever," that we too will begin once again to see the power of God. It will be when we become converted and become like little children, with that simple childlike, unsophisticated faith that He had in His Father, that we'll begin to see the power and the glory of God again in the world.

So Jesus cursed the fig tree. He walked away as the leaves were still green; it died sometime during the night. He went on into the city of Jerusalem. He taught in the temple after casting out the moneychangers. Then they went back and spent the night in the hills outside Jerusalem.

The next morning as they came by, Peter saw that fig tree had really died. Like most people when they see a miracle, Peter was astonished. He cried, "Look Master, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away."

Then Jesus carried out the rest of His plan. He began to teach them with words what He had already shown them by example - the power of faith. He said, "Yes Peter, have faith in God." In other words, He said, "Peter, I did this to teach you, to show you what faith in God can do." Then He tells us in His next words what faith can do, the kind of faith God wants us to have.

In His next words He says, "For verily I say unto you," that word "verily," beloved, means truly or of a truth. It emphasizes to us the fact that Jesus was about to reveal something that is absolutely true. "For truly I say unto you, whosoever shall say unto this mountain be moved, and doubt not in his heart it shall come to pass." Now that word "whosoever" means YOU, dear friend. That word "whosoever" includes you sick person. No matter how little you are, no matter how sick you are, no matter how the enemy has beat you down, Jesus is speaking to you when He says whosoever. Whosoever does not just mean the apostles. Whosoever does not mean the first century Christians. Whosoever does not just mean the priest or the preacher. Whosoever means YOU.

Jesus said, "Whosoever shall say unto this mountain." Now He was talking about a literal rock and dirt mountain. Sometimes we try to spiritualize this verse, but Jesus was talking about a literal rock and dirt

mountain, because He was standing on the Mount of Olives outside of Jerusalem. He did not say "Whosoever shall say unto a mountain;" He said, "Whosoever shall say unto THIS mountain be moved, and doubt not in his heart, it shall be done unto him."

If I were to say to YOU that it is possible for YOU to speak to a mountain, and command it to be moved and rise up and float into the sea, and if you did not doubt in your heart that it will come to pass and see it done, everything within you would probably cry out, "Oh no, not me!" But you would be wrong, because Jesus Christ the Son of God said, "Whosoever." You see, Jesus took the biggest thing that He could think of, a mountain, and He stuck it before us and He said, this is what faith can do. Then in His next words He gives the key, when He says: "Whosoever shall say unto this mountain be moved, and doubt not in his heart that that which He saith shall come to pass." THE KEY IS DOUBTING NOT IN YOUR HEART, in our inner being, in that part of our being which our psychiatrists call our subconscious mind. When we speak the word of faith, whether it be for the moving of a mountain or whether it be for the moving of the mountains that stand in our way in our lives, and doubt not in our heart, Jesus said, "IT SHALL COME TO PASS."

Now, "shall come to pass" does not necessarily denote right now. This is the problem with so many people. They pray, and if their prayer is not answered immediately then they begin to doubt in their heart. Then they get discouraged, and then they give up. They are defeated and when they do not get the answer to their prayer they think there is something wrong with God or God's word. But you see, "shall come to pass" can denote one minute from now, one hour from now or one week from now. We leave the time element in God's hands. The believing element is in our hands.

Jesus said, "Whosoever shall say unto the mountain be moved, and doubt not in his heart that that which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith." Notice the last words of this verse, "He shall have whatsoever he saith." This is the Son of God speaking. It is not maybe, not possibly, but HE SHALL HAVE WHATSOEVER HE SAITH.

In Jesus' taking the biggest thing that He could think of, a mountain, He has set it before us as our potential, our goal. He said, "This is what the power of faith can do." Beloved, we only have to believe there is a power that emanates forth from the nature of God that operates when we believe.

We do not have to do anything, all we have to do is believe and doubt not in our heart. When we do, the power that comes forth from the nature of God will move the mountain, will bring the answer. Now possibly you do not have the faith to move a mountain right now. That is well and good because there is no value in moving mountains anyway, for the sake of moving mountains. Jesus did not give us this great truth just so that we would go around moving mountains.

I remember well some years ago as I was pastoring in the city of New Orleans. One of the deacons of the church called me one night from the Charity Hospital in that city. He was standing at the bedside of his niece, she was a young girl of about 20 years old. The doctors had just told her mother that they must give her up, there was nothing more that they could do for her. She would be dead before morning. It was about midnight then. He asked if I would come down to the hospital and pray for her. Of course, I said I would. This young woman lived about 100 miles from the city of New Orleans.

Her story was that she had been going with a young man and had gotten with child out of wedlock. Filled with fear she had gone to an abortionist to have an abortion performed. The abortionist had botched the job, gangrene had set in by the time her mother had finally discovered the case and brought her to the hospital in New Orleans. It was too late for the doctors to do anything for her. She had been in a coma for some time when I was called. The doctors had said she would be dead before morning.

I drove to the hospital, and I walked to the emergency room where the young woman was laying in a coma with her mother standing by her side, and walked in. There was also a minister there from the town in which the young woman lived. (The pastor of the church her mother attended.) I walked up to the young woman's bedside, and I laid my Bible on her head as an act of faith. I looked up to my Father in Heaven and said, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, she is healed from this moment forth. I believe that I have received it." And I turned around and walked out of the room.

The minister that was there followed me out of the room quite visibly upset. He said to me, "You should not pray like that. You should not give that mother false hope. You should pray for God to heal her if it be Thy will." I said, "God did not tell me to pray if it be Thy will. Jesus told me when I pray, believe I

have received it." I went on to explain to him that Jesus said, "Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be moved, and doubt not in his heart that that which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith." Then he said to me very wisely, "Oh, but you are not moving any mountains." I said, "No, that's true. I'm not moving any mountains, neither did Jesus go around moving mountains but He got a lot of sick people healed. He got a lot of blind eyes opened. He got a lot of deaf ears unstopped."

You see, there is no value in moving mountains, beloved. Jesus did not give us this teaching so we would go around trying to move mountains. He did it to show us what faith can do. Though you may not have the faith to move a mountain right now, if you will make that your goal, and strive toward that kind of faith, you'll move a lot of little mountains out of your life on the way up to that goal. Three days after I prayed for this young woman that night, she was sitting up in a wheel chair in the hospital. Three weeks later I was called to go to the hospital to bid her good-bye. She stood beside her bed and bid me good-bye, she was completely healed and on her way home.

There is no sickness that is so great that the same power with which Jesus killed that fig tree, by the speaking of the word of faith cannot heal it. There is no person who is so sick or so small that they cannot believe and take authority over that sickness, through the word of faith as Jesus spoke it, and see it healed. He said, "ALL things whatsoever ye desire when you pray at the time that you pray, believe that you have received them." Do not believe that you will receive them or hope that you might receive them later on, or think that you might receive them. Jesus said that when you get done praying, believe it is done, even though it does not appear to be done because you see, that is God's definition of faith – believing you've got something when you haven't got it yet. If you have it already, it does not take faith to believe you have it. If you can see it coming to you, it does not take real faith to believe it is coming. But to believe you have it before you have it, to believe that you have received it when you get done praying is God's definition of faith. This is what Jesus did with the fig tree. He spoke the word of faith. When He walked away from the fig tree, the leaves were just as green as before He spoke the word, but the thing was done. The fig tree was dead because Jesus had believed, He had received it.

I shall never forget when God taught me this great truth. As a minister up until a few years ago, I had had stomach ulcers for 15 years. Every night of my life for those 15 years, I had to walk the floor in tremendous pain for two and sometimes three or four hours a night. Sometimes I would lay down and roll on the floor to try to get relief. Many people have stomach ulcers where they can eat light foods and get along. Mine were much worse than that. I could not eat any kind of food or drink a glass of milk even without it throwing me into tremendous pain. The doctors had long since given up hope of "healing" me. They told me I would just have to learn to live with it.

As a minister, I had prayed many times over the years for God to heal my stomach ulcers - if it be His will - to no result. Then one morning several years ago, I was sitting in the sanctuary of my church studying the Bible, I came to this verse of Scripture where Jesus said, "All things whatsoever ye desire, when you pray, believe that ye have received them and ye shall have them."

Suddenly the Lord spoke two things to me from that verse.

First, He said "all" things certainly included the healing of my stomach ulcers. Then He showed me the key to prayer that I had never seen before that Jesus taught, "When you pray, when you finish praying, believe you have received it." When I saw that, I knelt in the sanctuary of the church, I laid my hand on my stomach and I prayed, "Lord, from this moment forth I believe these stomach ulcers are healed". I rose up believing that it was done.

It certainly did not appear to be done for I still had the same pains every night after that for the next month. They even got worse, but the worse they got, the more I realized the devil was only trying to make me doubt in my heart. The more the Spirit of God reminded me of the words of Jesus, "Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and shall not doubt in his heart," the more I believed. One month later I went to bed and slept all night without a pain for the first time in 15 years. I was healed of those stomach ulcers, and I have never had a pain from them since,

Healing by the power of God in the name of Jesus through the prayer of faith is just as scientific as any science that we have in the earth today. For you see, when Jesus said, "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," He was not

revealing any promise that originated with Him. He was simply revealing and unveiling God's great LAW OF FAITH which has been in the world since time began waiting for Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to come and unveil it for mankind.

The reason doctors can help people to get healed is not because they have any power of their own, but because they have discovered certain divine laws which God set in the earth when He instituted the earth. There is a law that says if one kidney stops functioning the doctor can operate and take it out, the other kidney will take up its function beginning to do its work. The person can go on living normally. The doctors did not make this true, they only discovered that it was true. It had been true, a law of God since time began.

There is another law that says if you inject a certain drug into the blood stream, your nervous system will react in a certain way and pain will stop. Again the doctors did not make it true, they only discovered that it was true.

When Mr. Wright flew the airplane some 60 years ago, he did it because he discovered a law that said when the propeller turned up at the right amount of revolutions, the plane would stay in the air. Mr. Wright did not make it true. He only discovered that it was true. Jesus said, "Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and doubt not in his heart that which he saith shall come to pass," He did not make it true. He was only revealing to us God's highest law - the law of faith. This is God's highest law. The law of faith is the highest law of God because its supersedes and overrules and makes all the lesser laws obsolete.

The kidney law can only make the kidney functions The drug law can only stop pain. The airplane law can only fly the airplane. But, the law of faith is all-inclusive. It can heal the kidney, stop the pain, and fly the airplane. Of this law Jesus said, "ALL things unto the moving of a mountain, whatsoever ye desire when you pray, believe that ye have receive them and ye shall have them."

"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, nothing shall be impossible unto you". The, simple truth is, when God made this world He instituted it on many divine laws. There are many different kinds of God's laws. There are physical laws, technical laws, scientific laws, spiritual laws, medicinal laws, etc.

All of you have read the story in the Bible of Peter walking upon the water that night long ago. Few have seen just how he did it. Peter walked upon the water that night because he met the condition of God's highest law, the law of faith. As Jesus stood upon the water, He inspired Peter to meet the condition of God's highest law, the law of faith. The story goes that Peter saw Jesus standing on the water. He said, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come to thee." Jesus said, "Peter, come, you can do it too." Peter stepped out on the water, and began to walk.

Now there were lesser laws of God that said Peter was supposed, to sink when he stepped on that water, the law of gravity, the law of density, all the scientific laws which are merely laws of God. But, inspired by Jesus, Peter appealed to the supreme court which overruled and superseded the law of gravity and all the lesser laws and enabled Peter to walk upon that water. But only as long as he was meeting the condition of the law of faith, because you will remember the record reads that he was walking on top of the water, but then it says when he saw the wind boisterous, he became afraid. He began to sink, When fear replaced faith in his heart, the condition of God's law of faith was no longer met, therefore, Peter began to sink.

So we see that Jesus came to reveal to us God's great law of faith by which we can receive the power and the blessing of God. Jesus comes into our hearts today to teach us, to reveal to us, God's great law of faith - how to meet its conditions with the words, "When you pray, believe that you have received them and ye shall have them."

The reason Jesus died on Calvary's cross was to shed His blood to cleanse us of our sins so that the Holy Spirit could enter into us. The Bible says, "When the other comforter comes, he will lead you into all truths", or reveal to us God's great laws of faith inspiring us to meet their conditions that we can believe we have received it and receive it unto the moving of a mountain.

Now when Mr. Wright flew the airplane for the first time some sixty years ago, the record tells us that he was only able to fly it about 1100 feet and only got it about 4 feet off the ground the first time. This was because his knowledge of the law which caused the airplane to fly and his confidence in that law was very small at that time. But as men's understanding and knowledge of the laws by which the airplane can fly

increased, their confidence in those laws have increased. They have placed bigger and bigger planes higher and higher in the air until now they are sending space ships into outerspace.

Even so, the reason we see so few miracles in the Christians and in the church today is because the knowledge of the people of God concerning God's great law of faith and their confidence in that law is very small. But as the Spirit of God is poured out, and as the truth of God is poured out, God's people's knowledge of the divine law of faith and their confidence in that law increases, you will see greater and bigger and more powerful miracles. You will then see people when they pray not begging God to answer their prayer, not pleading with God but doing what Jesus said, speaking the word of faith and believing they have received it, doubting not in their heart that it will come to pass, and they shall have it.

No matter what your sickness is, dear, no matter how serious it is, the law of faith is all sufficient to get you healed. All you have to do is pray the prayer of faith and believe that you have received it doubting not in your heart that it shall come to pass day by day until it manifests itself, and **YOU SHALL RECEIVE IT.**

I will never forget some years ago, I was preaching on the radio in New Orleans from this passage of scripture. I closed my sermon saying to the people in the radio audience, "I should like to pray with you the prayer of faith for your healing. As we bow our heads and pray together, I'm going to believe I have received it, and if **YOU** believe you have received it and you did not get healed, then the stars would fall out of Heaven because Jesus Christ would have told a lie. "A week or so after that a young cab driver stopped by my home in his taxi. He told me he had been driving down the road in his taxi cab listening to my radio broadcast. He had been suffering with diabetes for years. He said. "As you spoke those words- if you believe you have received it and you do not get healed then the stars would fall out of Heaven because Jesus Christ would have told a lie- those words gave me the faith to believe God for my healing. "God was healing him and so He will you, dear friend. Believe you have received it, and you shall have it. May God help each one of you who are sick, who read this, no matter how serious your sickness is, to start today and speak to the mountain, speak the word of faith, believe you have received it and doubt not in your heart day by day until it come to pass, you shall receive what you have asked for

Do not consider that because your sickness is very serious that God's law of faith is not sufficient to meet your need. Sometimes we think to ourselves, well God could heal a headache, and would heal a headache but I have cancer or I have Leukemia, we doubt that God can heal that. But you see, beloved, God is omnipotent and all powerful, a cancer is no bigger to Him than a pain in your big toe. It is only in our consciousness and in our minds that one of these things is more serious and bigger than another; it is not so in the mind of God. God can heal your cancer just as easily as He can heal your headache or the pain in your big toe because in His mind one is no bigger than the other. A flick of the finger of God can heal one as He can the other. So do not say in your heart, "My sickness is too serious, or I am too crippled, or I am too afflicted." You can start believing today, and doubt not in your heart that it shall come to pass no matter how long it takes, believing God daily will move that mountain, and your sickness will be healed.

May God help each one of you to take your faith that is in the name of Jesus and through the operation of God's great law of faith, rise up against whatever particular sickness or whatever burden you have, command the mountain to be moved, and then begin your day by day battle. You see, the fight begins **AFTER** you have spoken the word of faith. Jesus said to command the mountain to be moved and then doubt not in your heart until it comes to pass. **THEN** is when you really begin to believe. **THEN** is when you begin to battle the powers of the enemy, daily affirming and doubting not in your heart that it is done until it comes to pass. Your sickness will be healed, and your need shall be met.

May God help you to rise up and claim it, in Jesus name. Amen

The next study "HOW TO GROW IN FAITH" is of great importance as the following step in this study.