

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Standing on the Essence of God - -

Psalms 71:19 For Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You?

Matthew 21:18-22

Now in the morning, when He was returning to the city, He became hungry.

- Who is “**He**” that is hungry?

Colossians 1:13-17 . . . His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created **through Him** and **for Him**. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

¹⁹ Seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it except leaves only [*leaves indicate life in the tree, yet this tree had no fruit*]. . .

- What is the fig tree designed to do?
 - It was designed to produce figs – to bear fruit.
 - It was designed to do what the Creator designed it to do; yet it is not doing that.
 - It was exactly where it was supposed to be.
 - It was there to provide food for its Creator.

. . . and He said to it, “**No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you.**” And at once the fig tree **withered**.

- ξηραίνω – XERAINO – “*To dry up; to wither; to become dry*”

When something dries up or withers, is it usable?

*Consider its **design** – its **function!***

Ephesians 2:10 “***We are . . . created in Christ Jesus***”

As God’s workmanship, are you where God wants you to be, doing what God has designed you to do?

Do you have that malleability [*yieldedness*]? That willingness to do **what** God wants you to do; **where** He wants you to do it?

POD [*in review*] - **Faith** and **prayer** must accompany the one who wishes to do the will of the Father.

²⁰ Seeing *this*, the disciples were amazed and asked, “How did the fig tree wither *all* at once?” ²¹ And Jesus answered and said to them, “Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain [*a literal, physical mountain*], ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ **it will happen**. ²² “And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

Are you willing to take God at His word?

²² “And all things you ask in prayer, **believing**, you will receive.”

➤ **Believing** – πιστεύω – PISTEUO - “To believe, to trust, to depend”

Believing – **trusting** in God to do what He has promised in His word; honor His promises - to sustain you.

Believing – **depending** on God to plant you on the side of the road where the Savior needs you; to produce in you what He desires.

- - - **Believing** - - -

- Why don't we venture where we should in the throne room of grace?
 - Why do we tip toe around in the presence of the living God?
- Why are our prayers less than honoring for our King – *the King of Kings*?

Do we really believe?

Luke 10:21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit (τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἁγίῳ), and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent [*wise & intelligent*], and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

The Pharisees had so much Biblical knowledge - they knew the Hebrew Bible inside and out!

But they never got it!

- What is it that **babe** - νήπιος – NEPIOS - “A very young child” portrays here?
- *How does a young child approach his father?*
- What limits childlike faith and dependence?

What limits your faith and dependence?

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.