

***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).

**Isaiah 55:11** So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

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**Luke 9:43-45** And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. But while everyone was marveling at all that He was doing, He said to His disciples,

<sup>44</sup> “Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.” <sup>45</sup> But they did not understand this statement, and it was concealed from them so that they would not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this statement.

- At this point, the Lord and the disciples return to the house where the nine disciples lodged while the Lord, Peter, James, & John were on Mt. Hermon during the transfiguration.
- It was a quiet walk back to the house but when they arrived, the disciples asked the Lord why they failed to cast the demon out.

**Matthew 17:19-21** Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not drive it out?” <sup>20</sup> And He said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith;

- **Littleness of your faith** - ὀλιγοπιστίαν ὑμῶν - literally “*your little faith*”
- ὀλιγοπιστία – OLIGOPISTA - *littleness of faith or poverty of faith (impoverished faith)*

Corrected Translation - *Because of your impoverished faith*

<sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not drive it out?” <sup>20</sup> And He said to them, *Because of your impoverished faith. . .*

*. . . for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed. . .*

Faith the size of a mustard seed is a little faith – what counts is the quality of one’s faith.

*. . . you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.*

- A **mountain** is tantamount to an obstacle in fulfilling the will of God; an impediment.
- Faith does not remove the obstacles in the believer’s life – it is the Lord Who removes them as a result of the believer’s trust in Him.

Verse 21 it is not there in the original.

<sup>21</sup> [~~“But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”~~]

Turn to **Mark 9:29**.

**Mark 9:29** And He said to them, “This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer.”

**Prayer** – dependence on the Lord in the throne of grace – FAITH!

**POD:** A little faith in the throne of grace is all one needs to set the Lord in motion to accomplish great things.

**POD:** That little faith must be a deep seated trust in the Lord to act on behalf of your request.

- Note **John 14:13**.
- It's not a matter of whether you didn't believe enough; what matters is the quality of your faith.

**James 1:6-7** But he must ask in faith without any doubting [*trusting the Lord with an attitude of expectancy*], for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

- Deep seated personal trust when exercised in the throne of grace expects God to act.
- That is faith which sets God in motion - a simple matter of trusting.

**Matthew 17:22-** And while they were gathering together in Galilee. . .



. . . Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; <sup>23</sup> and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day.” And they were deeply grieved.

- He keeps reminding them about His physical death. Repetition is important in teaching.
- The first time back in Caesarea-Philippi they did not understand it; now they are “**deeply grieved.**”
- They are growing in the knowledge of Christ.

Look at this **thread of failure** in the life of the disciples.

1. **Matt. 14:14-17** Failure because of impoverished faith
2. **Matt. 14:26-27** Afraid because of impoverished faith

- Vs. 29 victory
- Vs. 30 failure
- Vs. 31 the reason – “You of little faith, why do you doubt?”

**3. Matt. 15:15-16** *A lack of understanding*

**4. Matt. 15:32-33** *A lack of faith*

**Matt. 16:5-11; 16:22-23; 17:4-5 and 17:16**

The disciples experienced failures in the spiritual life as they advanced!

- Now maybe you understand how grieved the Lord was when He said “O unbelieving generation how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you?”

**POD: Success in the spiritual life hinges on the quality of your faith in the Lord.**

The power available to you for the execution of the spiritual life is not your power - it is God’s power.

The power available to you is available through His Spirit who indwells you.

The believer who is not properly adjusted to the Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit will lack that power!

That power is directly related to a **walk of faith.**

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