

## Avails Much 2 – The Collision of Faith and Prayer

Dr. John Carmichael

[Mar 11:22-24 NASB95] 22 And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. 23 "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be [granted] him. 24 "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be [granted] you.

[Mat 21:21-22 NASB95] 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, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen. 22 "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

- Christian atheists are a thing. In a broad sense, people who live the Christian values, with no real belief in the existence of God. Yet, I propose another version of Christian atheists who “live” like God does not exist even though they “live” for God.
- Jesus has just cursed the fig tree, and it withered. This was a visible demonstration of authority released through faith and spoken word.
- The disciples marvel, but Jesus uses this moment to teach how faith and prayer intertwine.
- Many try to separate faith and prayer, but here Jesus binds them together. Prayer is the voice of faith, and faith is the power of prayer.

**What does Jesus teach us about faith and prayer from these passages?**

**Here are three truths about faith and prayer from these passages.**

### **I. Faith's Foundation: Who You Trust Matters**

- a. [Mar 11:22 NASB95] 22 And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God.
- b. [Mat 21:21 NASB95] 21 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt . . ."
- c. Faith is not faith in faith. It's faith in the faithful One. The Greek phrase could be rendered "Have the faith of God," meaning a God-sourced confidence or a faith like God has.
  - i. FBN: The phrase in Greek is pistin theou, in which "God" (theou) can be understood in the objective genitive case. This would make the phrase literally "faith of God" or "faith from God" in the sense of faith given by God for miracles.
  - ii. In Genesis, God initiated creation (desire something, then speak it) like Jesus describes here.
  - iii. It describes the strongest euphemism of deep powerful faith.
- d. No more Christian Atheism. [Heb 11:6 NASB95] 6 And without faith it is impossible to please [Him,] for he who comes to God must believe that He is and [that] He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- e. Don't put faith in your feelings, your prayer style, or outcomes. Rather anchor it in God's character and Word. Spend more time in God's presence and Word to grow confidence in Him.

### **II. Faith Speaks What It Believes**

- a. [Mar 11:23 NASB95] 23 "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be [granted] him.

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- b. [Mat 21:21 NASB95] 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, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen."
- c. In Biblical thought, the "mountain" symbolizes an immovable obstacle. Speaking to it in faith is an act of spiritual authority.
- d. [Pro 18:21 NASB95] 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.
- e. Pray Scripture-based declarations over obstacles. Replace "I can't" and "It's impossible" with faith-filled speech aligned to God's promises.

### III. Faith Prays With Expectation

- a. [Mar 11:24 NASB95] 24 "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be [granted] you.
  - b. [Mat 21:22 NASB95] 22 "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."
  - c. Jesus places "believe you have received" before "it will be granted." Faith lays hold of the answer in the unseen before it's visible. "I GOT IT!"
  - d. [Heb 11:1 NASB95] 1 Now faith is the assurance of [things] hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
  - e. In prayer, picture the answer fulfilled. Thank God for the answer before it arrives. Keep a journal of requests and record the date you prayed as if it's the "answered" date in Heaven.
- **Faith in God transforms prayer from religious ritual into a supernatural force that moves mountains.**
  - **Prayer without faith is powerless; faith without prayer is aimless.**
  - **Jesus calls us to a mountain-moving partnership: Faith that trusts God + Prayer that asks boldly.**
  - **The mountains in our lives (fear, sickness, lack, spiritual opposition) are no match for faith-filled prayer.**