

Faith That Speaks to Mountains

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.

- Some problems announce themselves every morning. The diagnosis is still there. The need is still there. The door is still closed. You prayed yesterday, and today the mountain looks exactly the same.
- Mark 11:22 – “in God” or “of God” or “God kind of faith”? Genitive. Objective genitive? That is a theological determination.
- The disciples knew what it was to see a surprising change: the fig tree Jesus had spoken to was withered. Peter called attention to it, and Jesus answered, “Have faith in God” (Mark 11:22). Jesus then taught them what faith does in the face of something that appears immovable.

How do we exercise faith when the mountain is still in front of us?

Jesus gives us three movements of faith: trust God, speak to the mountain, and believe when you pray.

I. Put your faith in God - [Mar 11:22 NASB95] – 22 And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God.

- a. This is Jesus' command and the foundation for everything that follows. The power in this passage begins with God. The disciples are being called to trust the One who is able to do what they cannot.
- b. Faith rests on God's character and His Word. Take God at His Word and expect Him to keep His promises. Find what God has said, believe Him, and refuse to let the visible situation have the final word.
- c. [Rom 10:17 NASB95] – 17 So faith [comes] from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
- d. [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. [Num 23:19 NASB95] – 19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?
- f. Application: “What has God actually promised concerning the matter I'm facing?” Open Scripture, read it carefully, and build confidence in God rather than in a desired outcome alone.
- g. Your faith is only as strong as the One in whom you place it, and our God is faithful.
- h. Before Jesus told them to speak to a mountain, He told them to have faith in God.

II. Speak to the mountain - [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.

- a. Jesus gives an extraordinary picture of an impossible obstacle being removed. He connects the believer's heart and speech: what one says is to arise from genuine confidence in God.

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- b. Faith speaks in agreement with God's Word. It addresses the obstacle with confidence in God's power.
- c. [Rom 4:19-21 NASB95] – 19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.
- d. [2Co 4:13 NASB95] – 13 But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak,
- e. Application: Name your mountain honestly: fear, bondage, sickness, a strained relationship, or a seemingly impossible calling. Declare your faith. What are you believing God to do?
- f. Stop allowing the mountain to preach to you. Let the Word of God speak to the mountain!
- g. Faith does not deny that the mountain is there. Faith declares that the mountain does not have the final word.

III. Believe when you pray - [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."

- a. Jesus calls His disciples to approach God with confidence at the time of prayer. Faith begins trusting God before the answer becomes visible. This gives the congregation a clear distinction between the moment of asking and the later experience of seeing.
- b. [1Jo 5:14-15 NASB95] – 14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us [in] whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.
- c. [Phl 4:6-7 NASB95] – 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- d. [Heb 10:35-36 NASB95] – 35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.
- e. Application: Ask specifically and sincerely. Keep praying and do not stop. Keep believing.
- f. Faith says, 'God heard me when I prayed,' even while my eyes are still waiting to see.
- g. Do not wait until the answer appears to begin trusting the God who heard you.

- **Because God is faithful, we can believe His Word in our hearts, speak in agreement with it, and pray with confidence before we see the answer.**
- **Jesus' teaching moves from God to the mountain to prayer. The mountain may be the first thing we notice, but God must be the first One we trust. Faith hears His Word, speaks from a believing heart, and asks with expectation.**
- **You wake up tomorrow and still see the same problem. But now with a different posture: "I have faith in God. I will agree with His Word. I will keep praying and trusting Him."**
- **One sentence to carry home: "My mountain is real, but my God is faithful."**