

A Pure, Strong Faith

Lesson 14 – Outline

I. In Matthew 17:20, Jesus was saying to His disciples, “Guys, you don’t have a faith problem; what you have is an unbelief problem.”

A. Then in Matthew 17:21, Jesus continued by saying,

Howbeit this kind [of unbelief] goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Brackets mine

B. Contrary to much popular teaching, and now even a few erroneous Bible versions, the true subject of verse 21 is the unbelief mentioned in verse 20, not the demon(s) talked about in verse 19.

C. It’s unbelief that comes from natural information that is contrary to God’s Word.

D. That’s not necessarily because of ignorance or wrong doctrine; it’s just that you’ve learned to trust what you see, taste, hear, smell, and feel.

E. Your five senses aren’t of the devil; they have an important place and function in your everyday life.

II. This is what happened with the disciples in Matthew 17.

A. They saw a physical manifestation of this demon that was contrary to what they were praying and believing for, and it caused them to fear.

B. Their five senses ministered thoughts of unbelief that countered their faith.

C. Understanding this, Jesus told them, “The only way you can get rid of natural unbelief is through fasting and prayer. It’s not by just studying the Word more; you need to get into the presence of God and renew yourself to such a degree that you develop your sixth sense, which is faith.”

III. Fasting and prayer move you.

A. They affect you.

B. Then when you say to your body “You’re healed in Jesus’ name,” your flesh may answer “I still hurt,” but that sixth sense says, “I’m healed and I believe it.”

C. But if you haven’t spent time fasting, praying, and being in the presence of God, your body will say, “No, I still hurt.” You’ll say “Body, you get in line,” but your flesh will answer, “Who are you to tell me what to do? I tell you when to eat, what to eat, and how much to eat.” It’s just like a spoiled brat.

D. But you can train your senses to discern both good (God and His Word) and evil (what contradicts them) (Heb. 5:14).

- IV. According to Romans 4, it's more biblically accurate to say that depending on the level of unbelief, you either have a weak faith or a strong faith (Rom. 4:19-21).
 - A. If you have a lot of unbelief, then you're weak in faith.
 - B. If you have little unbelief, then you're strong in faith.
 - C. The truth is, every one of us has been given *the* faith of the Son of God (Rom. 12:3; Gal. 2:16, and 20).
 - D. Every born-again Christian has the exact same amount and quality of faith that Jesus had.

- V. The key to victory in the Christian life isn't necessarily having huge faith; it's having a simple, pure, childlike faith—faith the size of a mustard seed—that isn't canceled out by unbelief.
 - A. You can have faith, love God, and be a great person, yet have unbelief that pulls you in the other direction.
 - B. Starve your unbelief.
 - C. Get to where you are so single minded about the Lord and His Word that your little mustard seed amount of faith will be enough to accomplish anything you need.
 - D. Fasting, praying, and focusing your attention on the Lord can do great damage to your unbelief.
 - E. They don't cause God to give you more power; they just cause the faith you have to work so much better because you are diminishing the unbelief that's pulling in the opposite direction.
 - F. That's good news!
 - G. Once you believe the truth that God wants you well, then all you have to do is starve your unbelief until your faith starts producing the results you desire.

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Lesson 14 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to Matthew 17:19-21, to do the impossible, it takes faith as small as a what?
2. Read Mark 9:20. What happened when the boy saw Jesus?
3. According to Mark 16:17-20, who are these signs to follow?
4. What happened after the Lord had spoken to the apostles?
5. What did the apostles then do?
6. Read Matthew 4:4. What is man to live by?
7. Read Luke 4:4. What were Jesus' first three words?
 - A. "The pastor said..."
 - B. "Salt is good..."
 - C. "Get thee behind..."
 - D. "It is written..."
 - E. "My experience is..."
8. Read Hebrews 5:14. Who does strong meat belong to?
9. According to Romans 4:19-21, if Abraham would have staggered, he would have staggered through _____.
10. What was Abraham strong in?
11. Read Romans 12:3. Did God lend grace to Paul?
12. What Paul says in this verse is to whom?
13. According to Galatians 2:16, how is a person justified?
14. **"For by the works of the law shall _____ be justified."**
15. Read Galatians 2:20. Who lived in Paul?
16. Who loved Paul and gave Himself for him?

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Lesson 14 – Scriptures

Matthew 17:19-21

Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? [20] And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. [21] Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Mark 9:20

And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.

Mark 16:17-20

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. [19] So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. [20] And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Matthew 4:4

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Luke 4:4

And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Hebrews 5:14

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Romans 4:19-21

And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: [20] He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; [21] And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.