

The Things Unseen- Releasing Our Faith

The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it. In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. (Mark 11:12-14 NIV)

²¹Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" ²²"Have ^[a] faith in God," Jesus answered. ²³"I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. ²⁴Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mark 11:20-24 NIV)

Faith is how Jesus made the unseen become reality.

A. Jesus was the model of perfect faith.

"Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him." (Matthew 8:23 NIV)

"Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour." (Matthew 8:13 NIV)

Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour. (Matthew 15:28 NIV)

"Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist." (Matthew 17:18 NIV)

B. Jesus is the "the author and perfecter of our faith."

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of throne God." (Hebrews 12:2 NIV)

Faith is released by what we speak.

- A. Living faith is
- Based on the Word of God
 - Released by what we speak

B. Living faith is also the key to ministry.

"By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see." (Acts:3:16 NIV)

III. Faith is released as we acknowledge our need.

A. Forgiveness

"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." (Mark 11:25 NIV)

B. Repentance

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord," (Acts 3:19 NIV)

It is imperative that we become more diligent in guarding what we allow ourselves to hear, as well as what we allow ourselves to speak.

Application:

1. Can you describe the difference between "saving faith" and "living faith"?
2. In what specific areas do you need to see "living faith" begin to grow in your life?
 - What promises can you begin to speak to those situations?
3. What, if any, obstacles to your faith do you need to remove so that your faith can grow?