

### 3. Overcoming Faith (40 Day Campaign Series)

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Subtitle: The God-kind of Faith

Today is Day 15 of our “Overcoming Faith” Campaign. We’re on a 40 Day spiritual journey designed to strengthen & build our faith, to see God’s miraculous power released in and through our lives in a fresh way. We’re receiving:

- Fresh Faith to lay hold of all of God’s promises
- Fresh Faith to overcome life’s challenges
- Fresh Faith to walk in:
  - God’s Peace and Joy
  - God’s Provision
  - God’s Protection
  - God’s Healing and Deliverance
- Fresh Faith for God’s will to manifest in our lives, families, city & nation

**Last week we spoke about the four Pillars of Faith:**

1. First Pillar - Faith must **believe**
2. Second Pillar – Faith must **speak**
3. Third Pillar – Faith must **act**
4. Fourth Pillar – Faith must be energised by **love**

Today we will discuss the God-kind of faith from the example of Jesus.

**Mark 11:12–14 (NLT)** *The next morning as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. 13 He noticed a fig tree in full leaf a little way off, so he went over to see if he could find any figs. But there were only leaves because it was too early in the season for fruit. 14 Then Jesus said to the tree, “May no one ever eat your fruit again!” And the disciples heard him say it.*

Jesus Christ used this incident to teach His disciples a lesson on faith. They heard Him speak to a tree and probably wondered if He was ok.

**Mark 11:20–22 (NLT)** *The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had **withered from the roots up**. 21 Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, “Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!” 22 Then Jesus said to the disciples, “**Have faith in God.**”*

- The Scriptures call Jesus' statement "a curse", even though He didn't use the word "curse"
- We need to realise that through our words, we release the power of either life or death (Proverbs 18:21)
- Jesus' words affected the roots of the tree first
- Roots – indicative of the unseen realm (spiritual world)
- Leaves – indicative of the seen realm (natural world)

**1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Our words spoken in faith first have effect in the unseen realm, before their effect becomes visible in the seen realm**

**Verse 22** *Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God.*

The Douay-Rheims and Worrell's Translations say: "***Have the faith of God***".  
The Greek scholar A.T. Robertson says: "***Have the God kind of Faith***".

Jesus tells His disciples to have God's kind of faith & use it like God does. God spoke faith-filled words to create the whole universe & everything in it.

As believers we have been given the God-kind of faith, and we can release God's power into situations and circumstances by speaking faith-filled words.

**We will most certainly never create a world or a universe like God did, but we most certainly create our own world through:**

- **decisions we have made**
- **the words we have spoken**

Some Bible Commentators introduce Mark 11:12–22 with a heading saying: "A Lesson on Prayer".

**But Mark 11:12–22 is not a lesson on prayer!  
It is a lesson on how to use the God kind of faith.**

Yes, we engage our faith when we ask God for things. But in Mark 11:14, Jesus wasn't asking His Father for anything. He spoke to the fig tree directly and used the God kind of faith to make a declaration that produced a noticeable change in the space of 24 hours.

Contrary to popular opinion, when Jesus ministered to people, He didn't ask God to heal them or cast demons out of them.

Jesus used the God kind of faith and commanded sickness to leave people and demons to come out of them.

**Luke 4:39 (NLT)** *Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them.*

**Luke 8:24–25 (NLT)** ... *When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm. **25** Then he asked them, “Where is your faith?” ...*

**Mark 1:25 (NLT)** *But **Jesus reprimanded him**. “Be quiet! **Come out of the man,**” he ordered.*

**John 11:43 (NLT)** *Then Jesus shouted, “**Lazarus, come out!**”*

Jesus did all these things with and by the God kind of faith.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson: We are agents of God’s kingdom – we have been given the God kind of faith to carry on the work that Jesus started, to get God’s will done in the earth.**

**Job 22:28 (NASB)** ***You will also decree a thing, and it will be established for you; and light will shine on your ways.***

What do you know God’s will to be in your life and in your sphere of influence?

- Begin to decree things in line with God’s will!
- Begin to make strong and bold faith declarations!
- Issue the commands of God’s word and demand that they come to pass!
- Shout God’s will to be done, in Jesus’ mighty Name!

Many Christians are passively waiting for God to do things for them. But God has given us His faith to decree His Word and bring about His will in our lives and in the earth.

**Mark 11:22-23 (Worrell NT)** *And Jesus, answering, saith to them, “**Have the faith of God. 23** Verily I say to you, **whosoever 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 comes to pass; he shall have it.**”*

The instructions:

- Have the faith of God (vs 22) (the God kind of faith)

- Say to this mountain (vs 23) (Sickness, problems etc.)
- Believe that what you say comes to pass (vs 23)

The conditions:

- Do not doubt in your heart (vs 23)

The result:

- You shall have it (vs 23)

Kenneth Hagin says about verse 23: “Notice how the word ‘believe’ is only mentioned ‘once’, but the word ‘speak’ is mentioned ‘three times’ (NKJ).

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson: We should focus more on ‘speaking & declaring’ than we do on ‘believing’.**

**Luke 17:5–6 (NASB)** *And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”***6** *And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and be planted in the sea’; and it would obey you.*

It’s not the size of your faith that counts, it’s what you do with it that counts.

Faith has to be released from our hearts by speaking faith-filled words.

**“Faith ‘comes’ by hearing --- and faith ‘goes’ by speaking’**

### **Two Types of Confessions:**

Kenneth Hagin taught that there are two types of Confessions of God’s Word:

- a. The Confession unto faith
- b. The Confession of faith

When believers first start to confess God’s Word, they do so to fill their heart with faith.

**Romans 10:17 (NKJV)** *So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.*

Once a believer’s heart is filled with faith, their confession becomes a confession of faith – they are ready to release faith from their heart by speaking faith-filled words.