

## Mark 11:20-26

<sup>20</sup> And as they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up. <sup>21</sup> And being reminded, Peter \* said to Him, "Rabbi, behold, the fig tree which You cursed has withered." <sup>22</sup> And Jesus \* answered saying to them, "**Have faith in God.**" <sup>23</sup> "**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 shall be granted him.**" <sup>24</sup> "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you." <sup>25</sup> "And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions." <sup>26</sup> ["But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."]

One of the many lessons to be learned in this story is the relationship between disciples and their rabbis. You could not just choose to follow any rabbi that you wanted. In fact, it was the rabbi who selected the disciple. Remember in **John 15:16**, when Jesus spoke to His disciples, "**You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.**" Jesus is reminding His disciples here that He chose them, they didn't choose Him! What we fail to realize, is that when a rabbi chose a young disciple, he chose them because he believed that they could one day do, what he could do. You see, when God chose you, He believed that you can do what His Son did, while He walked upon this earth. In fact, **John 14:12** tells us, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father.**" Our problem is that we have an identity crisis! We look at all that Jesus did, and we know that there is no way we can ever be like Him; that's true, but only if you are trying to do it in your own strength. I once heard it said, "The Lord doesn't call the gifted, He gifts the called". So, when Jesus is speaking to His disciples, and tells them that they can speak to a mountain and have it cast into the sea; they believe that one day they can do it. Why? Because they believe that their rabbi can do it.

Please understand that the most powerful thing that you and I can do is to pray. But praying without faith is dead words. Yet once you activate your prayers with the faith and knowledge that prayers are answered through Jesus Christ, and His name alone, only then will your prayers will become powerful and effective. Consider **James 5:16**, **Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.** I really like how the translation God's Word, puts this verse, **Prayers offered by those who have God's approval are effective.** So lastly, how can we receive God's approval? Through confession of sins, praying for one another, and forgiving one another of their transgressions towards us. You can't have the promises without obeying the principles. Friends, true success and blessings in this life, come only through absolute obedience to God and His Word! Did you know that God believes in you? If He didn't, He wouldn't have chosen you. The question that I have for you, "Do you believe in God"? My prayer is that you will, and that the truth of His Word will become evident and real in your life!!