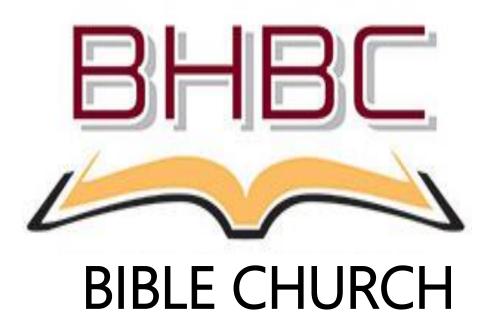
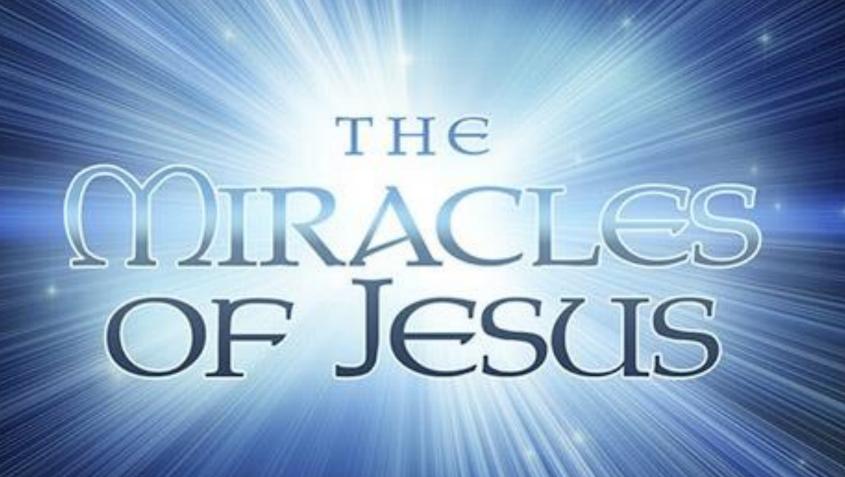
BLESSED HOPE



Learning of Christ, Loving in Christ, Leaning on Christ, Living for Christ, Leading to Christ

Based on the Word of God



FRUSTRATING THE LORD



THE HEALING OF THE EPILEPTIC BOY (i.e., demon-possessed deaf-mute)
Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-42

INTRODUCTION: Can we frustrate the Lord?

- Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they." Num.14:11-12
- "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." Matthew 17:17

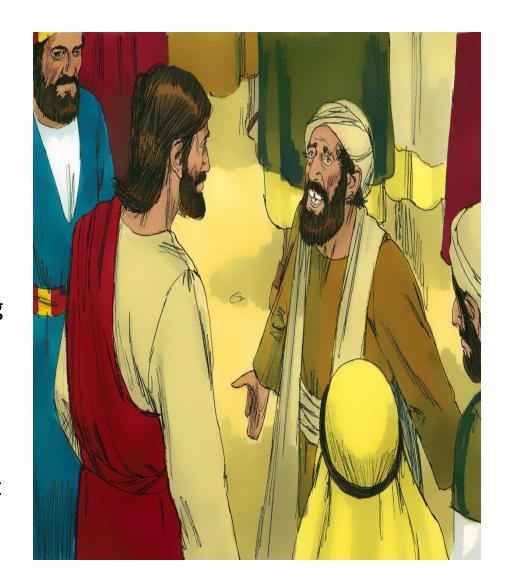


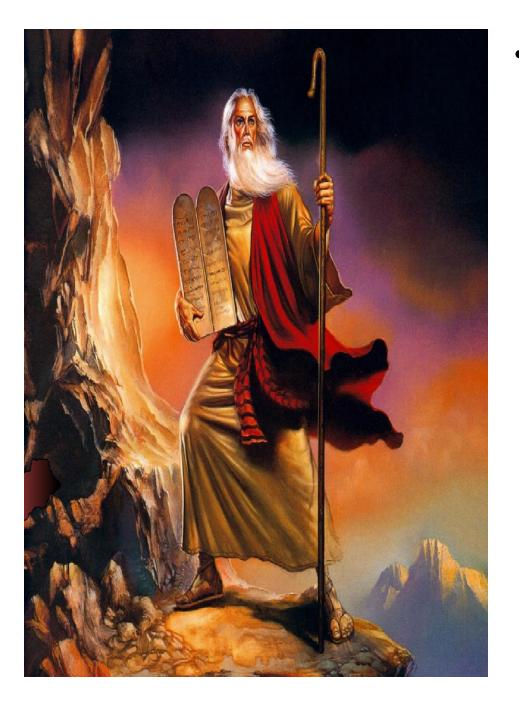
- Lesson: Unbelief in the Lord (i.e., His authority, power, truth, wisdom, and faithfulness) hinders the work of the Lord in and through our lives.
- The healing of the epileptic boy shows three ways how unbelief hinders the Lord's work in and through our lives

UNBELIEF FRUSTRATES THE LORD

THE CONTEXT

- Jesus, with Peter, James, and John, had just come down from the mountain upon which Jesus was transfigured, and to whom Moses and Elijah had appeared talking with Him.
- Jesus encounters a situation in which the scribes were disputing with the disciples over the failure to heal a demonpossessed.
- The father of the demonpossessed boy complains to Jesus that His disciples could not heal his boy and begs Him to heal the boy



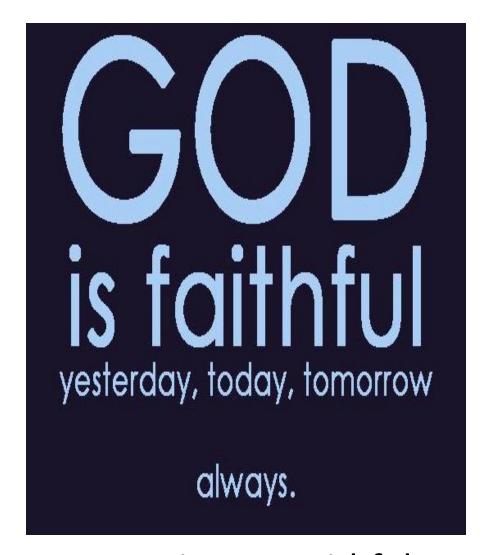


• THE COMPLAINT OF JESUS:

- Illustration: The return of Jesus from the mount of Transfiguration is reminiscent of Moses coming down from Mount Sinai to find unbelief and unfaithfulness in the Israelite camp (Ex.32)
- The Frustration: "O
 faithless and perverse
 generation" (i.e., Jesus is
 frustrated with His
 disciples, with the scribes,
 and with the crowd).
- The Rebuke: "How long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? (i.e., how long shall I put up with your unbelief?)

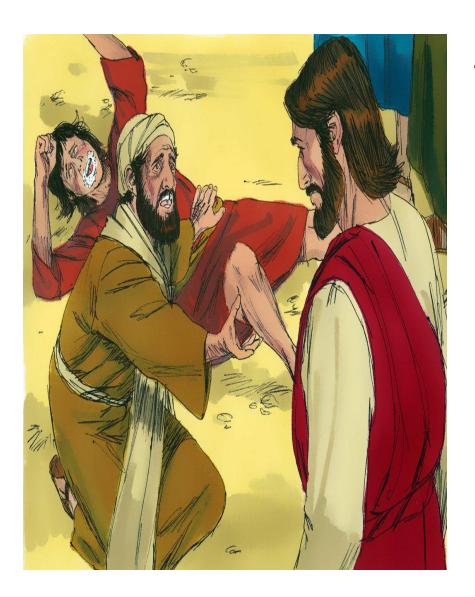
• SOME APPLICATIONAL LESSONS:

- Unbelief in the power, authority, truthfulness and faithfulness of the Lord disappoints and frustrates the Lord.
- Failure or lack of success in a venture does not disappoint the Lord unbelief does (e.g., God did not ask us to be successful, He asks us to be faithful).
- Lack of fame and fortune does not disappoint the Lord—unbelief does.



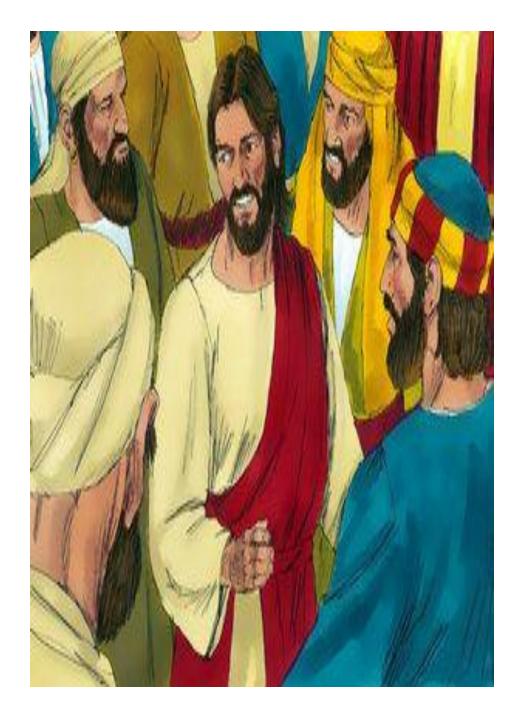
 Trust Him; Be Faithful to Him No Matter What!!

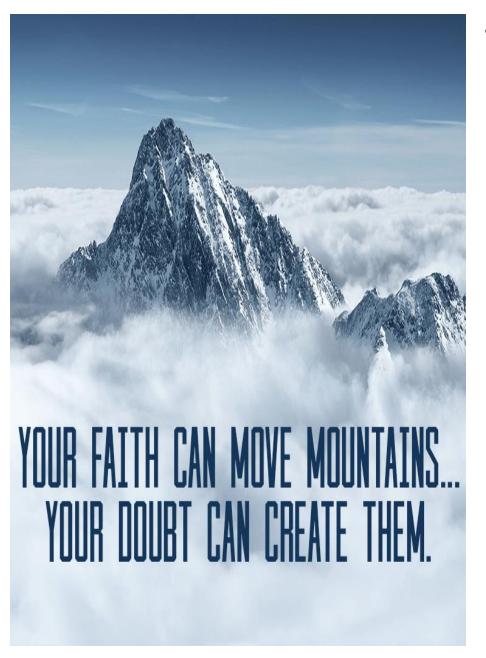
UNBELIEF FAILS THE LORD



- THE CONTEXT: The issue with the boy's father.
 - The boy's father: "If You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us (Mark 9:20-28)
 - Jesus: "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.
 - The boy's father: "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.
 - Note carefully: Jesus heal to boy to help the father's unbelief (i.e., He healed the boy because the crowd was coming, NOT because of the father's faith)!!

- **THE CONTEXT:** The issue with the disciples.
 - The disciples: "Why could we not cast him out? (e.g., was the power and authority that Jesus gave them wearing out?).
 - Jesus: "Because of your unbelief (i.e., little faith).
 - Jesus' Explanation: "I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

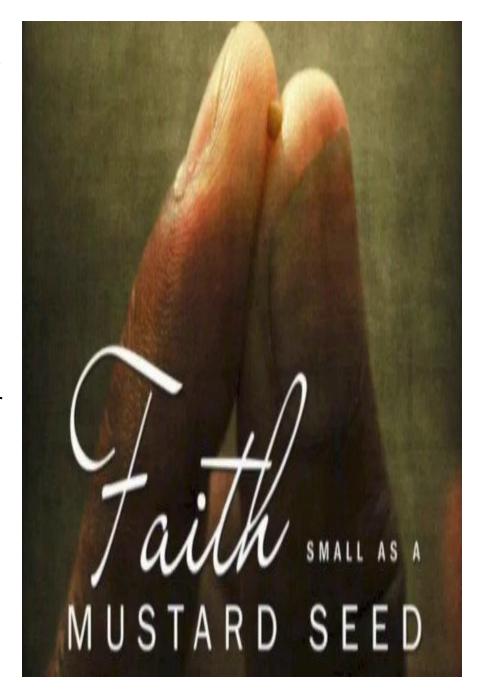




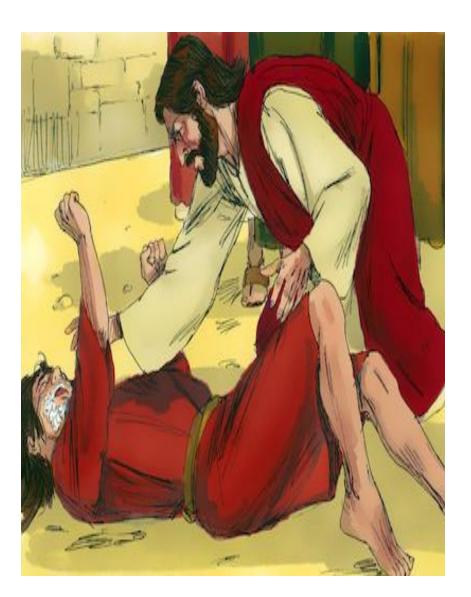
SOME APPLICATIONAL LESSONS:

- Jesus teaches that nothing will be impossible for him who believes; this is because it is the Lord who works in, with, and through Him.
- Note carefully: Faith is NOT magic! You do not make things happen, God does!!
 You do not do the impossible, God does!!
- Note carefully: Faith is NOT presuming on God, i.e., assuming that God will do something because you think that He should! (remember: You don't control God, He controls you!)

- Faith in the Lord does not have to be a "lot of faith," but it does have to be "mature faith" (question: How much is a lot of faith?)
- Your faith matures as you personally experience the Lord's faithfulness in your life.
 - Your faith does not limit God, i.e., tell God what He can't do
 - Your faith trust God to do what you think is impossible to happen.
 - Your faith gives you mental and emotional stability and peace.
- The real issue is not whether or not Jesus can heal, but whether or not you believe that Jesus has the authority, power, ability, and willingness to heal.
- Faith is putting your complete confidence and dependence on the wisdom, truthfulness, faithfulness, and ability on the Lord, no matter how bad or how impossible a situation may look.



UNBELIEF IS FAITHLESS TO THE LORD

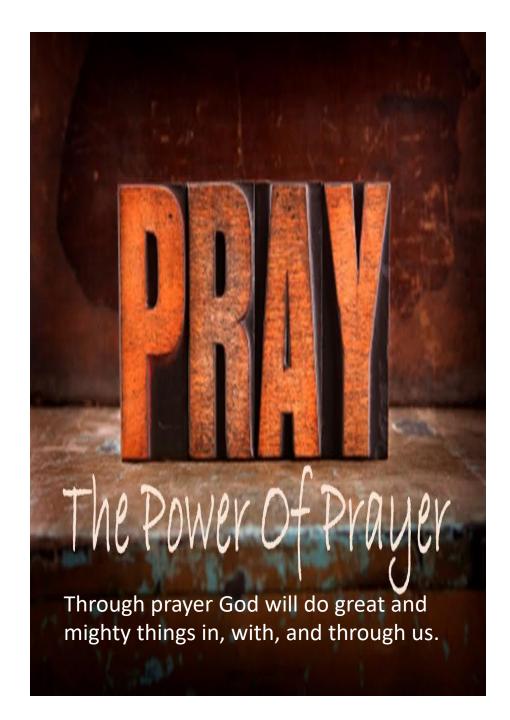


THE CONTEXT: Jesus tells
 His disciple that the kind
 of demon that was in the
 demon-possessed deaf mute boy does not go out
 except by prayer and
 fasting (cf., Mark 9:29)

THE IMPLICATION:

- The task of casting out this demon was very difficult
- However, no matter how difficult the task was, it could be accomplished by prayer and fasting.

- SOME APPLICATIONAL LESSONS: Through prayer God will do great and mighty things in, with, and through us.
 - Prayer is a natural manifestation of our trust and dependence upon the Lord.
 - Note carefully: Prayer is NOT magic— it is not a way to manipulate or bribe God!
 - Prayer is a manifestation of trusting God to meet our need on His terms: what He does, when He does it, where He does it, how He does it, with whom He does it, and for how long He does it.
 - Unbelief always gives up because it fails to trust God in prayer.



A Challenge for You

Is the work of God being hindered in your life?



RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOUR TODAY!!



- 1. Acknowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, <u>died</u> on the cross for your sin, and that He <u>arose</u> again from the dead on the third day.
- 2. Admit that you are a sinner, guilty of sin and responsible and accountable to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
- **3. Accept** the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.