



**Fellowship of Christian Firefighters
International**

Ministering to First Responders Since 1977

Bible Lessons – Commands of Christ

2-19-2019

Ask in Faith

Subject: Ask in Faith
 Instructional Setting: Relaxed quiet atmosphere
 Number of Students: As many as the facility will accommodate
 Time: As long as needed to ensure understanding

Objective:	Bible References:
For Christian firefighters and first responders to be equipped to understand the role faith plays in a person's prayer life.	<p>Primary Matthew 21:21-22</p> <p>Additional Matthew 21:18-20 Matthew 19:26 Hebrews 11:1 Proverbs 3:5 Matthew 17:20 James 1:6 Luke 17:6 Philippians 4:13 Matthew 7:7-11 I Corinthians 2:5</p>

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Theme: Ask in Faith

Life Principle: Faith moves mountains

Translation: ESV

Introduction:

Firefighters and first responders are very much aware of faith. We have faith in everyone on the fireground that he/she will do their part. We have faith when we step onto a fire truck that the operator will get us there safely and will get us water when we need it. We have faith that our officers will make the right decisions that will keep us safe. We have faith that ventilation will take place when needed and we will be able to get to the seat of the fire.

What kind of faith do we have in God? Are we willing to risk it all for Him because we have faith that He will do what He promised? God's word never fails, and we have been promised that He will answer our prayer when we go to Him.

Color Code

Orange – People and pronouns

Blue – Time and chronology

Green – Places

Brown – Events

Red – Reoccurring words or themes

Purple – Main idea, keywords, or running concepts

Definition:

Ask in Faith – The idea of faith is at the very core of our Christian belief. Since we have not seen God at any time, we must fully trust in what He has said in His word the Bible.

Lesson – Ask in FaithThe Command

Matthew 21:21-22 – “And **Jesus** answered **them**, “Truly, **I** say to **you**, **if you have faith and do not doubt**, **you** will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if **you** say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen. And whatever **you** ask in prayer, **you** will receive, **if you have faith.**”

- This passage comes on the heels of the time Jesus overturned the tables in the Temple. Remember, Jesus instructed us to ensure we keep God's house a house of continual or unhindered worship free from commercialism.
- The passage before us goes on to expand that thought and talk about the importance faith plays in our prayer life.
- The story of the fig tree is a fascinating true-life experience that the disciples witnessed (Matthew 21:18-20)

“In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, “May no fruit ever come from you again!” And the fig tree withered at once.

When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?"

- What is faith? Hebrews helps us to answer this question. *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"* (Hebrews 11:1).

Digging Deeper

- Notice in the account of the fig tree that it wasn't symbolism that caused them to be astonished at what happened, but how just a word spoken by Jesus withered the tree immediately. Now that is real power. The response by the disciples could easily have been interpreted "can we do that?"
- "Having faith" and "never doubting" can be used interchangeably and should be considered synonyms and not a description of a strong faith. Remember, even the smallest of faith is enough to suffice. *"And the Lord said, 'If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you (Luke 17:6)."* Also look at Matthew 17:20
- The mountain Jesus spoke of could be either the Mount of Olives or the Temple Mount. There is not enough evidence to support either and is not relevant to the "asking in faith" principle.
- The lesson Jesus has for His disciples is like the "ask, knock, and seek" command we have already looked at (Matthew 7:7-11).
- This promise is offered "carte blanche" to everyone who has faith. The qualification as described by Matthew is not a quality of the one praying, but rather is an acknowledgment of the One to whom we are praying to, and His ability to answer those prayers. *"But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible"* (Matthew 19:26).
- There is no sense in the command that the more faith a person might have the better chances of getting our prayers answered. Do we have faith that God can answer our prayer, or does the current state of our faith hinder our prayers?

Other Verses

I Corinthians 2:5 – *"That your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."*

Proverbs 3:5 – *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."*

James 1:6 – *"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind."*

Philippians 4:13 - *I can do all things through him who strengthens me."*

Application for First Responders:

Christian firefighters and first responders are reminded to have a faith in God. Only He can answer our prayers and change our situation. He has the ultimate power and authority to change things. Remember He created this world out of nothing by simply speaking it into existence. He can easily move mountains or anything else that is in our way of worshipping Him.

Discussion Questions:

- Why do so many of us doubt that our prayers will be answered?
- How can we improve our faith?
- What mountains are in your way and need to be moved to have a better relationship with God?

Bible Memorization:

I Corinthians 2:5 – *“That your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”*

Prayer Requests:

That I might learn to have faith that God will answer my prayers because they glorify Him.