

# Tools to heal

June 20, 2022

**PLEASE READ MATTHEW 17:14-21 NKJV FIRST!!!!!!!!!!!!**

How could Jesus justify his anger and disappointment at the failure of his disciples to perform the miracle? In today's Church climate we might think that Jesus was being unreasonable in his expectation. Certainly the Church today does not **expect** disciples to be able to perform miracles. ("After all, only God can perform miracles.") But Jesus did expect it. Jesus could have reasonably expected his disciples to heal the boy because:

1. He had trained his disciples to do what they saw him doing as he took them from place to place preaching the gospel, healing the sick, casting out demons, and teaching the Word.
2. He had already **given them** actual authority and power to cast out all demons and to heal the sick. (Luke 9:1)
3. He had sent them out and **commanded** them to heal the sick. (Luke 9:2; Luke 10:9)

Based on the three reasons above, Jesus was in fact justified in his expectation for his disciples to heal the boy. Even though he had given his disciples power and authority to heal the sick miraculously, for some reason they nevertheless failed to carry out the Lord's command **to heal the sick**—in this case a boy with epilepsy.

So why did the disciples fail? Since the Lord had already given them supernatural power and authority over demons and diseases, clearly something else was missing.

(20) So, Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, 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. (21) However, this kind does not go out except by **prayer and fasting**."

In other words, Jesus was saying, that because they lacked sufficient prayer and fasting, their mountain-moving faith was weak and insufficient to drive out the demon. When disciples pray and fast, their faith increases and becomes strong. Following **praying and fasting**, their mountain-moving faith is then sufficient to drive out the demon. Let us work on our faith and utilize the tools the God has presented to us.

**SCRIPTURE READING: JAMES 5:14-16**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Don't look at what others are doing. Just focused on what "**YOU**" should be doing.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"