

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Mark 11:21-25
What Is the Object of Your Faith?
by Eric Douma
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Interpretive Issue

A. Fig Tree: Found with no fruit
(11:12-14)

B. Temple: Israel has no fruit
(11:15-19)

A. Fig Tree: Found withered from root
up (11:20-21)

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Answer: God's Promises Aren't Dead

Mark 11:21-22 Being reminded,
Peter said to Him, "Rabbi, look, the
fig tree which You cursed has
withered." And Jesus answered
saying to them, "**Have faith in God.**"

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God's Plans Will Succeed

Mark 11:23 "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 will be granted him.

Zechariah 4:6-7 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts. What are you, **O great mountain**?"

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The "Mountain" Metaphor

Isaiah 40:4 "Let every valley be lifted up, and **every mountain** and hill be **made low**; and let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley...

1 Corinthians 13:2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to **remove mountains**, but do not have love, I am nothing.

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Jesus Teaches on Power of Prayer

Mark 11:25-26 Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that **you have received them**, and they will be granted you. Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.

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Applications

1. We must understand that the Word of Faith teachers have both a false object for their faith and a set of false promises that they attribute to God.
2. We must understand that God and His actual promises are the only valid objects for saving faith.

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Word of Faith Heresy

- **W.O.F. claims we are God incarnate:**
“When I read in the Bible where He says, ‘I am,’ I just smile and say, ‘Yes, I am too’” (Copeland).
- **W.O.F. has a false object of faith:**
Mark 11:22 And Jesus answered saying to them, “**Have the faith of God**” (W.O.F. false translation).

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Word of Faith Heresy

- **W.O.F. has false promises:**
“I tell people all the time, ‘If you are not satisfied with what you have in life, then **change what you are saying**. You have created what you have in your life with your own words’” (Hagin).

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Valid Faith: God + His Promises

Mark 11:21-22 Being reminded, Peter said to Him, "Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed has withered." And Jesus answered saying to them, "**Have faith in God.**"

John 14:1-2 "Do not let your heart be troubled; **believe in God, believe also in Me.** In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you."

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Valid Faith: God + His Promises

2 Corinthians 1:20 **ESV** For **all the promises of God find their Yes in him.** That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

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