

M. Union  
8/21/54  
A.M.

Text:- Mark 11:22. "Have faith in God!"

Introduction:- These words were uttered in connection with one of the Master's most solemn miracles. It was the withering of the fig tree. The people were astonished at the miracle, and the Lord answered their astonishment with four words, "Have faith in God!" These words recall the remarkable message that was sent out to the world by an eminent Chinaman. He compared the teaching of Jesus to Confucius, the heathen philosopher, and as a result he became an eminent Christian. He says two persons won him to Christ. The first one said, "Christ makes men brothers!" The second said, "Christ helps men to grow!" He sent this message to the world: "This is exactly the time to have faith in God!" At a time like this, with the world in turmoil, when men do not know what to expect, Jesus sends out this challenging message, "Have faith in God!"

Faith is highly important; it is vital to Christian experience. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith is the victory that overcometh the world. Men are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Men are kept through faith. Faith is supreme in all our relationships of life. It is utterly supreme in the home-without it the home would be wrecked on the rocks of discord and strife. Yet it is supreme in business.

II.

A lack of faith is the undoing sin of all time. Israel of old was kept out of the promised land for forty years because of unbelief. Therefore, many of God's children are kept out of blessings because of unbelief. They doubt God's ability, or willingness or both. Jesus said, "According to your faith be it unto you. To us comes the ancient question as it came to the Israelites, "How long will

it be, ere ye believe me! And in these trouble-  
some times comes the all-important call of Jesus,  
"Have faith in God!"

How important is faith! Yet, there is the misplace-  
ment of faith. How is our faith misplaced? It is  
misplaced when it is put in mere appearances. It  
is a constant temptation for us to walk by sight  
and not by faith. We should never take counsel of  
our fears or appearances, we should do our whole  
duty, and leave our fears behind, the Lord will  
not let us down. Then, I am wondering whether we  
misplace our faith when we are warned against put-  
ting it in human agency. All through the Bible we  
are warned against putting our trust in human ag-  
ency for victory. Then, we quite often, limit God.  
This is just another way of misplacing our faith.  
You may say, "How can we limit God?"

### III.

Perhaps we limit him in the realm of prayer. James  
says, "Ye have not, because ye ask not." He reminds  
us that we can ask for the wrong thing. Sometimes  
our motives are not pure in asking. Prayer should  
not be dictatorial, but humbly submissive. David  
said, "Ye limit the Holy One of Israel." We may  
limit the Lord by the ragged lives we live. An in-  
dividual may grieve the Lord, and a whole church  
can grieve him. Quite often we limit God by our  
idleness. A thousand doubts may all be dissolved  
by holy activity.

We can limit God by talking about hard cases and  
hard places. We look at our difficulties and fail  
to look beyond them to God. We talk about baffling  
situations and hopeless cares and leave the Lord  
out. Against every difficulty the Lord puts this  
searching question, "Is anything too hard for the  
Lord? What kind of a God do we have anyhow? When  
Morrison was going to China as a missionary, he  
was taunted by the captian of the boat, "Do you  
think you can save the heathen Chinese? Morris-  
son's reply was, "No sir, but I think God Can."  
There is our message, "God Can."  
We should keep ever before us the words of the

great Carey, "Atrempy great things for God-expect great things from God." Let us brood over the words of the prophet, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and will show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."

Conclusion:- Some people have more faith than others; there are degrees to faith. There is a growing and a glowing faith. How may we strengthen our faith? We should pray about our faith. Our prayer should be that we may have a strong and un-staggering faith. Then we can plead the promises of God. They are many. They can be trusted.

~~Illustration: The faith of the American Missionary in China.~~

Do we have faith in God? do we have faith in God's work? In God's Church? are we willing that His work prosper? *Keep faith in God.*