



## **NEXT LEVEL FAITH**

### **Matthew 17:14-20**

- Life is often like a rollercoaster, consisting of “mountain top” and “valley” experiences (Matthew 17:1-9, 14-20).
- *What have been some of my “mountain-top” life experiences, and what have been some of my “valley” experiences?*
- Many of our “valley” experiences occur because people around us are dealing with great struggles and strongholds.
- *“At the foot of the mountain, a large crowd was waiting for them. A man came and knelt before Jesus and said, ‘Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they couldn’t heal him.’”* (Matthew 17:14-16)
- Most Christians want to be able to help others overcome their struggles and strongholds, but feel powerless to do so.
- Paul - *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* (Philippians 4:13 NKJV)
- The Lord wants to give us the strength we need to live victoriously and to help others to experience healing and freedom in their lives.
- *What does it take to live victoriously and help others experience healing and freedom in their lives?*

### ***Living Victoriously And Helping Others Requires:***

#### **RECOGNIZING THAT SOME PEOPLE HAVE REAL DIFFICULTIES**

- *“At the foot of the mountain, a large crowd was waiting for them. A man came and knelt before Jesus and said, ‘Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water.’”* (Matthew 17:14-15)
- Many people have “first world problems” - but some people really struggle with physical, emotional, financial, mental, relational and/or vocational challenges.
- *“Why was I ever born? My entire life has been filled with trouble, sorrow, and shame.”* (Jeremiah 20:18)
- Ongoing struggles can lead to additional issues such as addictions, depression, a sense of helplessness, etc.

- Jesus – *“Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33)
- **When experiencing big problems in our own lives we need to affirm our faith in the Lord and our belief that He is bigger than the difficulties we are dealing with.**
- *“Despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.”* (Romans 8:37)
- **Who are some people who have real difficulties that I need to be praying for?**

**Living Victoriously And Helping Others Requires:**

### **UNDERSTANDING SOME PEOPLE EXPERIENCE DEMONIC ATTACKS**

- *“One of the men in the crowd said, ‘Teacher, I brought my son so You could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won’t let him talk. And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid.’”* (Mark 9:17-18)
- **Why are some people overwhelmed by demonic attack and bondages?**
- *“Don’t sin by letting anger control you. Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.”* (Ephesians 4:26-27)
- **When people give in to negative emotions and strongholds they are giving control to the Devil, which leads to a loss of joy, peace, victory and purpose in their lives.**
- *“There are two great forces, God’s force of good and the devil’s force of evil, and I believe Satan is alive and he is working, and he is working harder than ever.”* - Billy Graham
- **Addictions, hurts and demonic bondages will dominate, deteriorate and destroy our people’s lives if they are not addressed and overcome.**
- *“Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.”* (1 Peter 5:8-9)
- **How have the Devil and his demons impacted the lives of people I know?**

**Living Victoriously And Helping Others Requires:**

### **DETERMINING TO LIVE BY FAITH**

- The Father of the Demonized Boy - *“So I brought him to Your disciples, but they couldn’t heal him.”* (Matthew 17:16)
- **The disciples were trying to help the demonized boy, which reminds us that the Lord expects us to be involved in helping hurting people (Philippians 2:3-4).**
- Jesus - *“You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you?”* (Matthew 17:17)
- *“Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, ‘Why couldn’t we cast out that demon?’ ‘You don’t have enough faith,’ Jesus told them.”* (Matthew 17:19-20)
- **A lack of faith always leads to a lack of power in our lives.**
- *“It is impossible to please God without faith.”* (Hebrews 11:6)
- **The quality of our faith is demonstrated by: 1) how we handle our circumstances (2 Corinthians 1:8-10), 2) how we handle our finances (2 Corinthians 8:1-2), and 3) how we handle our relationships (Philippians 4:19).**

- *“Every child of God is able to defeat the world. And we win the victory over the world by means of our faith.”* (1 John 5:4)
- **How can we develop greater faith in our lives?**
- Jesus - *“You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you?”* (Matthew 17:17)
- **Faith in our lives is developed through godly living - and if we’re not living godly lives we won’t have the faith or power to help others (Acts 5:32).**
- *“When Jesus was alone with His disciples, they asked Him, ‘Why couldn’t we cast out that evil spirit?’ Jesus replied, ‘This kind can be cast out only by prayer.’”* (Mark 9:28-29)
- **Faith in our lives is developed through much praying, because prayer is the way to fellowship with God and having supernatural power in our lives.**
- Jesus - *“If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.”* (Matthew 17:20)
- **What do I need to do to step up in regards to my faith, living godly and in my prayer life?**

#### **Living Victoriously And Helping Others Requires:**

#### **BRINGING PEOPLE TO JESUS**

- *“Jesus said, ‘You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy here to Me.’ Then Jesus rebuked the demon in the boy, and it left him. From that moment the boy was well.”* (Matthew 17:17-18)
- **We need to bring troubled and hurting individuals to people who can help them, but we also need to bring those people to Dr Jesus.**
- Jesus - *“The Spirit of the Lord . . . anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”* (Luke 4:18 NKJV)
- **If we need or others salvation, consolation, emancipation, illumination or liberation Jesus has all of the power that is needed.**
- *“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil.”* (Acts 10:38)
- **Jesus has the power to \_\_\_\_\_  
in my life and in the lives of my family members.**
- **We see initially in this story a troubled father, a demonized boy, and some defeated disciples (Matthew 17:15-17); but after Jesus showed up we see a liberated boy, an elated father, and some educated disciples (Matthew 17:18-20).**
- **Which picture in this story best represents where I am today - and what steps do I need to take to have Jesus unleash His power in and through my life?**