

# **The Power of Faith**

*John MacArthur*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 17:14-21.

B. Faith accomplishes great things. (Numbers 13:30; Job 13:15; Daniel 3:17; 6; Luke 7:50; Hebrews 11)

C. There are certain key elements in this text.

II. The pleading of the father. Non-Christians have demonic possession to fear because they have no resource.

III. The powerlessness of the followers.

A. Jesus had given his disciples power and commission to cast out demons.

B. They had done this before.

C. The power was available, but they did not appropriate it.

IV. The power of faith.

A. Jesus cast out the demon.

B. Jesus taught the disciples that they did not cast out the demon because of their little faith.

C. Jesus reminds them of their little faith four times. (Matthew 6)

D. Everything we need is not necessarily going to come the first time we ask God. We must persist in prayer.

E. Faith is only qualified by the promise of God.

F. The anecdote to weak faith is prayer.

**Application Questions:**

1. When have you seen prayer fail? Could persistence have provided a different outcome?

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2. When have you seen persistence pay in any situation in life? Why is this also true in prayer?

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3. How did Jesus invoke faith the disciples? How can Christians who no longer have Jesus with them bodily grow in their faith? Explain.

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