

The First Step—Part 2

August 17/18, 2013

Matthew 17:14-21

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) Just as a spiritual life must be received by faith, it also must be lived out by faith.
- 2) *17:14* Why were the disciples unable to help this boy? They failed to appropriate the power available to them.
- 3) *17:17* Jesus, who was accustomed to the angels' instant response, was grieved at the faithlessness of God's people.
- 4) *17:18* The demon had no choice but to leave the boy; he was constrained to obey the Son of God.
- 5) Jesus' purpose was not only to bring health to the boy, but also to bring glory to God!
- 6) *17:20* The disciples had a measure of 'trusting faith,' or they would not have attempted to heal the boy. But they lacked the appropriate faith to engage the power already given.
- 7) Jesus gave the disciples a sample of what life would be like once He returned to heaven.
- 8) *17:20* Small faith can accomplish great things only if (like a mustard seed) it grows into something greater.
- 9) *17:20* "Able to move mountains" was a common figure of speech in that day that represented the ability to surmount great obstacles.
- 10) *17:20* The promise that "nothing shall be impossible to you" is conditional, valid only within the framework of God's will.

11) It is possible to misunderstand the will of God and to try to move a mountain that should not be moved. In this case the believer will be disappointed.

12) The father's faith was lacking and defective, but he was authentic. He asked for help (Mark 9:24).

13) If I don't pray, it reveals a lack of faith. Either I don't think I need help, or I think God can't or won't help

GREEK WORDS

Diastrephō—perverted; bending out of shape :- twisting
Term used to describe pottery misshaped & distorted before being fired in the oven.