

# The Spirit of Faith That Moves Mountains

A few weeks ago I concluded a message entitled “**The Spirit of Holiness Gives Us The Victory.**” I concluded that message with Apostle Paul’s instruction on how to live in a world lacking in morals from **Philippians 2:14-15 TPT**, “*Live a cheerful life, **without complaining or division** among yourselves. **15.** For then you will be seen as innocent (or “mature”), faultless, and pure children of God, even though you live in the midst of a brutal and perverse culture. For you will appear among them as shining lights in the universe, **16a.** holding out the words of eternal life.”*

## Treasure in Earthen Vessels

Today, I want to share with you about the “**Spirit of Faith**” that Jesus, Paul and Peter had, and said that we have as well.

**2 Cor. 4:7-15 TPT** reads, “*We are like common clay jars that carry this glorious treasure within, so that this immeasurable, power will be seen as God’s, not ours. **8.** Though we experience every kind of pressure, we’re not crushed. At times we don’t know what to do, but quitting is not an option (or “perplexed but not in despair”; Aramaic: “We are corrected but not condemned.”). **9.** We are persecuted by others, but God has not forsaken us. We may be knocked down, not out.” This is Father God sovereignly controlling Paul’s persecutions so that they are managable.*

**10.** *We continually share in the death of Jesus in our own bodies so that the resurrection life of Jesus will be revealed through our humanity. **11.** We consider living to mean that we are constantly being handed over to death for Jesus’ sake so that the life of Jesus will be revealed through our humanity.”*

This is the continuation of Paul's theme of power through weakness (v. 7), which now includes life through death. SFLB note: "Paul's missionary career was dangerous, and at any time he might suffer martyrdom. As he endured hardships & surrendered himself to the possibility of death, he was following the pattern of Jesus. However, in the midst of his perils he could experience **the life of Jesus**, strengthening and sustaining him in his present weakness & assuring him of future resurrection."

**12.** *So, then, death is at work in us but it releases life in you.* **13.** *We have the same **Spirit of faith** that is described in the Scriptures when it says, "First I believed, then I spoke in faith.\*" **So we also first believe then speak in faith.***

**\*Psa. 116:10-11 TPT** *"Even when it seems I'm surrounded by many liars and my own fears, and though I'm hurting in my suffering and trauma, I still stay faithful to God and **speak words of faith.**"*

**Psa. 116:10-11 NKJV** *"I believed, therefore I spoke, "I am greatly afflicted." **11.** I said in my haste, "All men are liars.""*

**SFLB note:** "Paul took this psalm of "near-death" and applied it to faith-believing ministers who were near death's door because of persecution."

### **The Power of Faith & Speech – Jesus & a Fruitless Fig Tree**

Our Lord Jesus taught His disciples this lesson of "**believing then speaking**" in **Mark 11:12-14 & 20-24: 12.** *The next day, as He left Bethany, Jesus was feeling hungry. 13. He noticed a leafy fig tree in the distance, so He walked over to see if there was any fruit on it, but there was none – only leaves (for it wasn't yet the season for bearing figs). 14. Jesus **spoke to the fig tree\***, saying, "No one will ever eat fruit from you again!" And the disciples overheard Him." **\*TPT note:** "Or "Answering (the fig tree), He spoke to it." The text does not say that Jesus cursed the tree, only*

that He “answered” and spoke to the tree. Peter’s interpretation of this was that Jesus cursed the tree (vv. 20-21).”

**20.** *In the morning, they passed by the fig tree that Jesus spoke to and it was completely withered from the roots up. 21. Peter remembered and said to Him, “Teacher, look! That’s the fig tree you cursed. It’s now all shriveled up and dead.”*

**22.** *Jesus replied, “Let the faith of God be in you (or “have God-like faith” or “godly faith”). 23. Listen to the truth I speak to you: Whoever says to this mountain with great faith and does not **doubt\***, ‘Mountain, be lifted up and thrown into the midst of the sea,’ and believes that what he says will happen, it will be done.”*

**\*TPT:** “The Aramaic word for **doubt** means “to be divided (undecided) in your heart.” “The mountain and the sea can also be metaphors. Mountains in the Bible can refer to kingdoms, and the sea represents the nations (e.g. “sea of humanity). Faith lifts up and brings with us the “*mountain*” of God’s kingdom realm when we go into the nations. The Greek word for mountain, *oros*, is related to a verb that means “to lift up and carry off and take with you.” This truth Jesus brings us is more than hyperbole; it is the active power of faith to take and carry the power & authority of the mountain – God’s kingdom realm – with us wherever we go.”

**24.** *This is the reason I urge you to boldly believe for whatever you ask for in prayer – be convinced that you have received it and it will be yours.”*

### **The Power of Bold Faith**

**Heb. 11:1 NKJV** *“Now faith is the substance (or realization) of things hoped for, the evidence (or confidence) of things not seen.”*

**TPT:** *“Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen.”*

From **“Beyond Positive Thinking”**: “The Spirit of Faith signifies an inward conviction – fueled by the Holy Spirit – that transforms what you believe in your heart into bold, expectant action and speech.” So, trust God internally and then verbally declare the promises of God over your life.

### **Righteous Ones Live by God’s Faith**

In **Heb. 10:35-39** TPT the writer of Hebrews exhorts his fellow Christians with these words, *“So don’t lose your bold, courageous faith, for you are destined for a great reward! 36. You need the strength of **endurance**(“the capacity to continue to bear up under difficult circumstances, not with a passive complacency, but with a hopeful fortitude that actively resists weariness and defeat.”) to reveal the poetry of (or “to do”) God’s will and then you receive the promise in full. 37. For soon and very soon, “The One **who is appearing\*** will come without delay!”*

**\*TPT note:** “That is, time is not relevant in the realm of the Spirit.” **38. And He also says, “My righteous ones will live from My faith.\* But if fears holds them back, My soul is not content with them!”**\*As translated from the Aramaic, and the Septuagint of **Hab. 2:4** (“Look at the proud, puffed up with pride! They are crooked to the core. But the righteous will live by his faith.”).”

**2 Pet. 1:1** TPT Peter writes “This letter is from *Simeon Peter, a lovingservant and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to those **who have been given a faith** as equally precious as ours through the righteousness of our **God and Savior, Jesus Christ.**”*

**TPT note:** “Even our faith has been given to us from a loving Father. Because our faith is equally precious as that of the

apostles, we share an equal standing in the privileges and blessings of the kingdom realm of God.” & “In his opening verse, Peter points us to the deity of Jesus Christ – “God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” – referring to one person. Some have described Peter’s words to be the most clear and direct testimony to the truth of Christ’s equality with God.”

*V. 2. May grace and perfect peace cascade over you as you live in the rich **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord.”*

**2 Pet. 1:2 note** in **SFLB**, “In an effort to combat a form of Gnosticism, an esoteric religious philosophy, which stressed knowledge as the way to God, Peter’s message is that true knowledge is found in the God of Christ and the Scriptures.”

**May we, too, live in the true knowledge of God in Christ!**