



## “WHY” TO WALK BY FAITH

During the month of October, we will study four practical lessons on “Walking by Faith” (2 Cor.5:7).

Paul outlined the intentions of this series of lessons in:

**(Col.2:6-7)** “Therefore as you have received Jesus Christ the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”

We will examine our lesson text by the following seven homiletical points.

- A first (Matt.21:18) Without breakfast; hungry; [Martha’s house] (Luke 10:38-42).
- Fig Tree (Matt.21:19a) Wild fig tree (lone).
- Fruit (Matt.21:19b) Without fruit but leaves (Mark 11:13).
- Future (Matt.21:19c) Withered tree; cursed (Mark 11:20)
- Fascinated (Matt.21:20) Without answers; marveled; “how” is an adverb of exclamation.
- Faith principle (Matt.21:21a) Word of God; “truly I say to you” (Rom.10:17).
- Faith promise (Matt.21:21b-22) Will of God; “It shall happen” (Rom.4:21).

**Today’s lesson will study four aspects of the practical side of “why to Walk by Faith”.**

### **1. The spiritual side of “why to walk by faith” is to teach us that God can reverse anything in your life.**

(Matt.21:21) “if (3cc) [volitional] you have (echo) [present-active-subjunctive] faith and do not doubt (me diakrino) [arrest-passive-subjunctive].”

Note the change in the tenses (present to aorist) and voices (active to passive) of the two subjunctives.

- Present active means the choice of continuously having or holding faith.
- Aorist passive means not allowing doubt to disrupt this walk by faith.

What did Jesus promise would be the pay-off of continuously walking by faith? (Matt.21:21-22)

### **2. Jesus laid-out the promise of the pay-off for continuously walking by faith by three Greek third class conditions. It explains the practical side of Why to walk by faith.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Conditional (3cc) clause has an “if” part and a “then” part. Jesus gave three 3cc clauses to emphasize a three-fold practical side to the “**why to walking by faith**” (Matt.21:21-22).

**1<sup>st</sup>** “**If (ean)** you have (echo / p.a.subj.2pl) faith, and do not doubt (diakrino / a.p.subj.2pl), **(then / promise)** you shall not only do (**poieo / f.a.ind 2pl**) what was done to the fig tree.” (Matt.21:21a)

**2<sup>nd</sup>** “**But even if (kan)** you say (lego / a.a.subj.2pl) to this mountain, be taken up (airo / a.p.impv.2ps) and cast (a.p.impv.2ps) into the sea, **(then / promise)** it shall be happen (**ginomai / f.a.ind.3ps**).” (Matt.21:21b)

**3<sup>rd</sup>** “And all (pas / apln) **things (hosos an)** you ask (aiteo / a.a.subj.2pl) in prayer, **(then / promise)** believing (pisteuo / p.a.ptc.nplm), you shall receive (**lambano / f.a.ind.2pl**).” (Matt.21:22)

### 3. The only limitation that should be put on one's faith is the directive will of God.

(Rom.10:17) "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

(Matt.6:9-13) The Lord's Prayer "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

(1 John 5:14-15) "This is **the confidence** which we have before Him, that, **if we ask anything according to His will**, He hears us. And if **we know** that He hears us in whatever we ask, **we know** that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."

Jesus illustrates the principle of His Father's Directive Will:

(Matt.26:42) "He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, **Your will be done.**'"

Actually, He prayed this prayer three times (Matt.26:39, 42, 44) [Gethsemane].

### 4. Doubt attacks the faith cycle of the directive will of God.

Doubt reveals a conflicting belief to the Directive Will of God.

Thomas and Peter illustrate this principle of doubt (John 20:24-29; Matt.16:21-23).

- If you believe YOU cannot do it, it will not be done because of doubt.
- If you believe GOD will not do it for you, it will not be done because of doubt.
- If you believe it is NOT God's Will no matter what the word of God says, it will not be done because of doubt (Thomas and Peter).

(James 1:6-8) "But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the **one who doubts** is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

(1 Cor.1:9) "But if you believe and do not doubt what God has promised, it shall happen because God is faithful" (Matt.21:21).

(Rom.4:20-21) "Yet with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that **what God had promised, He was able also to perform.**"

If you knew you had only one week to live, how would you spend it? Would you treat it as a normal day in your life? Would you spend it ministering to spiritual needs of others? **This is what Jesus Christ did in our lesson text.**

(2 Cor.5:7) **Walking by Faith**

