



Bible Study
August 22, 2018

Discipline and Production
Matthew 17:14-21

1. The disciples in this text asked Jesus the questions that a lot of believers are asking in **Verse 19**. They could not do what Jesus had given them power to do even though they were with Jesus and sitting daily under His teachings. Look at **Matthew 10:1, 6-8**.
2. Application: What are some things you hear believers saying that they cannot do and it is evident in Scripture that Jesus has given us power to do them?

3. Jesus answers the disciples' question in **Verse 20**. True faith by definition always involves surrendering to the will of God. It is not name it and claim it, it is not just speaking the Word, and it is not positive thinking. The source and the object of genuine faith is God. God can never be left out of the equation.
4. Genuine faith requires discipline. Jesus tells the disciples and us that the only way we can achieve real production is through spiritual disciplines. Here, He names two—Prayer and Fasting.

The disciples could not do what they had been given power to do because they had sub-standard faith. They wanted the maximum output with minimum input. Their faith was not evident in their Prayer life nor their Fasting.

Note, Jesus' example of Prayer and Fasting—[Matthew 4:1-11](#).

[Verse 1](#)—Jesus is Praying, led up by the Spirit.

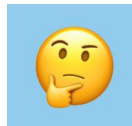
[Verse 2](#)—While in Prayer, He is led to fast.

[Verse 2](#)—While Praying and Fasting, temptation came ([Luke 4:1](#)).

[Verses 3-4](#)—Because He had been in Prayer and abstaining from anything that would take away His focus, the only thing that came out of His mouth was the Word of God. Even though He was hungry, the Word of God was stronger than His hunger.

This is repeated three times with the same result. Now read [Verse 11](#)—Victory and Production.

Points to Ponder



Jesus Prayed and Fasted to do His assignment. Why do you Pray and Fast?

When you Pray and Fast, how do you know that the power of God is flowing through you?