

# Mark 11.22 Correctly Translated

## Have Faith in God??

Jesus has just cursed a fig tree and on the way back to Bethany from the temple, the disciples noticed the tree had withered. Peter said *Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away*. Jesus response is given to us in the KJV in Mk 11:22: *And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God*. The words ending this verse, *Have faith in God*, are the same in ALL English translations except the following handful: Young's Literal Translation, Douay-Rheims Bible, Bible in Basic English, Geneva Bible, The Worrell NT and the CPC Translation.

An investigation of the Greek shows that all these translations, except this handful above, get the translation of these last words **wrong**. These last few words are as follows in the Greek with the literal translation of each word shown beneath:

ΕΧΕΤΕ	ΠΙΣΤΙΝ	Θεου.
<i>Be having</i>	<i>faith</i>	<i>of God.</i>

In better English we would write: *Be having God's faith*, or simply: *Have God's faith*.

[For those who might be wondering, there are no differences in the Greek texts here between the Textus Receptus (the Majority text) and the Critical Text]

Jesus command in Mk 11.22, (for it is a command in the Greek), is **NOT**, *Have faith IN God* as we are lead to believe by nearly all translations, but rather, *Have God's faith*, as the Greek actually says. The difference in meaning can only be described as monumental, and subsequently of considerable importance when considered with the rest of NT scripture.

"God's faith," a concept we are generally not familiar with, is spoken about in one other place in NT scripture. Paul, by the Spirit, writes in Rom. 3:3: *For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?...(KJV)*. The NASB incorrectly has faithfulness as do many other translations.

Now this idea of God Himself having faith is not one we would even consider since it is hidden from us by all common translations. The thought of God Himself having faith might even make us ponder if our own concept of faith is quite right.

Since Jesus commands us in Mk 11:22 to have God's faith, we might wonder how can this ever be possibly. The answer to that is given to us in Gal 5:22-23 for it reads: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law* (NASB). In this verse, the word faithfulness is **not** a correct translation. In the Greek, it is simply the word, faith, not faithfulness. The KJV actually gets it right here, but the NKJV and the NIV, like the NASB, get it wrong.

In this Galatian verse, we realise that God's faith is one of the fruits of His Spirit. If we have His Spirit we have His faith, the kind that can move a mountain to the sea. Incidentally, we will also have all the other fruit too. If we don't have this kind of faith, we simply don't have God's Spirit. This doesn't mean we don't have Christ's Spirit, for they are two different spirits if we read Rom 8:9, but that's a whole discussion for another time. See <https://the-logos.net/resources/PDF/s/Digging-in-Rom.-8.8-11.pdf>

Given all this, and that faith is a fruit of the Spirit, we might further ask, how do we get to have God's Spirit. The short answer to that is given to us in Acts 5:32: *And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Spirit, the Holy (Spirit), whom the God has given to those who **give-prime-obedience** to Him*. Obedience is the only requirement, if we wish to receive the Spirit.

But then we might ask ... obedience to what? That should not be hard to answer since Jesus tells us numerous times to be doers of His logos. James 1:21-22 reiterates the same message: *Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility*

*receive the word (logos) implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word (logos), and not merely hearers who delude themselves. We must do the logos of Jesus if we want to rescue our own souls. If we don't do His logos nothing changes for our souls.*

Most things in scripture are predicated on obedience. Even loving Jesus is predicated on obedience. Read the following:—

John 14.15 *"If you love Me, you will keep My **commandments**..."*

John 14.21 *"He who has My **commandments** and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."*

John 14.23 *"... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My **word** (logos); and My Father will love him, and **We** will come to him, and make Our abode with him.*

That Jesus Himself did what He requires of us is shown a little further on in John 14.31 *...but that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, even so I do...*

All that remains now, is to discover what is the logos of Jesus so that we may do it.