

Matthew 17:14-21 **Need for Prayer and Fasting**

Demon the Disciples could not cast out

14 And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, 15 "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. 16 So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."

Jesus cast out the demon and cured the Epileptic

17 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." 18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast him out?" 20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. 21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Demon the Disciples could not cast out [Matthew 17:14-16, Mark 9:14-17, Luke 9:37-42]

- ✚ When they had come down from the mountain after the Transfiguration of Jesus, and came to the waiting multitude, they encountered the obstinate demon.
- ✧ The disciples who were waiting for Jesus, Peter, James, and John who had gone up the mountain alone, to return, could not heal the demon possessed epileptic. [Matthew 17:1, 14-16, Mark 9:14-17, Luke 9:37-42]
- ✧ Jesus asked what they were discussing. [Mark 9:16]
- ✧ The father said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18 And wherever he seizes him, he throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast him out, but they could not." [Matthew 17:15-16, Mark 9:17-18, Luke 9:38-40]
- ✧ Jesus had previously given them power and authority to heal all manner of sicknesses and power over the demons. [Matthew 10:1, Mark 3:15, Luke 9:1-2]

Jesus cast out the demon and cured the Epileptic

- ✚ Jesus rebuked the generation for their lack of faith and perverseness. [Matthew 17:17-18, Mark 9:19, Luke 9:41]
- ✧ How long shall I bear with you? Jesus seemed impatient with them after so many miracles He had done in their sight and they still lacked faith.
- ✧ Calling the lad to Himself, "Bring him to Me." [Matthew 17:17, Mark 9:19, Luke 9:41]
- ✧ Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. [Mark 9:20, Luke 9:42]
- ✧ So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." [Mark 9:21-22]
- ✧ Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." [Mark 9:23]
- ✧ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" [Mark 9:24]

- ✧ When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" [Mark 9:25, Matthew 17:18, Luke 9:42]
- ✧ Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." [Mark 9:26]
- ✧ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. [Mark 9:27]

This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting [Matthew 17:19-21]

- ✧ The disciples asked Jesus privately why they could not cast out the demon. [Matthew 17:19, Mark 9:28]
 - ✧ They were surprised that they could not cast out the demon since they had been successful in earlier times. [Luke 10:17]
- ✧ Jesus said;
 - ✧ "Because of your unbelief."
 - ✧ "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." [Matthew 17:20, Luke 17:6]
 - ✧ "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." [Matthew 17:21, Mark 9:29]
 - ✧ To deal with this kind of demon, one must be fully prepared in advance by prayer and fasting.
 - ✧ We are desperately in need of a very close walk with God at all times to enable us to be the best that God wants us to be.
 - ✧ Prayer and fasting play a vital part in the life of the Saints. [Nehemiah 1:4, Daniel 9:3, Luke 2:37, Acts 10:30, 13:3, 14:23, 1 Corinthians 7:5]