

**SERMON DELIVERED BY RT. REV. DR. DUKE T. AKAMISOKO ON
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NETWORK NIGERIA, ACNN**

TOPIC : HAVE FAITH IN GOD

TEXT : MARK 11:20-24

20 In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. 21 Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. 23 "Truly[a] I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (NIV)

INTRODUCTION

In our text, Jesus amplified that statement, especially in Verse 22 - "***Have faith in God***".

We are living at a very critical time in our nation and all over the world.

And because of this, **FAITH** which is our principal weapon of war to fight every form battle and have victory should be preached, over and over again.

This will encourage us as Christians to stand and fight victoriously in the battle that is facing us today in our life, our nation and all over the world.

In the text, we read, Jesus Christ cursed the fig tree and it consequently withered. The following morning, on their way back, Peter noticed that the same fig tree has withered and he drew the attention of Jesus to it.

Jesus answered that the reason the fig tree withered was because of his faith in God.

He therefore charged the disciples to equally have faith in God. And that if any of them (His disciples) will said to this mountain, move and will not doubt in his heart, he will have what he says.

We are at a time, we need faith to fight the battle of Corona Virus, COVID-19, which has become a popular language now all over the world. Not only that, it has brought fear and death to all over the world.

As Christians, we must remind ourselves that God has given us an instrument to fight any battle of life. In 1 Timothy 6:12 – “***Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses***”.

When we have any battle, be it, spiritual, emotional, health, marital, etc, the only sure way to have victory is to fight that battle with faith.

It is very clear in the Bible, especially in the time of Jesus Christ. Healing of every kinds were happening because the people have faith.

Faith can still us today, even from COVID-19.

We must have faith and not doubt.

BASIC PRINCIPLES THAT CAN LIFT OUR FAITH UP

1. The Word of God - Romans 10:17

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ"
Romans 10:17 NIV

I challenge you to hear the word of God more than other news around. The faith that can bring healing can only be found in the word of God. You can't get it in the Newspaper, TV news or the Radio news, but only in the word of God.

The word of God is the basis and standard for us to have faith to confront every problem, including COVID - 19.

We must be close to the Word of God, continue to read the Word of God and continue to hear the Word of God. We must speak the word of God. That is the source of our victory.

Having faith does not come in isolation, it comes from the word of the God. It must be our instrument of war at this point. It must be our companion at all time. That is the way we will have victory.

Many people today do not have the word of God. They speak, fear and unbelief. But we should not live like that. We should speak and live the word of God.

If we are familiar with the news of the world and not familiar with the word of God, we cannot have victory.

The word of God is the only instrument that will give us victory in life.

2. Speak to the Situation

"Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them" – Mark 11:23 NIV

We are to speak to our situation with the authority of the word of God. God is not the one to speak, but we, ourselves. We must speak against sickness, COVID – 19 and everything that are not God in our lives and families.

All the Precautions instructed by medical personnel, such as washing our hands, sanitizing our hands, using face mask and maintaining social distancing are all good, infact very good and important. But above all, we must learn to speak the word of God to COVID - 19. Speak the Bible, speak positive things to your life.

The Bible says, it will come to pass, if you do not doubt in your heart.

Speak that your family will contact COVID-19, speak that you will not contact COVID -19. Speak that you will not lack any good thing, even as you stay home, speak that the Lord will supply all your needs.

As you are speaking, the Angels of the Lord are released to act on your confessions.

Don't keep quiet. If you keep quiet, it is dangerous. In times of war, you don't keep quiet. You must speak to the situation.

Speak against all financial difficulties.

The Bible is very clear. Over and over again, God provides for his people, even in the wilderness. In the wilderness, the Israelites have no farm and God was feeding them. And even today, God still has the power to provide for you, if you believe. The word of God cannot be broken.

Don't speak negative. We must believe what the Bible say.

Speak positive word to your life. As you speak, heaven will open to make it real - Micah 6:1.

"Listen to what the Lord says:

Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say".

Mountain in the Bible stands for obstacles, hills stand for difficulties, Micah said we contend and hill hear our voice.

To contend is to withstand, to refuse to give up. Don't run away from the mountain, don't give up on the mountain. Let the hills of COVID - 19 hear your voice as children of God and it will crumble.

The word of God is true. Don't forget the word of God. It is our instrument to overcome and we must surely overcome.

Luke 17:11-19

Just as the lepers met Jesus. I pray that you will meet Jesus today.

Don't give up on your faith. It is only your faith that can bring your healing. There are different levels of faith. The Bible says, if your faith can be like a

mustard seed, you will do wonders. But don't let your faith remain like a mustard seed. Increase it with the reading of the word of God. The more you increase it, the more you have power against the work of darkness.

3. Refuse to give up no matter what happen.

Don't give up until you have your victory.

Don't surrender to sickness. If the woman of with issue of blood had given up, she would have died in her house ; if the ten lepers have given up, they would not come to Jesus.

Have faith and keep speaking until you get your breakthrough. A closed mouth is a closed destiny. Keep contending until you attain your victory. Do not accept defeat, do not accept failure. You can live a victorious life through your faith in Christ.

CONCLUSION

I challenge us this morning, not to give up. A man of faith does not give up until his desires are met. Don't give up on your situation. Men may give up on you, but don't give up on yourself. Keep your focus on the word of God. The word of God will give you victory. And you must testify of your victory.

Faith is our weapon of war. As we use, I assure you by the Word of God that victory is our portion in Jesus name.

The word of God is the source of victory. When people are analyzing how COVID-19 is increasing, analyze the word of God.

Our God is still alive and He has power over all diseases including COVID - 19.

PRAYERS

In the mighty name of Jesus, I release the Words of Faith that brings healing, abundance to homes, States and Nations of the World.

I bind the spirit of Negative confession, negative utterance, negative thinking in your life in the Name of Jesus.

I bind spirit of lack and hunger in the land in the mighty Name of Jesus Christ.

I bind the spirit behind Coronavirus in the name and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Let healing flow to homes, hospitals, States and all locations of the Nations in the name of Jesus Christ.

Receive abundance in your storehouse in the name of Jesus Christ.

Rejoice and be free from all forms of fear in Jesus name . Amen.

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