

# **NEW LIFE CHURCH CRAWLEY DAVID DICKSON**

## **MESSAGE**

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**New Life**  
CHURCH CRAWLEY



A SEASON OF

SHIFT

SPIRITUAL

New Life  
Church  
Crawley



*WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE  
THE HARDEST THINGS TO  
CHANGE IN LIFE?*

Kerry VISUAL TALK

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# Mark 11:20-26

## Slot machine God – hit the jackpot?!

- Faith NOT presumption – does not mean, *“If you pray hard enough God is obligated to answer your prayers, no matter what you ask.”*
- That kind of faith is not faith in God; but faith in faith, or faith in feelings.

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# Faith is linked to the will of God NOT our whims:

- Psalm 37:4 *“delight yourself in the Lord”*
- Prov 3:5-6 *“lean not on your own understanding”*
- 1 John 5:14-15  
*boldness/confidence (according to His will)*
- Matt 6:10  
*“let your kingdom come...Your will be done”*

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THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER  
(& FASTING) IS NOT TO GET  
MAN'S WILL DONE IN  
HEAVEN, BUT TO GET  
GOD'S WILL DONE ON  
EARTH



# Context of Mark 11:12-26 cursing of fig tree & cleansing temple

What has faith God to do with cursing fig trees and moving mountains?

- Firstly, the context is a lesson from Jesus on spiritual failure

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- The fig tree is associated with the nation of Israel (Jer. 8:13; Hos.9:10; Nah. 3:12).
- Like the fig tree Jesus cursed, Israel had “nothing but leaves.”
- Israel had failed to be fruitful for God and the religious leaders would not heed his message.
- Christ is still seeking fruit from His people (John 15:16)

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- Secondly, the context is a lesson from Jesus on true faith.
- “Have faith in God,” = “Constantly be trusting God; live in an attitude of dependence on Him.”
- In Jewish imagery, mountain = strong and immovable problem (Zech. 4:7).
- NOT only lesson Jesus ever gave on prayer, not to isolate it from the rest of Scripture.
- Prayer must be in the will of God (1 John 5:14–15)



# ANCIENT & MODERN DANGER OF TRIUMPHIALISM

1 Cor 4:8-9

*“You think you already have everything you need. You think you are already rich. You have begun to reign in God’s kingdom without us! I wish you really were reigning already, for then we would be reigning with you. Instead, I sometimes think God has put us apostles on display, like prisoners of war at the end of a victor’s parade, condemned to die. We have become a spectacle to the entire world—to people and angels alike.”*

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# FAITH IS CRITICAL BUT IT HAS TO DO WITH DEMONSTRATING GOD'S KINGDOM (*LET YOUR KINGDOM COME*)

- **Mark 9:29** “This kind”.....  
Root out lack of faith/unbelief
- **Romans 1:17**  
“The just shall live by faith”  
(Habakkuk 2:4)

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- An Old Testament book written by the prophet Habakkuk to the people of Israel around 600 BC.
- Hab 2:4 in the NLT is, *“Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God”*
- J. B. PHILLIPS Version Rom 1:17 *“For I am not ashamed.....a process begun and continued by their faith.”*
- MSG Version– *“God’s way of putting people right shows up in the acts of faith”*



# FAITH = FAITHFULNESS

- Acts 2:42 “they devoted themselves”  
Acts 2:47 so God added to the church
- Gal 5:23 part of fruit of Holy Spirit

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God is looking for the faithfulness that trusts Him despite how we might be feeling or how the circumstances look.

Is this possible? YES!

Romans 4:18-20 Abraham, Father of faith





# CONCLUSION:

Any good listeners here?

How do we listen to Gods voice so  
that we grow our faith?

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Rom 10:17 “faith comes by hearing”

Hearing = akoé

NOT simply hearing auditory, physical ears

used of inner (spiritual) hearing that goes  
with receiving faith from God,

i.e. spiritual hearing, discerning God's voice;

Gal 3:2,5 “*believing what you heard*”

