

**ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE – WITH GOD**  
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There are some promises in the scriptures that sound like they place God in the role of a genie. For example, **John 14:12-13** says those who believe on Jesus will do greater works than He did and, “whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do.” Most promises are conditional. With some it is easier to recognize. **John 15:7** states, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” It is only if we dwell in the Spirit, and God’s Word dwells inside of us, that the promise is ours. Another promise was made in **Matthew 18:19** to His disciples. “If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father.”

These disciples gave up everything else in this life to follow after God. God rewarded their commitment with power. In **Luke 10:19**, it was “power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy.” But this kind of power required two components. This begins to be apparent in the **nineteenth chapter of Matthew**, in the story of the rich young ruler who rejected God’s kingdom for earthly riches, Jesus ends the encounter with another powerful promise, “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.” Here is another condition and it is simply this. “With God” We are required to combine our efforts with God’s or the scripture would have said “For God.”

So what is required on our part? The **twenty-first chapter of Matthew** give the first account of Jesus disappointment with a non-bearing fig tree. This account ends with the promise. “If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. “Apparently the ingredients we add to the power of God are faith and no doubt. This is illustrated again in the plight of the father who came to Jesus with his demon possessed child in **Matthew 9:21-22**. Jesus told him, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” The man’s response gives hope to all of us who struggle with faith. “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.” Here, though some doubt was present, when the doubt was dealt with in answer to prayer, the miracle occurred.

Faith was prerequisite in many other miracles. Blind men needing their sight in **Matthew 9:28-29** were told, “According to your faith be it unto you.” The extent of their miracle depended upon their ability to believe. Faith made the difference for the woman with the issue of blood who touched the hem of Jesus’ garment. When He turned around and saw her in **Matthew 9:22**, He said, “Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole.” We must even have faith to receive salvation and access grace. **Romans 5:2** indicates faith is the gateway we use to access the grace of God made available at Calvary.

How do we know our faith and God’s power are both needed for miracles to occur? **Ephesians 3:20** references the exceeding power of God that works “according to the power that worketh in us.” That power within is either the Spirit form of God called the Holy Ghost, or our faith God uses to make all things possible.

So with all these promises available, which require faith and no doubt, why do we not see or do more mighty miracles? Why do the promises of God seem elusive? The problem likely stems from doubt created by the difference between God’s timetable and ours. **Romans 10:17** tells us, “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” We hear the Word, we hear the promise, and initially we believe. Though we expect it, very few prayers are answered immediately. This delay opens a window of opportunity for Satan, the thief, to steal away the promises we should have seen fulfilled. **Luke 8:12** tells us the devil comes and takes away the Word out of our hearts. Because we do not receive an immediate answer, we begin to doubt and the faith that first accompanied the Word we heard leaves our hearts, ending God’s ability to work.

Look at a different account of the withering of the fig tree. In **Mark 11:12-14**, Jesus and His disciples pass the tree, Jesus finds no fruit, and curses the tree. The disciples hear His words. In **Mark 11:20-22**, they are returning the next day the same way they had come. Peter notices the withered tree and calls it to the attention of his master. Jesus response to Peter was, “Have faith in God. “ But notice in this version that nothing happened visibly when the tree was first cursed. It was not until the next day it became evident that God’s power had been at work in response to His Word. It had been at work for the entire time they had been gone.

Not all prayers are answered overnight or even within weeks. In the **tenth chapter of the book of Daniel**, Daniel had been praying for twenty-one days. An angel appeared in response to his prayers and told him. “Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.” Things may come up in a realm we can not see, to hinder the answer, but all prayers are heard and answered one way or another. **Isaiah 30:19** promises the people of God, ‘At the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.’”

Delay is not the same thing as denial. We must remain doubt free and refuse to let a difference in time tables create doubt and rob us of all that is possible – with God.