

‘*Could*’ means, he attempted, since he wanted to, but it did not happen. It would not be right to conclude that brother Jack over there “could not lift that load” unless he attempted and failed. In the same way, Jesus was limited by the people.

This is still true today since Jesus represented God and God has not changed. Neither has Jesus. If they could hinder him back then, with all the anointing of God on Him as the Christ, this is still possible today.

Many times, we assume that if God wanted anything to happen, it would happen since He is God. We assume that if Jesus wanted to do something for us, nothing would stop him. News flash! We can stop Him with our petty unbelief.

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He could not do any mighty work in their midst except laying His hands on a few sick folks and healing them.

As a side note, is it not interesting that healing through the laying on of hands was a bare minimum, even in the presence of unbelief and offense? This tells you how close within reach God made healing grace through the laying on of hands. If you will not receive any other type of miracle, at least receive your healing.

The book of Mark tells us Jesus attempted and wanted to do mighty works like he had done in other places, but

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he could not do it being hindered by their petty unbelief. It was petty because they based it on their natural acquaintance with Jesus' family, his trade, and his background. And often it would seem that the people who will not see us beyond our past tend to develop this blind spot toward the glory and work of God in our lives.

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In this same way, the blood of Jesus was shed for us. He received stripes for our healing, took away our pains, and carried our diseases.

“Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness by whose stripes you ~~were~~ healed.” ^{1 Peter 2:24 NKJV}

“That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself **took** our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.” ^{Matthew 8:17}

And this is a spiritual fact. If you try to naturally figure out how the suffering of one man could translate to healing in your body, your natural tendency will get you to a dead end. Yet what happened is true and real. This was the supernatural task and accomplishment of the Christ: His name is Jesus.

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All this Jesus Christ did for us, and all of this is God's grace in demonstration and was fully accomplished.

However, regardless of how great, how big, and how powerful all of this is, if all we ever do is get marveled and astonished and cry, or swing the sense arm, seeing how naturally impossible all this is rather than believe and claim it, to live by it, it will be in vain.

Just as he *could not* do any mighty work in his hometown, nothing will happen with us if all we have is astonishment and marvel void of faith. Remember that we are not just in his hometown, we are His very household: having been born again! The bible calls us, the household of faith.

Galatians 6:10.

That you are marveled, and you found His doing wonderful, should never confuse you with believing. Simply believe.

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Proximity Is Not Relationship

The people from Jesus' hometown grew with and had Jesus among them longer than most even in their day. The very fact that Jesus grew among them should have been an advantage, but to them, it became an obstacle.

Even today, our proximity and access to the things of God do

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not replace our personal need to develop and build our faith in God.

Those who become overly familiar with the House of God and His service today, can easily substitute their responsibility to develop their faith, replacing it with activity around the service of God.

God's ministers and our overall proximity to the activities surrounding them can deceive us into assuming that Church ministry and its administrative business represents our relationship with God. It does not! Being a worship minister, a singer in Church, an usher or an employee at a Church does not represent your relationship with God and so cannot replace it.

Being close to and having exclusive access to the things of God, should all be mixed with pure faith in God through His eternal Word with utmost reverence, holy fear, without hindrance or complacency. We must guard our hearts!

As we put diligence in our service, we must be mindful of our growth in God's Word and personal as well as inter-personal devotion with other saints.

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If we attempt to substitute our development in the word of faith, with activities that have to do with the House of God, then there is no difference between us and those who grew up with Jesus; whose proximity and easy access to Jesus hindered them, rather than being a blessing to them.

The access is necessary, but that is all it is: access. We must use that access to open our hearts to receive the grace God ministers to us through his word.

There are those who serve in God's house but never pay attention to God's Word. They forget they have a responsibility of growth in God. They pray less than they should, and have little time for studying their bibles, in the name of being busy in the service of God. Even pastors and other ministers of the Gospel need to beware of this.

Like the contemporaries of Jesus in his upbringing who asked, "isn't this the carpenter, Mary's son, brother of our friends?" they also ask, "have I not been in all the services, and at Church ahead of everyone else, more often than even the pastor?" And sometimes this is pushed to an extreme, where we may assume that our service wins us the right to blessing, more than other people who don't do as much in Church!

This type of mentality is the very reason such people don't receive much from the Lord. When our worthiness to receive from the Lord shifts from what Jesus has done

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to how much we do for God, we disconnect our hearts from His redemptive work. In His redemption, God was showing us grace. In our hope to be worthy by works, we are showing God our self-righteousness.

Jesus called this unbelief, and He was marveled by it, and He declared that a Prophet is not without honor except in his own house and among his kin.

He then resorted to making rounds in the estates or villages, teaching them all over again. This is the only cure for unbelief: making constant rounds with the teaching of the Word of truth! Because it is also the only source of true faith in God.

Eat The Food

“Giving thanks to the Father who has *qualified us to be partakers* of the inheritance of the saints in the light.”

Colossians 1:12

If food is placed on the dining table, set, and awaiting you to eat, this does not mean you are eating it.

That a door is opened for you to go through, does not mean you have gone through that door.

Walk through the door. Engage the dinner and eat the food. It is yours but *do something* about it.

That “*something*” is to know and believe the word of God,

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speak in the light of it and act accordingly. Use it to live in the light of it. This is what faith is all about. This is what contacts the power of God.

Most Christians have never gone through the open door of faith into the experience of the good things that God prepared and made ready through the salvation we all received. Yet God has already qualified us for it. He has perfected it for us.

Many being born again, have never been filled with the Holy Ghost. Many still argue whether spiritual gifts are accessible today. Some grapple with whether healing is for us today and stay sick. Right off the other edge of this, is the question of whether we are worthy enough!

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Others still wonder whether prosperity is God’s will or is a trickery into enriching the Church! Many more have no idea the manner of spiritual authority given to us in the Name of Jesus and so demons and other elements of darkness harass them!

Look at Hebrews 13:8 and believe because it settles all that for us saying “Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever!”

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The truth is we are all still learning from faith to faith. Sadly, many in my experience and encounters prove to have barely started to know of these matters of faith. Most of us have no clue how blessed we are!

We are at the Lord's dining table called salvation and so the Bible says in Psalm 34:8,

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good;”

In other words, Eat! He is the one we are tasting whether He is good or not. And He has never changed. So, use your faith. Taste and see for yourself.

Under the Old Testament before the Church of Jesus Christ was born, God spoke to the Israelites through Moses. Moses the man of God admonished them and said,

“And He humbled you, suffered you to hunger, and fed you with manna, which you did not know, neither did your fathers know; *that He might make you know that man does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD does man live...*” Deuteronomy 8:3

Many are not living by every Word that proceeds from the Mouth of God. Instead of living, they are dying in many ways by the words that proceed from their own mouths, and worldly and satanic voices in health, in finance, in vision, in purpose, in relationships, in character, and drown their lives in destruction and hopelessness.

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Some are living by very few words from the Lord's mouth rather than an endeavor for every Word available.

Somebody said that some Christians know only enough of God's Word to be dangerous! They do not have enough knowledge, and so they live at the extreme of little knowledge. This is where many are in error with knowledge that cannot work as they hope it might. And so, a limited experience of victorious life, with many unanswered questions, is the result.

There is grace with every Word from God. There is a breath of life with every Word from God that comes into your life. Therefore, when you live by it, you truly live! Praise God!

Eternally Living & Active

“For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Heb 4:12, World

English Bible

We are called to live with a Word that is alive! The word of God is in an eternal state of speaking life to anyone who will believe it to live by it. This is what it means to say that we are born of the word of God which “*liveth and*

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abideth forever.” ¹ Peter 1:23

At any moment, the “word of God is living and active.” It is eternally living and eternally operative. That living Word is speaking all the time, and it is operative at any moment as it speaks. The Word is always working and ready for the eyes that will read it, the ears that will hear it, the heart that will believe in it, and the mouth that will speak it. It will heal this person’s body, change their heart, bring life where there was death, and lead him to liberty where there was chains and bondage.

Darby’s Translation puts Hebrews 4:12 this way:

“For the word of God [is] *living and operative*, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and penetrating to [the] division of soul and spirit, both of joints and marrow, and *a discerner of the thoughts and intents of [the] heart.*”

Our faith only works because the Word of God that

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produces it works. So, having received and understood it, your faith will work for you because the Word of God is working in you.

You can live by faith. I can live by faith. We can all live by faith, if we will believe everything God says in His Word and live like it is true, because

it is.

The word of God exceeds enough for the faith-life since every word from God is a seed of faith. We can and should keep living in faith. Do not ask or seek permission from anyone. Take the Word of God in your heart and shout it through your lips and release life and live every day in Jesus' name!

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