

Praising and Praying Across America

MOUNTAINS

God really does answer our prayers.

(Mathew 21:21) Jesus answered them, "I assure you: if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you tell this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' it will be done. And if you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

1. Figuratively

- A. Every language known to man uses figures of speech.
- B. Sometimes God uses figures of speech in the Bible.
 - Sarcasm - 1 Corinthians 11:16ff
 - Personification – Isaiah 55:12
 - Simile – Psalm 17:8
 - Metaphor – Matthew 26:26
 - Hypocatastasis – Mark 1:17
 - Parabola – parables
 - Hyperbole - 2 Samuel 1:23

2. Powerfully

(Matthew 21:18-20) Early in the morning, as He was returning to the city, He was hungry. Seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He went up to it and found nothing on it except leaves. And He said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" At once the fig tree withered. When the disciples saw it, they were amazed and said, "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?"

(21) "If you have faith and do not doubt..."

(22) "If you believe..."

- A. We want to live believing Jesus is powerful enough to do anything.
- B. We learn by doing. Start small, and keep growing.

3. Literally

(21) "even if you tell THIS mountain..."

(17) He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

(18) Early in the morning, as He was returning to the city...

- A. On the cross Jesus totally destroyed the Temple's sacrificial system.
- B. In 70 A.D. the Romans totally destroyed the Temple's physical structure.
- C. God really does, powerfully and literally, answer our prayers.