

1

Effective Faith

Matthew 17:14-21

ref.ly/Mt17;niv



2

80/20 rule

➤ What if the top 20% are taken away?

Jesus and the top 3 (Peter, James, & John) left

What happens with the "bottom 9"?

3

Matthew 17:14-16

¹⁴ When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. ¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. ¹⁶ I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him."

4

Matthew 17:17-18

17 'You unbelieving and perverse generation,' Jesus replied, 'how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.'

18 Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment

5

Matthew 17:19-20

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith."

True faith: "If you have faith, you will move mountains." Matthew 17:20

Storm in the boat: "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Matthew 8:26

No bread in the boat: "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand?" Matthew 16:8-9

6

The Big Idea

**The power to do God's work is in Christ
accessed through active faith in Him**

7



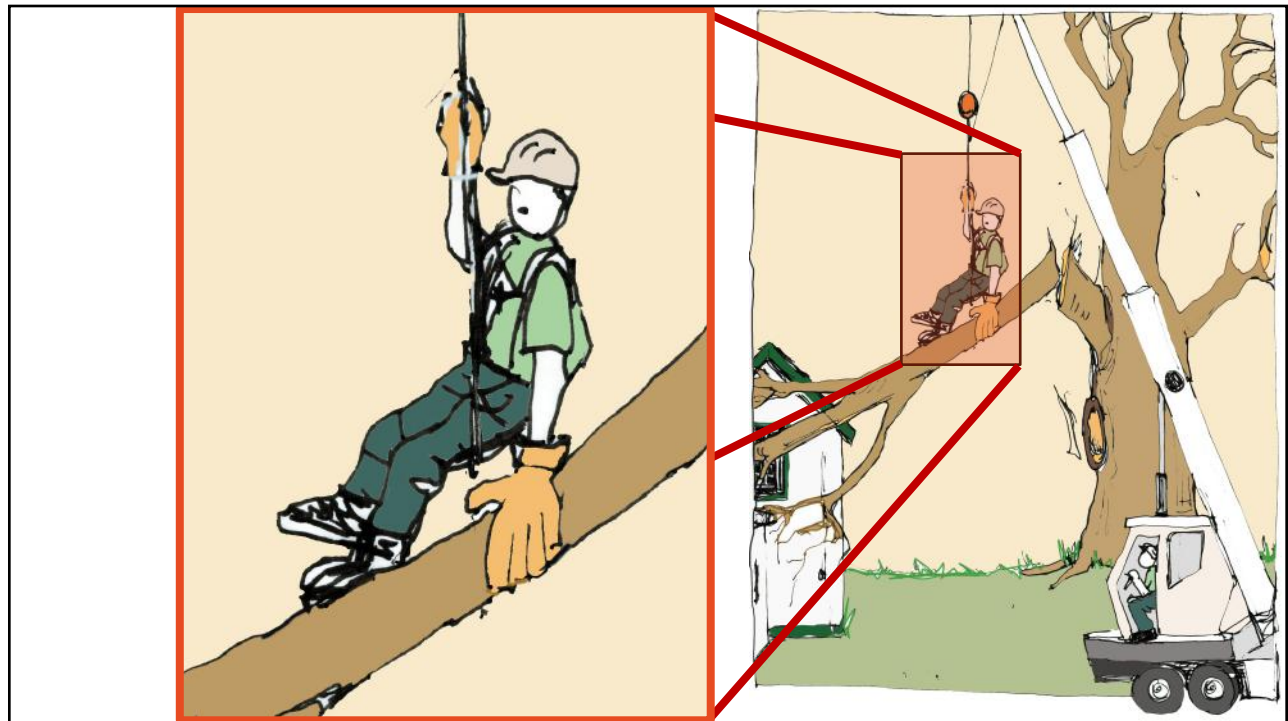
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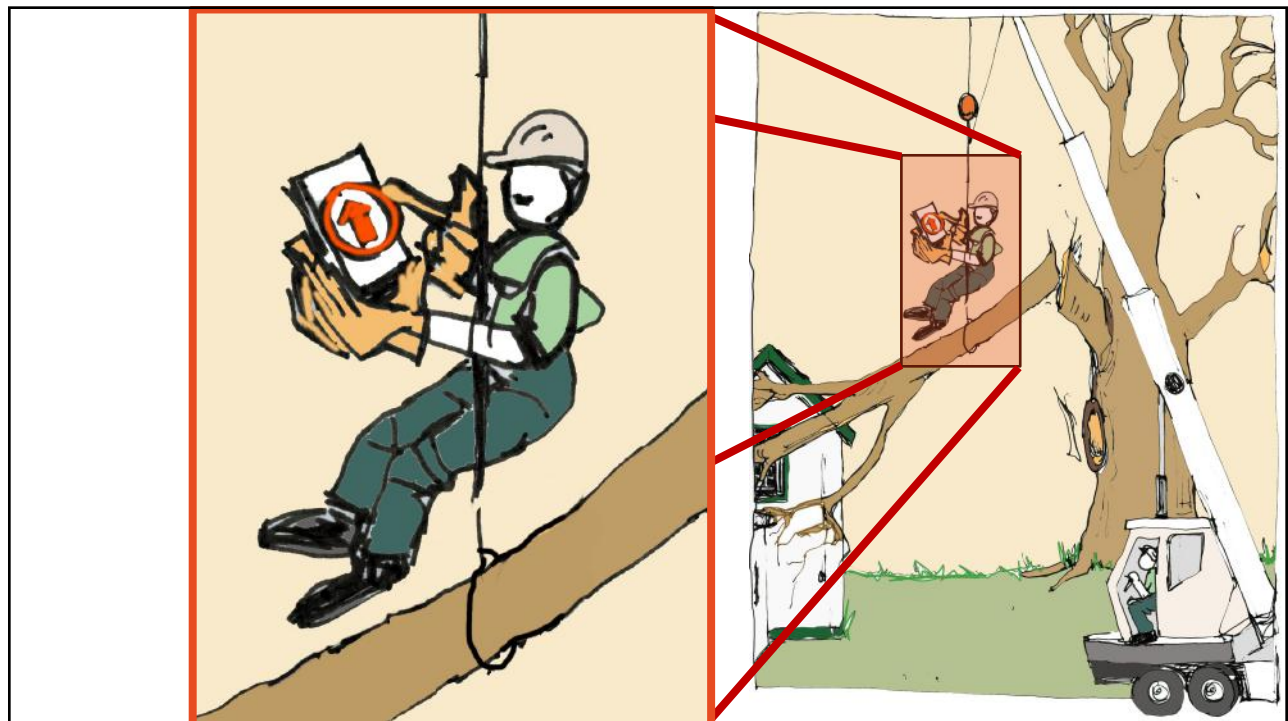
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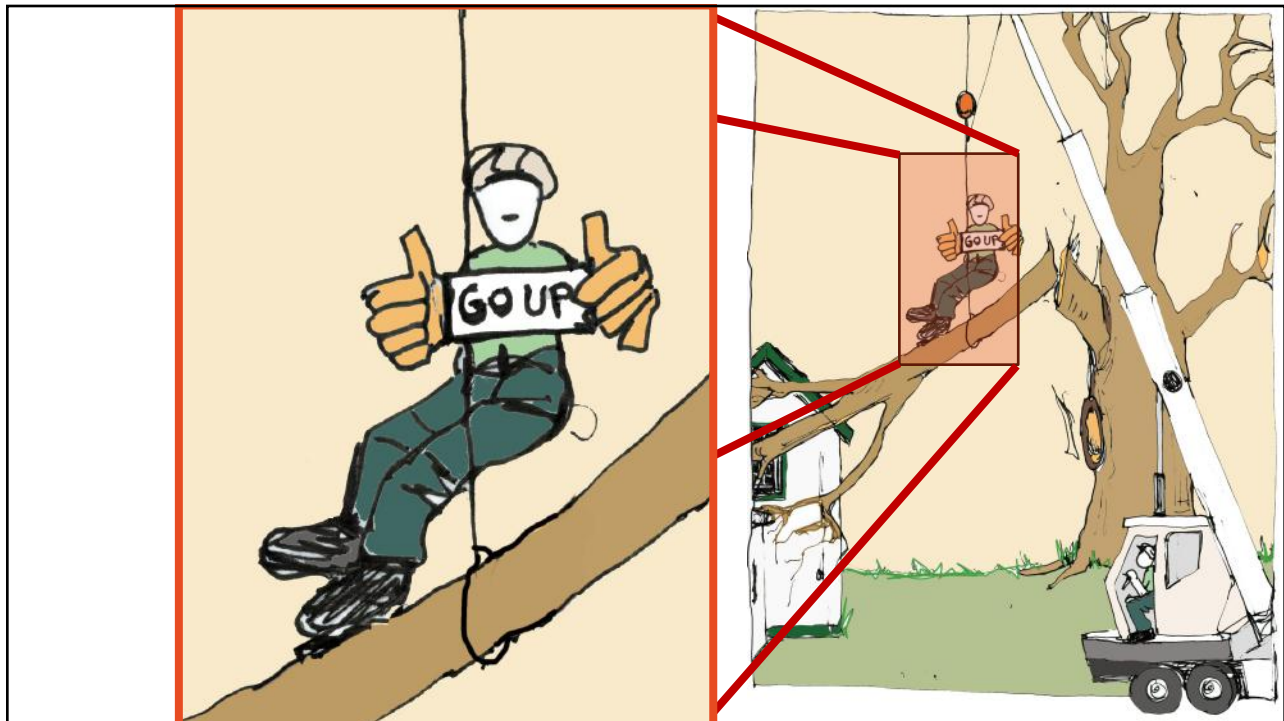
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11



12



13



Prayer is fine.
But it won't
happen unless we
do something

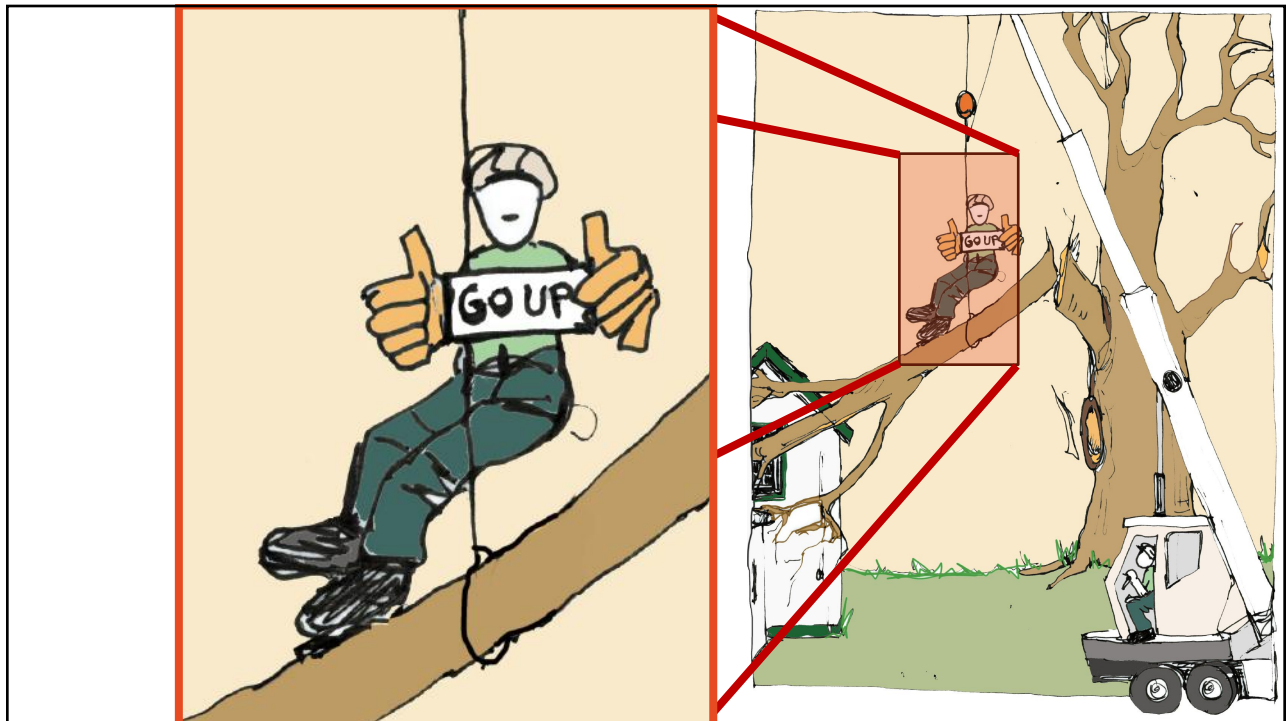


If we learn to
pray right with
confidence, it
will be powerful!



Prayer is asking
the all wise,
good & powerful
God to do what
we believe is
right and good

14



15

The Big Idea

**The power to do God's work is in Christ
accessed through active faith in Him**

16

Three audiences

- **Jesus → the 9 apostles**
 - When they didn't have Jesus or the "big 3"
 - Doing God's work requires faith in God to act
- **Matthew → early Church**
 - When Jesus & the eyewitnesses of Jesus were gone
 - Doing God's work requires faith in God to act
- **Jesus → Church throughout the ages**
 - When Jesus & the "greats" of the faith aren't here
 - Doing God's work requires faith in God to act

17

The Big Idea

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accessed through active faith in Him**

18

What are we to do?

Trust in Jesus

- He is all powerful
- He is all good
- He is all wise
- Trust His power, goodness, and wisdom
- And He says He will do the miraculous according to His perfect wisdom

19

What are we to do?

Pray boldly and humbly to the One who can do all things

- Pray with others: Life Groups, 3rd Sunday prayer gathering, 2nd & 4th Thursday morning, household, elders, ...
- And take faith-filled action that is consistent with the prayer

20

Jesus' prayer to the
all powerful,
all good,
all wise God

- "Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'" Matthew 26:39