

What is your Fig Tree?
“Never forget the Power Within”
by Pastor Nancy P. Atkins
All Days

Roman 10:17; Matt 18:10

Matt 21:18-22

I never really concentrated on the fig tree story. I read it and that was it. But, on this particular morning, I asked the Father what was I to minister to his people in the word of God. He did not provide a laudatory response immediately. I opened the Bible to Matt 21:18 (I just opened it to Matt 21).

As I read Matt 21:18, an illumination or light of understanding hit me and suddenly the fig tree parable had more meaning than all the other umteem (many) times I read it. It had meaning from my heart to my soul; the core of my being. I smiled at God and said thank you.

Introduction:

Prior to his leaving Jerusalem, Jesus was hanging with his homeboys, the disciples. They went to church together. Jesus found the people selling hot dogs, hamburgers with French fires, fried chicken, Nikes, Timberlands, DVD, VCR, Video game, Plasma TVs and smoking cigarettes on the church grounds. They were turning the Holy house into Blockbuster and WalMart. Jesus went in yelling, “Get out of here”; Jesus is mad, he is turning over tables of the money changes and those who sold DVD, video games, fried chicken, and doves.

Jesus said, I can’t believe you folk, what’s wrong with you. My Daddy wrote a sacred order about his house. My Daddy said, “My house shall be called the house of prayer” (thus GHOPE’s name). Look at chew’, you disking my house – that aint’ good. But, we cool, if you respect my Daddy’s house.”

Jesus left Jerusalem and went into Bethany (Jesus was a frequent walker – today we have frequent flyers). I get the traveling genes from my brother Jesus.

A TWO PART VARIABLE – PART ONE “Frontin aint Action”

Matt 21:18

As Jesus is walking, the word says: “Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he **hungered (Jesus had a need)**. Jesus is ready for breakfast. “And when he saw a **fig tree (created to provide his hunger need)** in the way, he came to it, and found ‘**nothing thereon**’, but leaves only (pretty dress, pretty jeans, the latest foot locker shoes, neat video, pretty talk, pretty clothes, no substance and no action) (come on somebody say

amen.) and Jesus said unto it, **LET NO FRUIT GROW ON YOU HENCE-FORWARD FOR EVER.** I'll give you a moment to take that into your computerized mind. **'Let no fruit grow on you no mo.'**

Our homie, Mark 11:13, gives more information. Marks tells us, "And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon; and when he came to it, he (Jesus) found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs **was not yet.**" So if it was not time for it to bear figs why was Jesus upset that it had no figs? Let me give you a moment to wrap your computerized mind around that -- That is the question.

Glory halleluiah for knowledge word: The commentator says, "*Fig trees which have retained their leaves through the winter usually have figs also. It was still too early for new leaves or fruit.*"

So why were the fig tree "frontin" like it had figs when it was only show and no production, no action. Pastor what is the definition of "FRONTIN: Frontin is when we try to cover up **no action** with **loud talk**. I'm doing my homework only to find out from your teachers you never turn in homework; I'm passing the course; only to find you are failing. I'm washing the dishes—I'm taking out the trash, only to find you're in your room playing a video game; I have a job, only to find it only last until the first payday.

If we are not fulfilling the purpose for which we created, then we are frontin like the fig tree. Loud talk and no action towards realization of our vision. What were you created to do? If we are not about doing, "not dressing only—not frontin", what we were created to do -- we are the fig tree.

Results of no action: LET NO FRUIT GROW ON YOU HENCEFORWARD FOREVER. The words says that "***And presently the fig tree withered away.***" Are we, because we are not living up to our created purpose, withering away, or do we possess existence with no substances?

A TWO PART VARIABLE – PART TWO "The Power Within"

When his hommie saw it, "They marveled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!! What happened, how quick is that... man. It's gon. Man step back from this brother. Man, he is one bad (powerful) dude.

Mark 11:22-23 Jesus said, brother man that's nothing. Get down with this: "***Have faith in God.*** (Have the faith that God gives) V. 23 For real, I say to you my brothers, "***That whosoever shall say unto this mountain (fig tree, problem, situation, math, English, social studies), Be you removed, and be you casted into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that THOSE THINGS which he says shall come to pass he (she) shall have WHATSOEVER HE SAID.*** (When I apply myself, I will have knowledge).

V 24 “Therefore I say to you, What things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.

In closing, 1 Samuel 2:3 says

“Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of our mouth (don’t be frontin like the fig tree): For the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by Him ACTIONS are weighed.” Stop frontin like the fig tree!

Paul in Ephesians 1:17-20 provides us with halleluiah knowledge of the power within us. There is no power without process. We must stop frontin: talk less do more.

Please store this in your computerized mind for future reference:

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of WISDOM and REVELATION in the knowledge of him (Jesus)(power over the fig tree). The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of his calling (your purpose), and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance (power over the fig tree lies within us) in the saints,

V 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his (God’s) mighty power. Which he (God) worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and set him at this right hand in the heavenly places.

What kind of Jesus is this who would share the power he had-has over the fig tree with us who are his saints.

Messenge: Stop frontin like the fig tree: Loud talk and no action. Word to wise, this is not some magic, Jesus knows if we are frontin faith or trying to use God without faith.