

Matthew 17:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

Analysis

And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Where the disciples failed, Jesus succeeded instantly through simple rebuke (ἐπετίμησεν, *epetimēsen*). The verb carries authority—not lengthy exorcism rituals but commanding word. The demon "departed" (ἐξῆλθεν, *exēlthen*, went out) immediately, demonstrating Christ's absolute authority over spiritual forces. No negotiation, no struggle—just sovereign command and instant obedience.

"The child was cured from that very hour" (ἀπὸ τῆς ὥρας ἐκείνης, *apo tēs hōras ekeinēs*) emphasizes immediacy and completeness. The boy didn't gradually improve but experienced instantaneous restoration. This contrasts with the disciples' impotent attempts and highlights Jesus's unique authority. The cure (ἐθεραπεύθη, *etherapeuthē*) wasn't merely symptom suppression but complete deliverance—spiritual and physical restoration.

This miracle demonstrates Messianic authority. Jesus doesn't invoke higher power or perform elaborate rituals; He commands directly. His rebuke addresses the root cause (demonic oppression), not just symptoms. This reveals the gospel pattern: where human effort fails utterly, Christ's word accomplishes instantly. He is the stronger man who binds the strong man and plunders his goods (Matthew 12:29). Every demon must flee at His name (Philippians 2:10).

Historical Context

First-century Judaism recognized demon possession as reality requiring spiritual authority to overcome. Professional exorcists existed (Acts 19:13-16), often using elaborate formulas, names, and rituals. Jesus's simple command demonstrates superior authority. The crowd witnessing this miracle saw undeniable proof of His Messianic credentials—Isaiah 35:5-6 and 61:1 prophesied that Messiah would heal afflicted and set captives free.

Mark's account adds that Jesus said, "This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:29), indicating levels of demonic resistance requiring intensified spiritual warfare. The disciples had authority but lacked the spiritual depth (through prayer/fasting) to exercise it effectively. Church history records that authentic deliverance ministry requires holy living, fervent prayer, and dependence on Christ's authority—not formulas or techniques. The apostolic church cast out demons in Jesus's name (Acts 16:18), continuing His victory over Satan's kingdom.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus's instant success through simple rebuke teach about the nature of spiritual authority in ministry?
2. How does this miracle demonstrate that Satan's power, though real, is infinitely inferior to Christ's authority?
3. What is the relationship between external authority (given to the disciples) and internal spiritual vitality (maintained through prayer and fasting)?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐπετίμησεν	αὐτοῦ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	καὶ	ἐξῆλθεν	ἀπὸ
And	rebuked	him	G3588	Jesus	And	he departed	from
G2532	G2008	G846		G2424	G2532	G1831	G575
αὐτοῦ	τὸ	δαιμόνιον	καὶ	ἐθεραπεύθη	ὁ	παῖς	ἀπὸ
him	G3588	the devil	And	was cured	G3588	the child	from
G846		G1140	G2532	G2323		G3816	G575
τῆς	ῥα	ἐκείνης					
G3588	hour	that very					
	G5610	G1565					

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 9:22 (References Jesus): But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.