But He is genuinely interested in our concerns, so much so that He commands us to always pray!  Those last few words reminding us to pray may well be the most striking part of this passage.

In short, I would argue with those who claim this passage as a definition of hyper-faith and it’s necessary position in the life of a Godly Christian.  I see it rather as an amazing display of the ever-present sustaining power of Christ in even the smallest of things—a fig tree!  And a personal reminder from Jesus Himself, that a God with that kind of incredible power is interested in my input, my prayers, my thoughts.  It is humbling.

**The Last Word**

Zyzzyva /ˈzɪzɪvə/ is a genus of tropical American weevils often found in association with palms. It is a snouted beetle. dictionaries.

**Jesus and the Fig Tree**

Matthew 21 recounts a moment in the disciples walk with Jesus, when they saw an aspect of His character that they did not fully understand. The Word tells us that Christ walked up to a fig tree, and finding no figs on it, said to it, “May you never bear fruit again.” The tree immediately withered and died. My Bible headlines this portion of Scripture with, “Jesus curses a fig tree.” But did He actually curse the tree? Technically, He simply made a statement of fact. The tree would never bear fruit again.

We often think of Jesus in terms of what He has done—past tense.  In Genesis we saw Him stand in absolute nothingness and command the universe and everything in it into existence in 6 days. Throughout the Old Testament, He appears time and again, always for a reason and always obtaining results. Then in the New Testament, we are introduced to the God/man named Jesus. We read the stories and consider all that he accomplished in so short a time. He voluntarily died on a cross, He rose again, He offered salvation to all.  All of this is true, to be sure, but it is all seen from a past tense view.

The prophetical books like Revelation, also tell of the future. We see in detail what Christ will one day accomplish. And we rest confident that He will do everything He said that He would. But what about the here and now?

Colossians 1:17 points to a very “present tense” aspect of His story.  All things consist, or are held together by Him.  The reality of that thought may be even more impressive than the creation story found in Genesis 1.  It points to the ever present, active interest that God has in His creation, even in the smallest, most minute details.  He numbers the hairs on our head! How much more mundane an accounting can you imagine? So, it was Jesus who was holding that fig tree in the palm of his hands, so to speak, and causing it to grow and become a tree.

Can we wrap our minds around the idea that He had an efficacious part in it’s sprouting, growth, and maturity? Without His direct and constant involvement, the tree would not have existed at all.

I wonder if, rather than thinking of what He said as a pronounced curse, we should see it as an announcement to the world that His sustaining power would no longer continue with that particular plant.  With the withdrawal of His input, the plant immediately died.  To continue on with the passage, what keeps a mountain together?  The basic physics terms are friction, molecular bonding, and gravity, among others.  Were it not for these established laws of physics operating perfectly as planned, the mountain would collapse and disappear into a flat wasteland.  I firmly believe that God was not bound by any pre-existing physical laws. He created them to interact exactly as He ordained them. Were it not for the sustaining hand of Christ upholding the laws of physics, the mountain would indeed flow into the sea and be gone.

Jesus then talks of faith and doubt and accomplishing amazing things.  But the key point is to be found in verse 22.  If you believe, you will **receive** (emphasis mine.) It’s not about what you or I can do or will do.  It’s not about how much faith we can muster.  The focus must be upon what God does. Too often this passage is read from the viewpoint of what we must do to achieve great things. That places us in the foreground, shading the glory that should be going towards God. We attempt to insert our ability to have faith or believe into the equation as if it were an ingredient that God must have before He can act. His sovereignty allows Him to proceed regardless of our abilities or inabilities. When we recognize the tremendous power of God, and that He is actively and aggressively holding everything together, we can trust Him in all things and in every situation.

The last thing He mentions is prayer.  He saved the most important item for last.  It is our opportunity to be involved in what God does.  The great mystery of prayer is that God allows us to petition Him.  Why would a God of that magnitude value our input in anything?

