

## Weak Faith and Believing in Prayer

Mark 9: 14-29

“Bring him unto me”

**Mark 9:14-29 New American Standard Bible (NASB)**

### All Things Possible

<sup>14</sup> When they came *back* to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and *some* scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> Immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him, they were amazed and *began* running up to greet Him. <sup>16</sup> And He asked them, “What are you discussing with them?” <sup>17</sup> And one of the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute; <sup>18</sup> and whenever it seizes him, it slams him *to the ground* and he foams *at the mouth*, and grinds his teeth and stiffens out. I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not *do it*.” <sup>19</sup> And He answered them and said, “O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!” <sup>20</sup> They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he *began* rolling around and foaming *at the mouth*. <sup>21</sup> And He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. <sup>22</sup> It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!” <sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to him, ““If You can?” All things are possible to him who believes.” <sup>24</sup> Immediately the boy’s father cried out and said, “I do believe; help my unbelief.” <sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again.” <sup>26</sup> After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and *the boy* became so much like a corpse that most *of them* said, “He is dead!” <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up. <sup>28</sup> When He came into *the house*, His disciples *began* questioning Him privately, “Why could we not drive it out?” <sup>29</sup> And He said to them, “This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer.”

### Spurgeon Devotion; Morning and Evening – Morning, September 17

"Bring him unto me."

[Mark 9:19](#)

Despairingly the poor disappointed father turned away from the disciples to their Master. His son was in the worst possible condition, and all means had failed, but the miserable child was soon delivered from the evil one when the parent in faith obeyed the Lord Jesus' word, "Bring him unto Me." Children are a precious gift from God, but much anxiety comes with them. They may be a great joy or a great bitterness to their parents; they may be filled with the Spirit of God, or possessed with the spirit of evil. In all cases, the Word of God gives us one receipt for the curing of all their ills, "Bring him unto Me." O for more agonizing prayer on their behalf while they are yet babes! Sin is there, let our prayers begin to attack it. Our cries for our offspring should precede those cries which betoken their actual advent into a world of sin. In the days of their youth we shall see sad tokens of that dumb and deaf spirit which will neither pray aright, nor hear the voice of God in the soul, but Jesus still commands, "Bring them unto Me." When they

are grown up they may wallow in sin and foam with enmity against God; then when our hearts are breaking we should remember the great Physician's words, "Bring them unto Me." Never must we cease to pray until they cease to breathe. No case is hopeless while Jesus lives.

The Lord sometimes suffers his people to be driven into a corner that they may know how necessary He is to them. Ungodly children, when they show us our own powerlessness against the depravity of their hearts, drive us to flee to the strong for strength, and this is a great blessing to us. Whatever our morning's need may be, let it, like a strong current bear us to the ocean of divine love. Jesus can soon remove our sorrow, He delights to comfort us. Let us hasten to Him while He waits to meet us.

#### Lack of Faith and Believing in Prayer                      Two Scenarios

1. Either we are focused on resolving the problem ourselves and never give it up to the Lord, or;
2. We give it up to God but have a weak faith and have doubts believing that God can resolve the problem.

#### **Doubts of the father: v.22 "But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us!"**

- had some faith
- weak, immature faith

#### Jesus' reply: V.23.a **"If you can?....."**

- rebukes the father
- how can you be doubting Me, My ability, My power, My omniscience

#### The lesson: V.23.b **"All things are possible to him who believes"**

- The father cries out **"I do believe, help my unbelief"**
- Do we always have the faith that the Lord can and will do what we ask of Him?
- Do we pray that He will help us with our faith?
- Do we pray for Him to strengthen our faith?
- Do we thank him when we encounter trials?

Verses go deeper: Not only is there a lack of faith on the father's part, but on the disciple's part as well.

- v.18 **"....I told your disciples to cast it out, and they could not do it"**

Jesus' response in verse 19; **"And He answered them and said 'O unbelieving generation', how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me!"**

- Generation – referring to the disciples. Inferring they were no different than the rest of the unbelieving generation!

- They had the power to cast out the demons. Jesus gave it to them.

Mark 6:7 – **"And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them the authority over the unclean spirits"**

Mark 6:13 – **"And they were casting out many demons...."**

Their problem – Unbelief

- They believed in the process

- They believed in themselves

- However, they started relying on themselves because their faith was not a hoping and trusting assurance in God and His Word.

Verse 19 - Jesus said **"...how long shall I be with you"** His power is available to those who believe in Him and that power.

Then in verse 24 – The father cries out, as we should cry out **"...help my unbelief"**

How much faith does the Father expect? A little? A lot?

In this same account in Matthew 17:20 when the disciples are alone with Him after He drives out the demon, **"And He said to them, because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there', and it will move and nothing will be impossible to you"**

Does He expect perfection? No.

- The Lord never expects perfect faith, for that would be pointless, although he is certainly worthy of it.

- He only expects imperfect faith because we're imperfect and that's all He's ever going to get out of us.

- All of us are going to believe with a measure of doubt mixed in.

The disciple's faith was not perfect. Far from it. Here's men that spent countless days with Jesus witnessing His miracles first hand and Jesus was constantly rebuking them on their "little faith".

Refer to; Mat 6:30, 8:26, 14:31, 16:8, Luke 12:28 **"You of little faith"**

Why could they not drive out the demon? They asked Jesus in verse 28 **“Why could we not drive it out?”** Because they depended on their own gifts, neglected to pray, and their faith was not in Jesus. He answered them in verse 29 **“This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer”**

Prayer and faith in Him, not of yourselves.

The life application:

- Life is full of trials and tribulations
- If we have faith the size of a mustard seed, believe in prayer and God’s power, God will be with us in overcoming adversities.
- We have that much faith already
- Pray to God to help your unbelief and have faith that He will answer prayer
- That’s a promise of God that we can all believe! Pray for His will to be done.