



The Gospel of Mark
LORD, HELP MY UNBELIEF

Mark 9:14-29

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After this eye-witness account of Jesus' glorious transformation that Peter, James and John experienced, Jesus returns to the nine disciples who had remained behind. Jesus sees Jewish scribes arguing with his disciples about not being able to cast out a demonic spirit. Jesus' return is similar to that of Moses coming down from Mount Sinai after a majestic experience with God to find unbelief and unfaithfulness in the Israelite camp. Lord, help our unbelief when we lack the faith we need.

Mark 9:14-29

"And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. **15** And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. **16** And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" **17** And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. **18** And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." **19** And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." **20** And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. **21** And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. **22** And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." **23** And Jesus said to him, "'If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.'" **24** Immediately the father of the child cried out[a] and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" **25** And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." **26** And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." **27** But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. **28** And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" **29** And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

Similarly, with Jesus' work of healing **John 9:1-7** says, "Jesus' disciples asked Him, saying "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him."

1. The PRESENCE of God is NECESSARY for Effective Ministry. (v 17-19)

*"For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways." **Psalm 95:10***

"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children."

Deuteronomy 4:9

2. Genuine Faith is not a PERFECT Faith; but a WILLFUL Faith. (v 20-24)

- Being CREATED by God or HEALED by God does NOT mean you belong to God.
- BELONGING to God is by BELIEVING in His Son Jesus Christ.

3. POWER Only Comes Through the ONE who is POWERFUL. (v 25-29)

- True PRAYER ushers in true POWER.