

Lord, Help My Unbelief

Mark 9: 14-27

Jesus has just returned from the Mount of Transfiguration to find a multitude gathered with the disciples. The scribes have gathered and are questioning the disciples concerning their inability to heal a young man who is possessed. Jesus immediately calms the crowd, and in the events that follow, He teaches a great lesson on faith.

You would agree with me that we are a people of faith. We are saved by grace through faith. We walk in faith, believing in One that our eyes have never seen. We talk of faith, sing and teach of faith. Faith is a fundamental doctrine of Christianity.

However, our faith has a tendency to waver. At times it is strong and at others it is very weak. I know my faith tends to waver from time to time. The weakness of faith is the focus of this passage. I want to take a few moments to look at the [aspects](#) of faith that are revealed in these verses as we consider the thought: [Lord, Help My Unbelief](#).

I. The Significance of Faith (17-18) – [And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; ^{\[18\]} And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.](#) Here we find the great need in the passage. A man has brought his son, one who is possessed with a demon, to the disciples for healing. He is in a pitiful condition, taken in convulsions, foaming at the mouth, and gnashing in his body.

- This young man was in a desperate situation. He was in need of a miracle that only the Lord could provide. His father was helpless to provide for Him. The disciples were unable to deliver the young man although Jesus had given them power to do so. Faith was all that remained. It was the only hope for this young man and his father.
- In times like these, faith is significant. We have all faced situations where we were helpless to provide for a particular need. We may have been surrounded by friends and loved ones who offered loving support, but they too were unable to provide for our need.
- There are times when we just have to trust the Lord in faith. We have faced situations in the past that were beyond our control and they will continue as long as we live. Faith is essential if we are to overcome. [1 John 5:4 - For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.](#)

II. The Shortage of Faith (19) – He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. Jesus was upset with their lack of faith. The multitude did not believe, along with the father, and the disciples lacked the faith needed to carry out the work that Christ had called them to perform.

- These events took place in the third year of Jesus' ministry. By now, He was well known for the miracles He had performed and the power He possessed. There was a lack of faith by all. The disciples had no excuse. They had walked with Him for a couple of years and had witnessed all that He had done. They were unable to cast out the demon because of their lack of faith. Jesus spoke of that in: [Mat.17:20](#) – And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

- We might wonder how these things could be. How could they possibly not have believed? Before we get to critical, we must admit that we too are guilty of the same. I have witnessed the hand of God many times in my life, and yet I am guilty of unbelief at times. There are times when I am burdened about a need in my life and I will take that need before the Lord, but often I doubt even while I am praying. Where is faith in that?

- We usually don't have a problem with the little things. We like to talk of faith when we are on the mountain. It is usually in a time of crisis when our faith grows weak. God expects us to trust in Him. Doubt and unbelief are sins. [Heb.10:38](#) – Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. The phrase [draw back](#) has the idea of "withdrawing, cowering in fear." God desires us to come before Him boldly in full assurance of His power and ability.

III. The Source of Our Faith (23) – Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. Jesus reveals that faith brings results. We need to be reminded that Jesus is the source of our faith. I stand amazed at our lack of faith at times, mine included. We trust the Lord with our souls and our eternal destiny and yet many times we fail to trust Him with the trivial aspects of life.

- The father said in [V.22](#), "If thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us." He wasn't sure if Jesus could really help or not. Jesus responded, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

- The outcome of our faith isn't dependent on whether God is able or not. He is more than able to meet our needs. [Eph.3:20](#) – Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. The outcome of our faith is dependent on

our belief in His ability to meet our need! It has been said, “Faith isn’t simply believing God can; it is knowing God will.” There has never been a need or request the Lord couldn’t handle. He has never faced a challenge that was beyond His ability to meet. I have never heard the Lord say that my problem was out of His reach or that He lacked the resources to supply what I needed.

- We are serving the same God that parted the Red Sea, enabled a shepherd boy to defeat a giant, stood in the fire with the Hebrew boys, the same Lord that called Lazarus from the grave. What could we possibly need that He couldn’t supply? [Mal.3:6 – For I am the Lord, I change not.](#)
- God has the power to provide for us; the question is: do we have the faith to believe? The key to life changing faith is an unmovable belief in the power of God. [Heb.11:6 – But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.](#) We must believe that He is what? He is God; He is able. He will reward and provide for those who believe!

IV. The Supplication for Faith (24) – [And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.](#) The father came weeping, desiring help from Jesus. [Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.](#) He acknowledged that he had faith and confidence in Jesus. He knew if anyone was able to meet his need, it would be the Lord, but at the same time he acknowledged his faith was lacking. He sought Jesus to complete his faith, to increase it to what it must be.

- Faith is of the Lord. The faith that we have was given of Him. If our faith is lacking, we must seek Him to increase our faith. He knows our hearts and the faith we possess.
- We cannot muster faith within ourselves. Faith is a gift from above. Isn’t that a blessing! We need faith to receive the abundance God gives. He supplies the faith to receive His goodness. All that we need and possess comes from the good hand of God.
- How long has it been since you were burdened about a need and desired the Lord to increase your faith? Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief! [Luke 17:5 – And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.](#)

V. The Surety of Faith (25-27) – [When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.](#) ^[26] [And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.](#) ^[27] [But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.](#)

Jesus provided just what they needed. This day had begun in despair, like so many before, but when they came to Jesus in faith, their needs were met.

- Genuine faith produces results. God has promised to honor our faith, [v.23](#). Mark11:22-24 – [And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.](#) ^[23] [For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.](#) ^[24] [Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.](#) We aren't moving too many mountains because we lack faith. We can rest assured that God will hear and answer our prayers when we seek Him in faith. We are serving the same Jesus that met the needs of this young man. I have no doubt that if He can do it for him, He can do it for me and you! [Psalm 37:5 – Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.](#)

Conclusion: We all have times when our faith is weak. I know I do. It seems I have fought doubt and unbelief a lot lately. The adversary says my life is a wreck and all hope is lost, but the Lord says: trust in Me and I will bring it to pass.

I don't know what the needs are, but the Lord does. He stands ready to meet your need today. Whatever it is, why not come before Him and allow Him to help you? We must come in faith and then we can enjoy victory!