

No Faith, Weak Faith, & Little Faith



Mark 9:14-29



Mount Hermon from south

I. No Faith



☞ 17-18a - And one of the crowd answered Him, "Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit. And one of the crowd answered Him, "Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute, and whenever it seizes him, it slams him *to the ground* and he foams *at the mouth*, and grinds his teeth and stiffens out.

- ☞ 1) Made him unable to speak
- ☞ 2) Made him have epileptic type symptoms.
- ☞ 3) Made him deaf (25)

II. Weak Faith (20-27)



- ☞ 22-23 - "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!"²³ And Jesus said to him, "'If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes."
- ☞ 24 - Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

III. Little Faith (28-29)



- ☞ The apostles thinking...
- ☞ 1) You handpicked us as your representatives.
☞ 3:13-14
- ☞ 2) You gave us essentially your authority to cast out demons.
☞ 3:15; 6:7
- ☞ 3) We have always been able to cast out demons before.
☞ 6:13
- ☞ 4) You, Jesus, have certainly all authority over demons.
- ☞ 5) So we should have been able to cast the one demon out of this boy.

III. Little Faith (28-29)



- ☞ "This kind"
- ☞ Cf. Matt. 12:45 - "Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation."
- ☞ Cf. Luke 11:26 - "Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first."

III. Little Faith (28-29)



- ☞ Cf. Matt. 17:20 - 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.
- ☞ What is the relationship between faith and prayer?
 - ☞ The first expression of true faith...
 - ☞ Rom. 10:13-14 - "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?

John Calvin



- ☞ "He does not mean that God will give us everything that we may mention, or that may strike our minds at random. On the contrary, as nothing is more at variance with faith than the foolish and irregular desires of our flesh, it follows that those in whom faith reigns do not desire everything without discrimination, but only that which the Lord promises to give."

Faith & Prayer...



- ☞ Faith:
 - ☞ 1) Confidence in God's clear biblical promises that are addressed to you.
 - ☞ 2) Confidence in God's ability to do whatever He chooses and whatever I ask of Him.
- ☞ Chief Way to Express Faith?
 - ☞ Prayer!
 - ☞ Grundman: "prayer is faith turned to God."
 - ☞ Ps. 62:8 - Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.

John Calvin



- ☞ "That we lie on earth poor and famished and almost destitute of spiritual blessings, while Christ sits in glory at the right hand of the Father, clothed with the highest majesty...must be imputed to our slothfulness [in prayer] and the narrowness of our faith."