

## Topics

- ✓ **Monday:** *Is One Faith as Good as Another?*
- ✓ **Tuesday:** *Things that Encourage*
- ✓ **Wednesday:** *The Peace of God*
- ✓ **Thursday:** *Settled in Complacency*
- ✓ **Friday:** *The Earnest Cry of Bartimaeus*

### Mark 9:14-29

#### **Healing of Epileptic Son**

(Matt. 17:14-21; Luke 9:37-42)

1. **Setting** (vv. 14-16)
  - a. *Jesus & 3 disciples come down from mt. of transfig. (vv. 2-13)*
  - b. *Large crowd & disputing (vv. 14-16)*

### Mark 9:14-29

#### **Healing of Epileptic Son**

(Matt. 17:14-21; Luke 9:37-42)

1. **Setting** (vv. 14-16)
2. **Problem** (vv. 17-18) – Father of epileptic explains:
  - a. *Son has an evil spirit (vv. 17-18)*
  - b. *Disciples failed (v. 18)*
    - Had to be a “set back” for the father

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#### **Healing of Epileptic Son**

(Matt. 17:14-21; Luke 9:37-42)


1. **Setting** (vv. 14-16)
2. **Problem** (vv. 17-18) – Father of epileptic explains:
3. **Jesus’ Response** (vv. 19-29)
  - a. *Rebuked Jews and scribes for unbelief (v. 19)*
  - b. *Son brought to Jesus (vv. 20-22a)*
  - c. *Father expresses doubt (vv. 22b-23)*
  - d. *Father cries out for help (v. 24)*
  - e. *Son healed (vv. 25-27)*
  - f. *Explains to disciples why they failed (vv. 28-29; Mt. 17:20)*

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2. **Problem** (vv. 17-18) – Father of epileptic explains:
3. **Jesus’ Response** (vv. 19-29)
4. **Story of faith and doubt**
  - a. *Broad statement to Jews - faithless (v. 19)*
    - 1) Intended for the Jews & scribes
    - 2) Must have thought of his own disciples
  - b. *Father expressed doubt – “if” (v. 22)*
    - 1) “Half doubting, half in despair” (Pulpit)
    - 2) While referring to Jesus – pointing to failure of the disciples



When he qualifies his petition with the clause: “if thou art able in any way,” we should remember the setback his faith received when the nine disciples of Jesus failed to accomplish anything; this “if” refers to that failure.

Lenski, R. C. H. (1961). *The Interpretation of St. Mark’s Gospel* (p. 380)

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  - a. Broad statement to Jews - faithless (v. 19)
  - b. Father expressed doubt – “if” (v. 22)
  - c. Disciples told the problem is lack of faith (Matt. 17:20)

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2. **Problem** (vv. 17-18) – Father of epileptic explains:
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5. **V. 24: “help my unbelief”**
  - a. Paradoxical phrasing: “I believe, help my unbelief”
  - b. Claims to have faith – but recognizes his weakness
  - c. Had faith, but he craved even more (A. T. Robertson)
  - d. Translations:
    - NLT: “help me overcome my unbelief”
    - AMP: “help my weakness of faith”
    - LBP: “I do have faith, oh help me to have more”

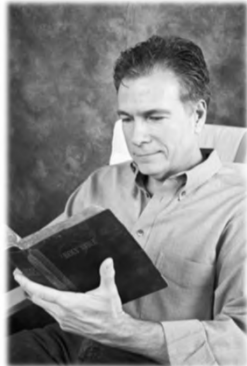
**Mark 9:14-29**  
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 (Matt. 17:14-21; Luke 9:37-42)

**The Point:**  
 Must recognize what is lacking in order to fill the void!

“This, too, was well, for they who feel their lack of faith are in the best condition for removing this lack”


Lenski, R. C. H. (1961). *The Interpretation of St. Mark's Gospel* (p. 381)

Help  
My  
Unbelief




Mark 9:24

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Mark 9:24


I. Help me Have Stronger Faith



I. Help me Have Stronger Faith

**A. Possible to have faith – yet not as strong as should be**

1. Little faith (Matt. 6:30; 8:26)
2. Fail (Luke 22:32)
3. Weak (Rom. 4:19)



**I. Help me Have Stronger Faith**

**A. Possible to have faith – yet not as strong as should be**  
**B. The faith you have can be shaken**


1. Because of pressure (1 Thess. 3:3)
2. Because of error (2 Thess. 2:2)
3. Because of neglect (Heb. 2:3; 5:12-13)
4. Because of the failure of others (Mark 9:22)

“Originally he had come seeking for Jesus himself. Since Jesus was on the mountain top, he had had to deal with the disciples, and his experience of them was discouraging. His faith was badly shaken, so badly shaken that when he came to Jesus all he could say at first was, ‘Help me, if you can.’ Then, face to face with Jesus, suddenly his faith blazed up again. ‘I believe,’ he cried.”

Barclay, W. (2001). *The New Daily Study Bible: The Gospel of Mark* (p. 253). Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press.

“It sometimes happens that people get less than they hoped for from some church or from some servant of the Church. When that happens, they ought to press beyond the Church to the Master of the Church, beyond the servant of Christ to Christ himself. The Church may at times disappoint us, and God’s servants on earth may disappoint us. But when we battle our way face to face with Jesus Christ, he never disappoints us.”


Barclay, W. (2001). *The New Daily Study Bible: The Gospel of Mark* (p. 253).



**I. Help me Have Stronger Faith**

**A. Possible to have faith – yet not as strong as should be**  
**B. The faith you have can be shaken**  
**C. Faith is strengthened through the word**

1. Faith is built, strengthened & maintained by the word (Rom. 10:17)
2. Built up by the word (Acts 20:32)
3. Don’t expect your faith to get any stronger when:
  - Read little in the word
  - Spend more time reading & listen to things about the word




**I. Help me Have Stronger Faith**

**A. Possible to have faith – yet not as strong as should be**  
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**C. Faith is strengthened through the word**  
**D. The goal – to have faith that fully trust**


1. The father didn’t fully trust (v. 22)
2. Jesus calls for him to fully trust (v. 23)
3. Disciples didn’t fully trust (Matt. 17:20)
4. Faith described by prayer & fasting (v. 29)
  - Prayer – faith that trust God to respond (Lk. 18:1)
  - Fasting – faith that God will help & provide

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Mark 9:24


**I. Help me Have Stronger Faith**  
**II. Help me Settle my Doubts**



**II. Help me Settle my Doubts**

**A. Father had doubts**

1. "If" suggests a question in his mind
2. Not saying, "I don't believe you can" – but has questions
3. Perhaps had good reason – disciples' failure led him to question
4. His request: help me with my doubts!




**II. Help me Settle my Doubts**

**A. Father had doubts**

**B. Times we have doubts – even though we have faith**

1. Peter did (Matt. 14:31)
2. Disciples had doubts when they saw what they couldn't explain (Luke 24:38)
3. We too will have questions and doubts



**II. Help me Settle my Doubts**


**A. Father had doubts**

**B. Times we have doubts – even though we have faith**

**C. Doubts can be and must be settled**

1. The father cried for help with his doubts
2. Bereans studied and settled their questions and doubts (Acts 17:11)

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Mark 9:24

**I. Help me Have Stronger Faith**

**II. Help me Settle my Doubts**


**III. Help my Disobedience**



**III. Help my Disobedience**

**A. Disobedience is unbelief**

1. When Moses disobeyed – God said he did not believe (Num. 20:12)
2. Disobedience is following own will and not God's
3. Faith involves listening and obeying (Heb. 11:4, 7)




**III. Help my Disobedience**

**A. Disobedience is unbelief**

**B. Every act of disobedience is a crack in our faith**

1. Do what God said not do (Jas. 2:9)
2. Neglect to do what God told us to do (Jas. 4:17)




**III. Help my Disobedience**

**A. Disobedience is unbelief**  
**B. Every act of disobedience is a crack in our faith**  
**C. Help me to be stronger in faith and more obedient**


1. *Grow in favor – more pleasing (2 Pet. 3:18)*
2. *Mature in the faith (Phil. 3:15)*

**Help My Unbelief**



Mark 9:24


**I. Help me Have Stronger Faith**  
**II. Help me Settle my Doubts**  
**III. Help my Disobedience**  
**IV. Help my Rejection of Word**



**IV. Help my Rejection of Word**

**A. Possible to have faith & yet reject the word**


1. *Zecharias was a righteous man – thus, he had faith (Luke 1:6)*
2. *Yet, when given the word from God, didn't believe it (Luke 1:20)*
3. *Knew & understood what was said – just didn't believe it*
4. *Reason: Did not fit human reasoning – couldn't be!*



**IV. Help my Rejection of Word**

**A. Possible to have faith & yet reject the word**  
**B. May be times we have a hard time believing God**

1. *Baptism (Mark 16:16)*
2. *Disobedient lost (2 Thess. 1:7-9)*
3. *Hell (Mark 9:43)*
4. *God created world instantly (Psa. 33:6-9)*
5. *Jonah swallowed by fish (Jonah 1:17)*
6. *Serpent spoke to Eve (Gen. 3)*




**IV. Help my Rejection of Word**

**A. Possible to have faith & yet reject the word**  
**B. May be times we have a hard time believing God**  
**C. Help me with my lack of confidence in the word**


1. *Help me to believe what God says*
2. *Help me be like Abraham (Rom. 4:17-21)*

**Help My Unbelief**



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**I. Help me Have Stronger Faith**  
**II. Help me Settle my Doubts**  
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**IV. Help my Rejection of Word**  
**V. Help me When I Fail to Use the Faith I Have**



V. Help me When I Fail to Use the Faith I Have

A. Disciples had faith – but didn't use what had

1. *Matt. 17:20*
2. *Luke 17:1-10*




V. Help me When I Fail to Use the Faith I Have

A. Disciples had faith – but didn't use what had

B. Not always a matter of how much faith we have – but using the faith we have – to do what we know

1. *Forgiving*
2. *Study*
3. *Attend*
4. *Be mate should be*
5. *Be kind*
6. *Teach others*

Your faith may be lacking...  
BUT  
You have enough faith to do better than you are!




V. Help me When I Fail to Use the Faith I Have

A. Disciples had faith – but didn't use what had

B. Not always a matter of how much faith we have – but using the faith we have – to do what we know


C. Anytime I fail to do what I really know I should – I fail to use the faith I have

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- V. Help me When I Fail to Use the Faith I Have
- VI. Help me in the Midst of Emotional Turmoil




VI. Help me in the Midst of Emotional Turmoil

A. The father was frustrated with emotional turmoil over his son (v. 24)

B. Emotional turmoil could plague any of us at any given moment

1. "No one is characterized by a 'red-hot' faith around the clock." (Wayne Jackson)
2. *Death (own impending or family)*
3. *Family stress*
4. *Job pressure*
5. *Sickness*
6. *Concern for others*



VI. Help me in the Midst of Emotional Turmoil

A. The father was frustrated with emotional turmoil over his son (v.24)

B. Emotional turmoil could plague any of us at any given moment

C. When under emotional turmoil – can still have faith – yet struggle

1. *Job did (19:25; 6:3-4)*
2. *Father did (Mark 9:24)*

Be that as it may, sometimes, when we are hurting so badly (and pain can generate confusion), our hearts may overpower our heads. By that we mean this: our agony forces clear logic to the side, and we begin to “think” with our feelings. We still believe, but we are angry. We feel neglected; we don’t understand why the Lord doesn’t rush to our beckon call. Sometimes we pout. We refuse to talk to him (i.e., we don’t pray). We think we will punish him by refusing to assemble with other Christians for worship. We may even say harsh and thoughtless things to him, almost literally shaking our fist in his face.

Wayne Jackson

At times like these we need to get hold of ourselves and give ourselves a good shaking. We need to cry out, “Lord, help my unbelief!” We need to ask for his patience. We need to weep before him. We ought to analyze our situation and attempt to determine if we have contributed to our own problems; and if so, is there anything we can do to help remedy the circumstance. What we absolutely must not do is give in to our frustration. Once we cease struggling with our faith, and let it slide, we are headed down a slippery slope that may lead to eternal ruin. What a horrible thought to contemplate. Lord, I believe; but help me in my times of unbelief!

Wayne Jackson

# Help My Unbelief



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