



Belief and Unbelief

By Jeff Bedwell on May 21, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Mark 9

Belief and unbelief can exist side by side in the same person at the same time. The father in today's reading is a perfect example.

In desperation he brings his son, whose very life is threatened by the reality of demonic activity. While not every physical affliction is a direct result of demonic activity, this one certainly was. This desperate father had tried everything. He even brought his son to the disciples who had been authorized by Jesus for just this thing (see Mark 6:7, 13). Sadly, in their own unbelief they were unable to do what Jesus had empowered and authorized them to do.

Jesus, coming down from the Mount of Transfiguration, steps in and teaches us all a lesson on belief. He encourages the father, "All things are possible for the one who believes" (vs. 23). The father then utters a most honest prayer; one that we can identify with and Jesus honored, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (vs. 24). Maybe some of us need to be honest enough to pray this father's prayer. Be honest with God about your doubts and cry out in faith. God will honor the faith you do have and strengthen it despite your struggle with doubt and unbelief.

The disciples too needed a fresh infusion of belief fueled by prayer. When they asked Jesus why they could not drive out this demon, Jesus replied, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer" (vs. 29). This is a powerful reminder that today's challenges will require fresh, daily dependence on and prayer to God. Today's challenges cannot be met solely with memories of yesterday's victories.

Prayer is a powerful antidote for unbelief. When belief and unbelief collide, let us turn to the one our belief comes from, the source and object of our faith -- Jesus Christ. Our faith is not in our faith, but in our mighty God. Seeking His face, praying desperately and expectantly, starting with the belief we do have, is the pathway to growing beyond our unbelief. Today, let us choose to repent of our unbelief. Let us pray for deliverance from our unbelief even before praying for deliverance from our circumstances.

PRAYER: Father, I believe, help my unbelief! Help me grow my trust in You as I feed my mind on Your Word and fuel my heart through communicating with You through prayer. Thank You that You honor and grow even a "mustard seed" of faith!

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: Mark 10

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