

Recap of 10/1/23 message by Pastor Steve (Mark 9:14-29, part 2):

In Mk 9:14-29 Jesus encourages His disciples by showing them that even though He is going to the cross, 1) His meekness is not weakness, 2) the disciples' failures in no way impugn the power of God, and 3) God calls his followers to a life of ongoing faith. We covered the first two principles in part 1 of the message. In part 2 we looked at the third principle by focusing on Mk 9:23-24 where Jesus states that "all things are possible to him who believes" and the possessed boy's father proclaims, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

All things are possible to him who believes: Many unscrupulous teachers have used this verse and other similarly powerful verses (Mt 17:19-20, Mk 11:22-24, Lk 17:6, Php 4:13) to claim that this means believers can get whatever they want whenever they want it. While this is a great verse of promise for believers, it is important to have a correct Biblical theology regarding its application. Verses such as Jn 14:13-14, 1 Jn 5:14-15, and Jn 5:7 show us that abiding in Jesus, being completely submitted to God, is what makes all things are possible for believers. Those abiding in God recognize that God supplies the power to make all things possible and because it is His power, it is applied according to His will. Those abiding in Jesus are fully in line with God's will, therefore, God gives them the power to thrive in whatever He brings into their lives. We can thrive through the hard times and the good times because all things are possible for those who believe.

I do believe; help my unbelief: This is the cry of all believers at some time in our lives, and that is ok. Notice that the man's doubt did not limit Jesus' power. Jesus graciously helped his unbelief by casting the demon out of his son. God does the same for us. We have the testimony of scripture to see how God is always faithful. Reading, studying, memorizing, meditating on God's Word helps our unbelief. We can also look back on our lives and see how God has been faithful to get us through the difficult times and the wonderful times.

Because all things are possible for those who believe and God helps our unbelief, we ought to abide in Jesus in all areas of our lives. Figure out what it is that God is calling us to do; maybe a specific ministry, maybe just being a Christlike dad, mom, son, daughter, sister, brother, employee, or supervisor. Whatever it is, do it with faith that God will enable you to flourish in whatever comes your way. God call his followers to a life of ongoing faith!