

I Believe, Help My Unbelief Mark 9:14-29

I Believe

- I believe - a conscious decision to step out in faith despite wavering feelings
- πιστεύω (pisteuō) 'to trust (in)' - to believe, put one's faith in, trust, with an implication that actions based on that trust may follow
- Jesus has just called them an *"unbelieving generation"* (vs. 19)
- *"If you can do anything?"* (vs. 22)
- Belief, in itself, is meaningless. We must believe in the right things.

Help My Unbelief

- Help my unbelief - a recognition that I am weak and that only in the power of God will I have sufficient faith.
 - This is the essence of true faith. I can't even trust in myself for faith or belief.
- ἀπιστία (apistia) 'unbelief' - unbelief, lack of faith, often with the implication of stubbornly refusing to believe or act in accord with God's will or law
- 2 Corinthians 12:10 - *"Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."*
- We can accomplish anything when we acknowledge that we can accomplish nothing on our own. Religion says you can earn it, but faith says only Jesus can do it for you.

Intimacy with the Father is the key to being empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Mark 9:29 – *"This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer."*

Response: On the card provided, write down things you believe God can do but you don't believe that He actually will do. Or write down ways that you doubt God's power, love or presence. Essentially, write down your "unbelief." Then bring that card to the stations in prayer and submit those doubts to God, asking Him to help your unbelief.

Digging Deeper:

Pray through these “Prayers of Intention” as ways to help you develop ongoing, intimacy with God.

1. **Prayer of Presenting Oneself as a Sacrifice** (Rom 12:1-2): the spiritual discipline of presenting oneself to God as a living sacrifice, open to Him and His will in all things, for the sake of transformation. “Lord, I am here, I present myself to you, that I might not be conformed to the world but transformed by the renewing of the mind of Christ within me. Here I am.”
2. **Prayer of Recollection** (Phil 3:7-9; Gal 2:20): the spiritual discipline of reminding the self of its true identity in Christ (full pardon, full acceptance) and “Christ in me” (that I am not alone). “God, whatever I do today, I want to do this in you. I have died with Christ to the law and sin. It is no longer I who lives but Christ is now my life and He lives in me. I am fully forgiven and accepted in Christ. I don’t want to do this day alone, in my own power or as a way to hide and cover. I don’t want to find my identity in anything but Christ. I am in Christ.” Confess any idolatry: something besides Jesus Christ that you feel you must have to be happy, something that is more important to your heart than God, something that is enslaving your heart through inordinate desires.
3. **Prayer of Honesty** (Ps 15:1-2; 139:23-24): the spiritual discipline whereby we open to God and ourselves in what is truly going on in our heart in order for truth-telling to take place in our relationships and life. “Lord, what is going on in my heart right now with You, with others, with my life, my situations? Search me, O God, and know my heart. Open my heart to you today in truth, lest I deceive myself.” Spend time in confession (1 John 1:8-10)
4. **Prayer of Discernment** (Eccles 7:13-14): the discipline whereby we learn to watch what the Spirit is doing in us and not merely our work, to consider the work of God, what His will is in all things versus ours or the devil’s. “Lord, what are you doing and what is it that you want me to become and do if I am to do your will?”
5. **In receptivity to the Spirit, hear the Word of God** (Heb 4:12)
Spend some time reading the Bible and listening to God speak to you through it.

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Today was Teacher Dedication Sunday. Share a story of a teacher that made an impact on your life. Let these examples inspire you to make an impact on someone else’s life.
2. Share a time where you have felt like the father of the boy in the story. A time where you could say, *“I do believe. Help my unbelief.”* You know in your head that something is true about God but you also doubt.
3. What do you think about Pastor Eric’s explanation of *“This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer”*? Do you think this is about ongoing intimacy with the Father or do you think it’s something else? Why? Use Scripture to support your answer.

Next Steps:

CELEBRATE RECOVERY: The purpose of Celebrate Recovery is to discover God’s healing power through fellowship and the Christ-centered twelve steps. By sharing our experience, strength and hope with one another, we are transformed. Learn more about joining Celebrate Recovery at calvarylife.org/cr

HEALING PRAYER FROM THE ELDERS: Email Susie Sepetjian, Executive Assistant, at ssepetjian@calvarylife.org to request a time to be anointed with oil and have the elders lay hands on you and pray.

CONNECT IN A LIFEGROUP - Learn about the ongoing small group communities meeting this morning at Calvary, as well as off-campus LifeGroups meeting throughout the week, by marking “LifeGroups” on The Card (located in the seat racks), visiting Connection Point in the Lobby today, or browsing our website at calvarylife.org/lifegroups

JOIN A VOLUNTEER TEAM - There are many ways to give back by serving with Children, Students, Greeters, Safety, Medical and more. Stop in the Lobby today to learn how you can help or visit calvarylife.org/serve



CONNECT.GROW.REACH
1010 N. Tustin Ave. | Santa Ana | CA

phn | 714.973.4800
web | calvarylife.org