

Jesus...Help My Unbelief
(Abandoning Doubt)
Mark 9:14-29 (NASB)

¹⁴ When they came *back* to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and *some* scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵ Immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him, they were amazed and *began* running up to greet Him. ¹⁶ And He asked them, “What are you discussing with them?” ¹⁷ And one of the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute; ¹⁸ and ^[a] whenever it seizes him, it ^[b] slams him *to the ground* and he foams *at the mouth*, and grinds his teeth and ^[c] stiffens out. I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not *do it*.” ¹⁹ And He *answered them and *said, “O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!” ²⁰ They brought ^[d] the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he *began* rolling around and foaming *at the mouth*. ²¹ And He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²² 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.” ²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was ^[e] rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You deaf and mute spirit, I ^[f] command you, come out of him and do not enter him ^[g] again.” ²⁶ After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and *the boy* became so much like a corpse that most *of them* said, “He is dead!” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up. ²⁸ When He came into *the house*, His disciples *began* questioning Him privately, “Why could we not drive it out?” ²⁹ And He said to them, “This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer.”

“Doubting does not prove that a man has no faith, but only that his faith is small. And even when our faith is small, the Lord is ready to help us.” – J.C. Ryle

Five Results from Doubting

1st Result Prolonged doubt promotes living in despair.

¹⁷ And one of the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute; ²¹ And He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.

Mark 9:17, 21 (NASB)

2nd Result Doubts can exploit our human fears.

b it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn’t do it.”

Mark 9:18b (NLT)

3rd Result Doubt has a tendency to push our focus on negative and adverse circumstances.

²¹ “How long has this been happening?” Jesus asked the boy’s father. He replied, “Since he was a little boy. ²² The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can.”

Mark 9: 21b,22 (NLT)

4th Result Doubt denies God's power and provision to change us and/or our situation.

²² "But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

Mark 9:22b (NIV)

5th Result Doubt in Christ Jesus undermines your belief in His Sovereignty over your life.

²³ "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes."

Mark 9:23 (NLT)

**There are times God will change our situation and there are times where the point of our problem is to change us. **

²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Mark 9:24 (NIV)

3 Responses to Belief

1st Response

Belief releases God's power in your life.

²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

Mark 9:25 (NIV)

2nd Response

Belief lifts you above your problems and changes you.

²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

Mark 9:27 (NIV)

**Jesus may not choose to remove your circumstances immediately.
Remember... trials are faith builders...
not faith binders.*

3rd Response

Belief reveals hidden truths of God.

²⁸ After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

²⁹ He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

Mark 9:28, 29 (NIV)