

## Lesson 1, March 1, 2026, Powerful Faith, Mark 9:14-29

**Bible Basis:** Mark 9:14–29

**Bible Truth:** *Jesus has authority over every spiritual battle, and true power comes through faith and prayer.*

**Memory Verse:** *“And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting. Mark 9:29*

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### Lesson Aim – Key Takeaways

Students will understand:

- The contrast between human weakness and Jesus’ authority
  - Why the disciples failed to cast out the demon
  - What “help my unbelief” means for believers today
  - Why prayer is essential for spiritual power
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### Names that Matter

- **Author: Mark**
- **Location:** Region of Caesarea Phillippi (Mark 8:27) Mount Hermon – a place known for spiritual darkness. \*pagan worship, Jewish tradition about fallen angels, idolatrous sacrifices, cultic gatherings connected to fertility gods.
- **Jesus:** The Son of God, who is also speaking
- **The disciples:** Jesus’ followers
- **The Father and boy:** the one seeking healing and the one needing healing
- **The crowd:** Those gathered to see what would happen
- **The scribes:** Jewish leaders

### Background & Setting

Jesus, Peter, James, and John are coming down from the Mount of Transfiguration. While they were away: (v. 1-12)

- The remaining disciples attempted to cast out a demon
- They **failed**

- A crowd gathered
- Scribes began arguing with them

This is a scene of **confusion, frustration, and spiritual conflict**.

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### Summary of the text

In Mark 9, we encounter Jesus in His divine glory during the Transfiguration, experience the struggle between faith and unbelief in the account of a possessed boy, and learn about the nature of true greatness in Jesus' teaching about servanthood. This chapter balances the revelation of Jesus' divine identity with His teaching on humility, presenting a profound understanding of Christ's mission.

### The Lesson:

#### I The Problem- Jesus Heals a Boy with an Evil Spirit

#### Mark 9:14-18 –KJV

<sup>14</sup>And when he came to *his* disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them.

<sup>15</sup>And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to *him* saluted him.

<sup>16</sup>And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them?

<sup>17</sup>And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;

<sup>18</sup>And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.

#### What's Happening Here?

#### A Scene of Failure and Frustration (vv. 14–18)

- The disciples tried to cast out a demon and couldn't. The nine who remained at the bottom of the mountain.
- The father is desperate.

- The boy is suffering violently.
- The scribes are criticizing. – Why couldn't ya'll heal this boy?
- The crowd is confused. Because they knew they were disciples of Jesus' but yet could not heal the boy.

**Discussion question:**

Why do you think everyone was in an uproar over what was happening?

**Teaching Point:**

Human effort—even sincere effort—cannot replace spiritual dependence.

The scribes saw an opportunity to discredit Jesus,

- Questioning Jesus' authority
- Accusing Him of being empowered by demons
- Trying to undermine His influence

**II The Rebuke (v. 19-24)**

<sup>19</sup>He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.

<sup>20</sup>And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.

<sup>21</sup>And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.

<sup>22</sup>And often times it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things *are* possible to him that believeth.

<sup>24</sup>And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

## What's Happening Here? –

### Jesus' Grief Over Unbelief (v. 19)

- “O faithless generation...”
- Jesus isn't angry at the father—He's lamenting the spiritual dullness of everyone present, including the disciples.

**Discussion question:** Who was Jesus referencing as “the faithless generation?”

#### Teaching Point:

Unbelief grieves Jesus because it keeps us from experiencing His power.

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## What's Happening Here? The Father's Honest Cry (vv. 20–24)

The father says:

- “If You can do anything...”

Jesus responds:

- “If you can believe, all things are possible...”

The father cries:

- “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

This is one of the most honest prayers in Scripture.

**Discussion Question:** What does the father's prayer teach us about honest faith?

#### Teaching Point:

Faith is not the absence of doubt—it is bringing our doubt to Jesus.

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## III The Solution - Jesus Rebukes the Spirit (vv. 25–27)

<sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, *Thou* dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

<sup>26</sup>And *the spirit* cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.

<sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.

### What's Happening Here?

- Jesus commands the unclean spirit to leave.
- The boy collapses as if dead.
- Jesus lifts him up.

**Discussion Question:** Why do you believe Jesus was met with this situation after coming down from the Mount of Transfiguration?

- Moses comes down from Sinai's glory → finds Israel worshiping a golden calf.
- Elijah comes down from Mount Carmel's victory → faces Jezebel's threat and despair.
- Jesus comes down from the Mount of Transfiguration → walks straight into demonic attack and spiritual confusion.

### Teaching Point:

Jesus doesn't just deliver—He restores.

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### IV. The Lesson - Why the Disciples Failed (vv. 28–29)

<sup>28</sup>And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?

<sup>29</sup>And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

### What's Happening Here? vs.28-29

They asked privately...

- “Why could we not cast him out?”

Jesus answers:

- “This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting”

**Discussion Question:** Why do you think the disciples failed even though they had cast out demons before?

- Relying on past success
- Operating in their own strength
- Not prayed up

**Teaching Point:**

Spiritual battles require spiritual power, and spiritual power comes through prayerful dependence—not technique, not experience, not confidence in ourselves.

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**From the commentary:** Genuine faith is a process, not just an event. Spiritual authority is not about having all the right moves; it's about staying connected to God.

**What's new for me?****1. The Battle Between Faith and Unbelief**

- Even sincere believers wrestle with unbelief. Jesus meets us in that struggle.

**2. The Necessity of Prayer**

- The disciples tried to cast out the demon **without prayer**—relying on past success instead of present dependence.

**3. Jesus' Authority Over Darkness**

- No demon, no sickness, no spiritual attack is beyond His reach.

**4. Honest Faith**

- God honors honest, humble, imperfect faith more than confident self-reliance.
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**5. Application for Today****A. Bring Your Weak Faith to Jesus**

- “Help my unbelief” is a prayer God always answers.

**B. Don't Fight Spiritual Battles in Your Own Strength**

- We lose spiritual battles when we rely on:
  - our experience
  - our emotions
  - our routines
  - our confidence

Victory comes through prayerful dependence.

### **C. Prayer Is Not Optional**

- Prayer is not a ritual—it is the pipeline of spiritual power.

### **D. Jesus Lifts Us Up**

- Just as He lifted the boy, He lifts us from:
    - fear
    - bondage
    - confusion
    - spiritual attack
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### **6. Discussion Questions**

1. Why do you think the disciples failed even though they had cast out demons before?
2. What does the father's prayer teach us about honest faith?
3. Where do you see the tension between belief and unbelief in your own life?
4. Why is prayer essential for spiritual battles?
5. What does this story teach us about Jesus' compassion and authority?