

v. 25-29: THE _____ OF FAITH

²⁵ And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of Him and never enter Him again.” ²⁶ And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸ And when he had entered the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹ And He said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

Exodus 14:13a, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today

Luke 9:42, “But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.”

CONCLUSION: THE _____ OF FAITH ¹

Romans 4:17, “who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.”

1 John 5:4-5, “For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our **faith**. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who **believes** that Jesus is the Son of God?”

¹ Some great books on doubt are
[Help My Unbelief: Why Doubt is not the Enemy of Faith](#) by Barnabas Piper;
[When Faith Fails: Find God in the Shadow of Doubt](#) by Dominic Done;
[Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism](#) by Tim Keller;
[Making Sense of God: Finding God in the Modern World](#) by Tim Keller;
[Doubting: Growing through the Uncertainties of Faith](#) by Alistair McGrath;
[God in the Dark: The Assurance of Faith Beyond a Shadow of Doubt](#) by Os Guinness.



Dr. David V. Silvernail, Jr.
Mark 9:14-29

April 19, 2020
English Standard Version

“Belief and Unbelief”

The 27th Sermon in a series on The Gospel of Mark entitled
“The King and His Cross”

Mark 9:14-29

“And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵ And immediately all the crowd, when they saw Him, were greatly amazed and ran up to Him and greeted Him. ¹⁶ And He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” ¹⁷ And someone from the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸ And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” ¹⁹ And He answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me.”

²⁰ And they brought the boy to Him. And when the spirit saw Him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From

childhood. ²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” ²³ And Jesus said to him, “‘If you can’! All things are possible for one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “**I believe; help my unbelief!**”

²⁵ And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of Him and never enter Him again.” ²⁶ And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸ And when he had entered the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹ And He said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

INTRODUCTION: “Unexpected Doubt” ²

BACKGROUND: The Biblical and Historical Setting ³

Luke 9:31, “They were glorious to see. And they were speaking of how He was about to fulfill God’s plan by dying in Jerusalem.”

Mark 9:7, “And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is My beloved Son; listen to Him.”

Luke 9:37, “The next day, after they had come down the mountain ...”

Mark 9:9, “And as they were coming down the mountain, He charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.”

2 The introduction has been adapted from “I Never Expected to Doubt” by Alisa Childers, 3/6/19, www.thegospelcoalition.org. Tim Keller quote comes from his book, Reason for God, pages xvi-xvii.

3 The background has been adapted from Mighty to Save: Discovering God’s Grace in the Miracles of Jesus by Dr. Richard Phillips, pages 157-172.

v. 14-19: THE _____ OF FAITH ⁴

“And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵ And immediately all the crowd, when they saw Him, were greatly amazed and ran up to Him and greeted Him. ¹⁶ And He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” ¹⁷ And someone from the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸ And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” ¹⁹ And He answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me.”

Philippians 1:6, “And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

v. 20-24: THE _____ OF FAITH ⁵

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4 The Exposition of the text is adapted from my sermons, “The Need for Perspective” 9/2/01, “Pleading for Faith” 4/16/06, and “The Need for Kingdom Truth” 2/2/14, all preached here at Potomac Hills. **And the sermon**, “Jesus on the Mount; Jesus off the Mount” by Dr. Tim Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York, NY, 7/2/06, The Tim Keller Sermon Archive, Logos Bible Software 8.12. **And the books**, Jesus the King: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God (previously published as The King’s Cross: The Story of the World in the Life of Jesus), by Dr. Tim Keller, pages 129-133; New Testament Commentary: The Gospel of Mark by Dr. William Lane, pages 327-336. Preaching the Word – Mark: Jesus, Servant and Savior (Volume 2) by Dr. R. Kent Hughes, pages 20-27; Help My Unbelief by Fleming Rutledge, pages 3-9; and Moments with the Savior by Ken Gire, pages 187-191.

5 Galen Dalrymple quote is taken from “Daybreaks,” an email devotional by Galen Dalrymple, 8/29/00.