**The Two IF’s**

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**“Build foundations in the people’s lives so they may be strong and stand and not fall”**

**Mark 9:17-29 (New King James Version)**

17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”
19 He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.” 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.
21 So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?”
And he said, “From childhood. 22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, *(If there is anything you can do)* have compassion on us and help us.”
23 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe,[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%209:17-29&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24558a)] all things *are* possible to him who believes.”
24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”
25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” 26 Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.
28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”
29 So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”[[b](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%209:17-29&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24564b)]

***Prayer – That my words will be precise and understood and God’s Word will produce change and fruit in each of the hearer’s lives.***

**Introduction:**

As always, I’m excited and honored to get to bring the Word of God to you. Today **I want to talk to you about something that will change your life forever, if you will grab hold of it!**

***John 8***

***31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide Grk meno*** *abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry* ***in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”***

**Verse 32 is used frequently in Christian and secular settings. But, most people don’t see the first part of this truth;
“If you abide in my word”.**

**Why is that so important to abide in the word?**

1. **How can you know what God is like unless you are in the word?**
2. **How can you know what God’s will is unless you are in the word?**
3. **How will we know the promises of God.**

**Deut. 29:29**

 **The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.**

**Romans 8:26**

 **Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**

***Go back to our introductory scriptures in Mark 9.***

In this story, we see a father, desperate for healing for his son. All of us can understand the love a parent has for a child. What was wrong with the boy?

* Had a mute spirit, could not speak, was demon possessed
* Was frequently thrown to the ground by the spirit
* He foamed at the mouth when under demonic control
* He “gnashed at the teeth”, grinding of the teeth, probably biting his tongue
* He became rigid

 All of these are symptoms of epilepsy.

When the boy was brought to Jesus, the demon attacked him again. The father further explained that the demon would throw the boy into water and into fire to try and kill him and this had been happening since he was a young child. Remember that Satan comes to “kill, steal and destroy.”

**John 10:10**

 **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**

I want you to notice what the father did.

The first thing he did was to go to Jesus,,,the word! Jesus is the Word Jn 1:1

He asked, **“If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”**

* **Notice the father’s “IF”.** **How many times do we ask “Lord, if it is your will?”**
* **Is it possible for us to know what God’s will is? What do you think?**
* **Do you think it was God’s will for this boy to be demon possessed?**

**I want you to notice what Jesus said. He said, “If you can believe,[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%209:17-29&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-24558a" \o "See footnote a)] all things *are* possible,,,”.**

Note the two if's of Mark 9:22-23: one by the father of the child and one by Jesus. Deity can use "if thou canst" just as much as man. In fact, God has the only lawful right to use such a term, for it is a settled fact that all things are possible with Him. So if man can quit his eternal questionings and satanic unbelief concerning God's will and power, "all things" will be possible for the believer (Mark 9:23; Mark 11:22-24; Matthew 17:20; Matthew 21:22; John 14:12-15; John 15:7,16; John 16:23-26). It is not the question so much as to what God can do, but what man can do in believing God and His Word. Any question of God's will concerning anything that He has already promised and provided for all men, is an excuse of unbelief and must be repented of (Mark 9:24; Hebrews 11:6; James 1:5-8).

 ***Look at the prayer requests on the board and ask if people believe.***

**DO YOU BELIEVE? DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE?**

All of us struggle with areas in our lives with unbelief. Look what the father said next, **“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” I have a little but give me enough!**

* ***Have Barbara tell about the board member that was healed and how he asked to be prayed for by the pastor and elders according to James 5.***
* ***Tell about Jerry Phillip’s niece and her eyes being healed.***
* ***Tell about the little Mexican woman that was healed in Cuero.***

**Faith comes into our life is through the Word of God - JESUS!!!!**

**2 Cor 1:20 The promises of God are “Yeah and Amen”, once we have God’s word on something that settles it no matter what else goes on!**

**Romans 10:17 (New King James Version)**

**17 So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Jesus).**

* **We are all given the measure of faith**

Romans 12:3

 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according **as God hath dealt to every man the *MEASURE OF FAITH****.*

* **We all start off with the same amount! THE MEASURE!**
* **All the principles and truths of the Kingdom of God are for this time and this age! MARK 1:15 The Kingdom of God is at hand!**
	+ **If you don’t know what those truths are, how can you pray with faith? You MUST study God’s word!**

**Mark 11:22-24 (New King James Version)**

**22 So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them,* and you will have *them.***

**THIS IS GOING TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE**

1. **Have faith in God.**
	1. **Faith comes from “hearing” God’s Word.**
	2. **You CAN know God’s will for most situations**
		1. **1 John 5:13 (New King James Version)**

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know** that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

1. **Pray – are you asking for something that is in God’s will?**
	1. ***Mt 7:7,8 Ask, seek, knock***
2. **“Say” or speak to your problem! Command it!**

**Hebrews 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;**

**Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.**

**Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)**

1. **Believe that you receive an answer to your prayer and profession.**
	1. **When? – When you pray!**
	2. **What happens if you don’t see an answer - 2 Cor. 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) Romans 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.**
2. **Have patience! Hebrews 10:35,36 - 35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of patience, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:**
3. **Fast. Daniel 10:12-14 12 Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.**
4. **Remind God of His promises.**
	1. **Isaiah 43:25-26**

**I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. [26] Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.**