



## **Faith and Unbelief**

### [Mark 9:17-27](#)

In this passage we read about a father who brings his son to Jesus to be healed. His son is possessed by an evil spirit that won't allow the boy to speak at all. This evil spirit takes control of the boy, harms him, and throw his body to the ground violently. The father had asked Jesus' disciples to cast out this evil spirit but they were unable! Imagine being in this father's place. This spirit has controlled his son since he was a little boy, and has often times tried to kill him by throwing him into the fire. He is at the end of his rope and previous attempts of healing his son have been unsuccessful.

When the evil spirit sees Jesus, it throws the boy into a violent convulsion. The father pleads with Jesus and says *"Have mercy on us and help us, if you can."* Jesus replies, *"what do you mean, if I can? Anything is possible if a person believes."* I love the honesty of the father's response here. He says *"I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"* His response to Jesus is I do believe, but I also have doubts! Help me to believe! As Jesus sees the crowd around Him starting to grow He rebukes the evil spirit telling it to come out of the boy and never enter him again!

The encouragement from this story besides the obvious (the boy being healed), is Jesus' willingness to heal even as the father wrestled with unbelief. I know sometimes in life we can wrestle with unbelief. My encouragement to you would be to be honest with God about your doubts and ask Him to help you overcome your unbelief.