4. Conclusion

A. When we find ourselves in situations that are more than we can handle, turn to Jesus in <u>prayer</u> instead of relying on our own strength.

B. God places us in situations beyond our ability to teach us to pray so we learn to <u>depend</u> on Him.

Am I like the disciples that were too proud to pray because they wanted to handle things in their own strength, or am I like the humble father who called out to Jesus asking him to come to the rescue?

Life Group Questions

- 1. Read Mark 9:15-29 to familiarize yourself with the passage.
- 2. What was the attack strategy of the demon on the boy? Why does the father ask if Jesus could have compassion on "us" not only the boy but the father as well?
- 3. How does this tragedy turn out for good as it drives this father to Jesus?
- 4. Why doesn't this story end with the casting out of the demon? Why does it return to the disciples' pride and unwillingness to pray? How does this fit what the disciples need to learn? (See also Luke 11:5-13)
- 5. Evaluate your own prayer life. Does pride keep you from praying?
- 6. Are there examples in your life where desperation has driven you in prayer to Jesus? Share some of those examples. What do you have in your life that you are trying to handle on your own that you should bring to Jesus? What is keeping you from bringing those things to Jesus?



Mark 9:14-29 - Too Proud To Pray

October 6, 2019

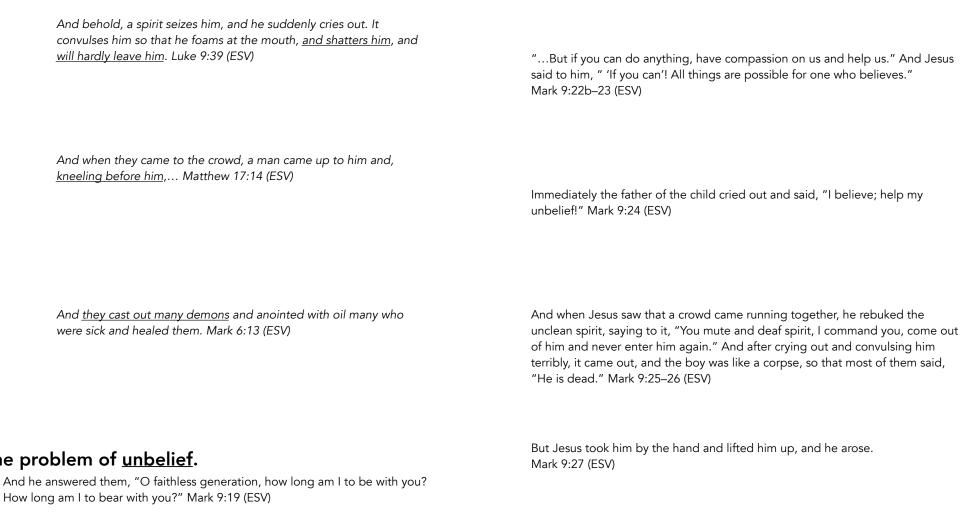
1. The problem of demons.

And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. Mark 9:14 (ESV)

And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. Mark 9:15 (ESV)

And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" Mark 9:16 (ESV)

And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. 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." Mark 9:17–18 (ESV)



2. The problem of <u>unbelief</u>.

How long am I to bear with you?" Mark 9:19 (ESV)

...Bring him to me. 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. Mark 9:19-20 (ESV)

And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him." Mark 9:21-22a (ESV)

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

3. The problem of prayerlessness.

And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer." Mark 9:28-29 (ESV)