

CAN YOU BELIEVE?

By Mark Beard

Text: Mark 9:22-24

Have you ever felt like your faith was lacking? I suppose everyone has at one point or another. But we cannot allow that to stop us from believing. In our text we see the heart touching seen of a man who has brought his son to Jesus for help.

“Pathetically the father asked Jesus for help. When he left home to bring his son to Jesus' disciples, he apparently believed the boy would be healed. Now he is not sure and says, "If you can do anything." Jesus immediately fixed on the father's "if" clause. The question was not whether Jesus had the power to heal the boy but whether the father had faith to believe Jesus could-"Everything is possible for him who believes." (EBC)

Maybe the father of this child did not realize whom he was talking to when he said, "If thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us." If he had realized whom he was talking to, would not have doubted. Imagine saying to the Creator of the universe, "If thou canst do anything."

The proper question is not "can you do anything, " but rather, as Jesus asked, "if thou canst believe." Why do some not believe? Notice the reasons many have for not believing God.

I. SOME FAIL TO BELIEVE BECAUSE OF IGNORANCE.

Ignorance is one reason some do not believe, ignorance, not stupidity. Ignorance means to be unaware or uninformed.

A. Some are ignorant of *God's Word*.

Jesus said, "He that believeth on me as the Scriptures hath said". "Faith cometh by hearing."

Can you believe? Yes you can believe!

B. Some are ignorance of *God's Love*.

Put aside the idea that we must do something to merit God's love or that He loves a select few more than others, thus doing for them more than for others.

Matt. 6:26-29

"Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Can You Believe? Yes!

C. Some are ignorance of *God's Power*.

Eph. 1:17-21I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit ⁿ of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

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II. SOME FAIL TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BELIEVING.

A. We must believe in order to receive.

■ Faith in God is like believing a man can walk over Niagara Falls on a tightrope while pushing a wheelbarrow. Trust in God is like getting into the wheelbarrow! To believe God can do something miraculous is one thing; to risk his willingness to do it in your life is another.

James C. Dobson (1936-)

-Edythe Draper, Draper's Book of Quotations for the Christian World (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992). Entries 3669-3671.

James 1:5-8

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him as of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraidethnot; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven by the wind and tossed. For let not that man think he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways."

Luke 12:31-32 "But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

God's ability to do is matched only by His desire to do.

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B. We must believe in order to please God.

Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please Him..."

Abraham pleased God through faith...Romans 4:20-22 "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God. And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness."

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C. We must believe in order to have power with God.

The Scripture says: "Power belongeth unto God." God does not give His power away, all power is His. Yet, when we believe we become a vessel through which His power can work.

CONCLUSION

Can You Believe?

Yes, You Can!