

## Unlocking the Power of Christ

### Mark 9:14-29

#### Introduction

Jesus had just taken Peter, James, and John into a high mountain as He was transfigured before their very eyes. It was a powerful and spiritual charged experience, so much so that they wanted to build three tabernacles and remain there. However, Jesus knew there was work and ministry to do and the mountaintop experience would come to an end and the disciples would soon face the challenges of their faith as they followed the call of Christ in their lives.

We probably all know what it feels like to experience a time of spiritual renewal. There are times and seasons when we seem to see God more clearly and sense His presence more fully. While those times and seasons are sweet, it's also true that there are times for most of us when we struggle to take God at His Word and to trust His plan for our lives.

As we return to Mark 9 we see two passages that seem to mirror these divergent experiences. In vv. 2-13 Jesus and three of His disciples are on a mountain where Jesus is transfigured and God speaks from Heaven. It's an incredible scene that reminds us of who Jesus is and that He can be trusted. But as we pick up in verse 14 the setting changes and we are reminded of how fragile our faith can be. As Jesus, Peter, James and John return to the rest of the disciples they come face to face with the realities of life in a fallen world and with the often-imperfect faith of followers of Jesus.

As we consider this account of a demon possessed boy, a desperate father and imperfect disciples we are reminded of four important truths about the life of faith.

**1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of men and the \_\_\_\_\_ nature of our world (9:14-18)**

- An \_\_\_\_\_ crowd
- A \_\_\_\_\_ possessed boy and a \_\_\_\_\_ father
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of the disciples

**2. The \_\_\_\_\_ temptation to \_\_\_\_\_ faith (9:19)**

- Jesus rebuked their \_\_\_\_\_ of faith

**3. The power of honest faith and sincere \_\_\_\_\_ on God (9:20-24)**

- The father's \_\_\_\_\_ plea
- A call to \_\_\_\_\_ faith
- I believe, help my \_\_\_\_\_

**4. The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus to help those who call on Him (9:25-29)**

- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the boy and gives him new life
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of dependence on God
  - The Power of \_\_\_\_\_
  - The discipline of \_\_\_\_\_