

The background is a dark blue gradient with faint, light blue technical diagrams. On the right side, there is a large circular gauge with concentric circles and radial tick marks, resembling a speedometer or a pressure gauge. On the left side, there are smaller circular diagrams with arrows indicating a clockwise direction. A light blue tilted rectangle is positioned in the center-left of the image, containing the main text.

That's a *GOOD* Question

Part IV

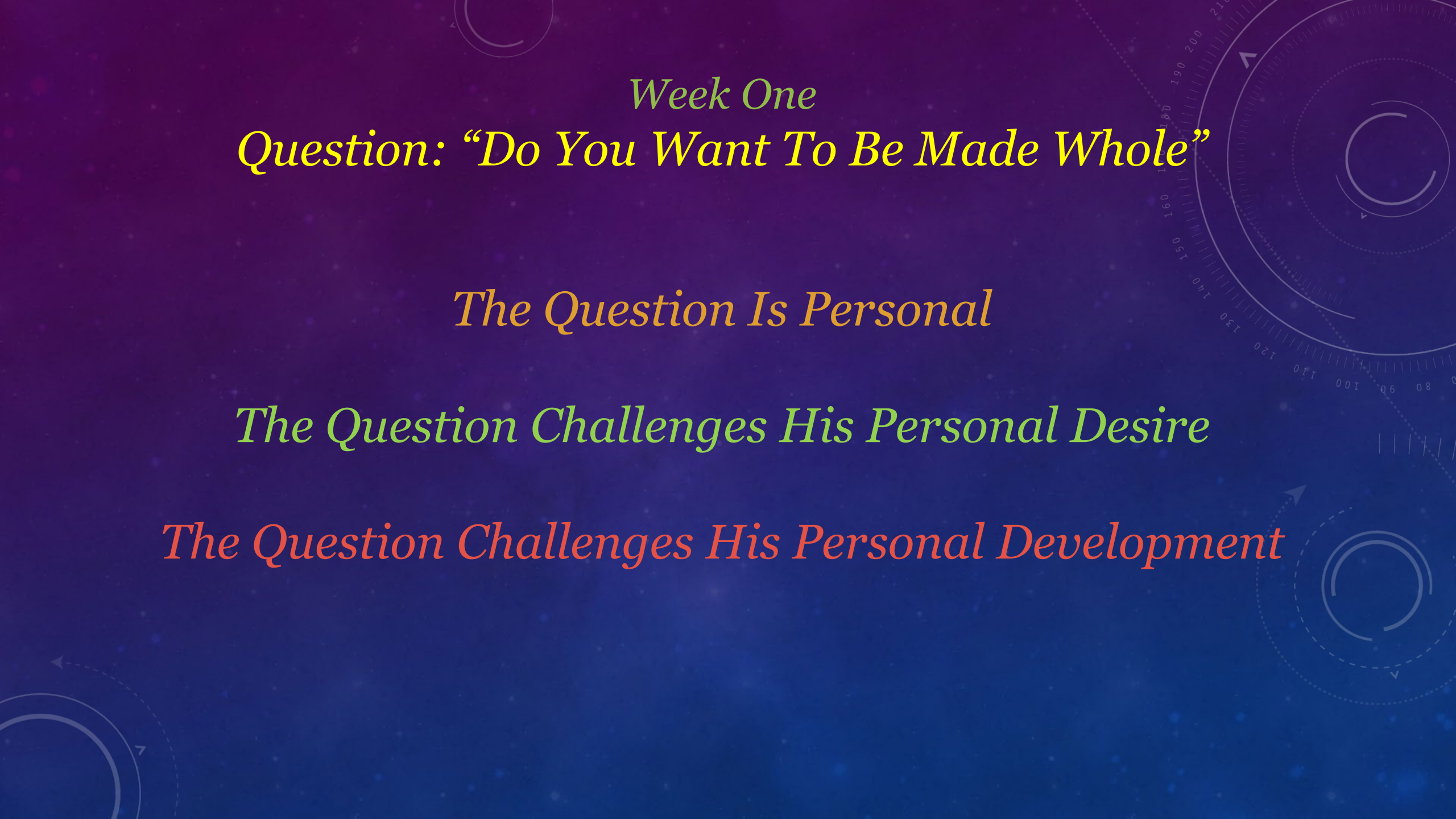
Why This Series

Jesus who is *All-Knowing*, *All-Seeing*, and *All-Powerful* Constantly *Asked Questions...*
The Four Gospels Record About *339 Questions* Asked By Jesus
Jesus Did Not *Ask Questions To Get Information...* There Was Always Something Deeper

- 1) To Teach Others by promoting *THOUGHT* and *SELF-EXAMINATION*
- 2) To Nurture Deeper Conversations and Relationships
- 3) To Encourage People to come to their Own Conclusions, and Reveal Their Needs
- 4) To Build *FAITH* and Draw People into a more Personal Understanding of Truth
- 5) To Draw Out What Was Really In Their Hearts

Jesus' Questions Went *Beyond Surface Dialogue*
They Were Intended To Go *Beyond Words* To Challenge *Beliefs and Mindsets*

So, In This Series We Will Study Some Of Jesus' Questions
To Engage In Deeper Conversations And See How They Can
Promote Deeper Thought And Spiritual Insight



Week One

Question: “Do You Want To Be Made Whole”

The Question Is Personal

The Question Challenges His Personal Desire

The Question Challenges His Personal Development

Week Two

John 21:15 (NLT)

15“Simon son of John, do you love me *more than these?*”

The Priority Of Peter's Love

The Pride Of Peter's Love

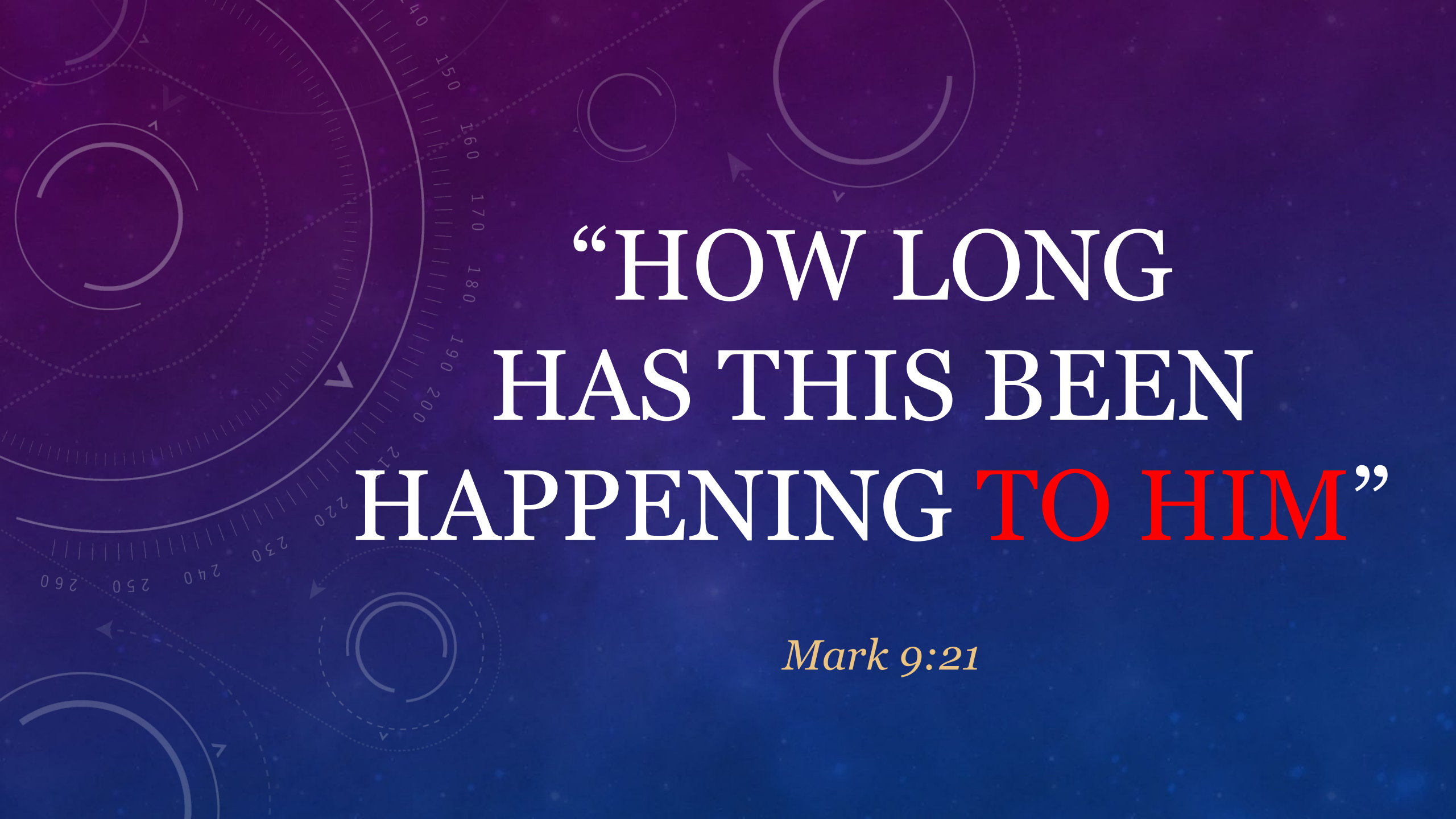
The Personal Perspective Of Peter's Love

Last Week
Do You Still Not Understand?

Principle #1 ~ Our Focus Keeps Us From Understanding

Principle #2 ~ Our Faith Keeps Us From Understanding

Principle #3 ~ Our Forgetfulness Keeps Us From Understanding

The background features a gradient from deep purple at the top to dark blue at the bottom. Overlaid on this are several faint, light-colored circular patterns and a scale. The scale is a large arc on the left side, with numerical markings from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. Smaller circular patterns with arrows are scattered throughout the background.

“HOW LONG
HAS THIS BEEN
HAPPENING **TO HIM**”

Mark 9:21

Mark 9:20-24 (ESV)

20 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. 21 And Jesus asked his father,

“How long has this been happening to him?”

And he said, “From childhood. 22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

23 And Jesus said to him, “‘If you can’! All things are possible for one who believes.”

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

Introduction

*Can You Imagine Having Your Weakness Exposed?
Is It A Good Thing To Be Exposed?*

*I Have Discovered That God Specializes In Orchestrating Situations
That Exposes Our Deficiencies.*

*Unlike Humans, God doesn't **expose weaknesses** to embarrass or condemn,
BUT TO HEAL, STRENGTHEN, AND MATURE US.*

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 (NIV)

*2 Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way **in the desert** these forty years,
to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart,
whether or not you would keep his commands.*

*3 He **humbled you**, causing you to **hunger** and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor
your fathers had known, **to teach you** that man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.*

*The wilderness wasn't punishment — **IT WAS REVELATION.**
God uses situations to uncover what's hidden SO He can transform your weakness into strength.*

The Big Idea

*21) How Long Has This Been Happening **TO HIM?***

*Exposure Is Necessary...**SO THAT**
GET VICTORY IN THE AREAS THAT ARE NOT VISIBLE*

In this text there are 3 Groups Identified

- 1) The Disciples*
- 2) The Father*
- 3) The Son*

*Upon Reading The Passage, Most People Can Easily Identify **Who Has A Problem***

*Upon Reading The Passage, Most People Can Easily Identify **Who Is Dealing With A Struggle***

*Upon Observation, **THE SON** is struggling **with a spirit***

*Upon Observation, **THE SON** is struggling **with an issue***

*Upon Observation, **THE SON NEEDS SOME HELP ~ THE SON NEEDS FIXING***

GOD ALLOWS ~ GOD ARRANGES ONE SITUATION

*That Reveals **Some Struggles** That Are **Not Visible***

Notice The Struggle of the Disciples

Mark 9:14-18 (ESV)

14 And when they came to the disciples, *they saw a great crowd around them*, and scribes arguing with them. 15 And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him.

16 And he asked them, “*What are you arguing about with them?*”

17 And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, *I brought my son to you*, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. 18 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....

The Disciples Had Been *Given Power* To Deal With Spirits

Mark 6:7 ;12-13 (ESV)

7 And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and *GAVE THEM AUTHORITY OVER THE UNCLEAN SPIRITS*.

12 So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent.

13 And *they cast out many demons* and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

At One Time They Possessed Power To Perform

At One Time They Demonstrated Power Over The Enemy

BUT TODAY ~ THEY ARE INEFFECTIVE and UNPRODUCTIVE

Exposed In Front Of An Audience ~ vs. 14 ~ A GREAT CROWD AROUND THEM

Notice The Struggle of the Disciples

Mark 9:14-18 (ESV)

*18 So, I asked your disciples to cast it out, and **THEY WERE NOT ABLE....***

TODAY ~ THEY ARE INEFFECTIVE and UNPRODUCTIVE

With The Naked Eye ~ They Appear To Be The Same Powerful Followers of God

Divine Sovereignty Presents An Orchestrated Opportunity To Reveal The Level/Lack Of Their Power

QUESTION: HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN LIKE THIS?

THE SAME QUESTION COULD BE ASKED OF THE DISCIPLES

Judges 16:20 (NLT)

*20 Then she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" When he woke up, he thought, "**I will do as before and shake myself free.**" But he didn't realize the Lord had left him.*

*There Is A Danger Of **ASSUMING YOU HAVE AUTHORITY** To Make A Difference*

*This Text Reminds Us That God Arranges Opportunities For Us To **Demonstrate Our Power***

*With All The **Chaos, Confusion, and Conflict** in our Community
With All The **Disease, Destruction and Discouragement** in our Community*

When Was The Last Time You Demonstrated Your Power

Notice *The Struggle of the Disciples* *Mark 9:14-18 (ESV)*

18 So, I asked your disciples to cast it out, and **THEY WERE NOT ABLE....**

How To Stay Productive and Effective *2 Peter 1:5-8 (NIV)*

5 For this very reason, make every effort to **add to your faith goodness**; and to goodness, knowledge;
6 and to knowledge, self-control; and **to self-control, perseverance**; and **to perseverance, godliness**;
7 **and to godliness, brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness, love.
8 For **IF** you **possess these qualities in increasing measure**, they will keep you from being
INEFFECTIVE AND UNPRODUCTIVE in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Don't Settle For Having The Reputation Without A Demonstration

Matthew 17:19-20 (ESV)

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"
20 He said to them, "**Because of your little faith**. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

Notice The Struggle of the Father

Matthew 17:14-16 (ESV)

14 And when they came to the crowd, *a man came up to him and, kneeling before him,*
15 said, "*Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly.*

For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water.

16 And I brought him to your disciples, and *they could not heal him.*"

Luke 9:38 (ESV)

38 And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, *I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child.*

This Father Appears To Have It All Together

Religious Appearance, Religious In Asking

He Is Concerned, He Is Compassionate, He Is Caring

He Has Provided For His Son, He Has Protected His Son

It Is Not Until There Is DIALOGUE WITH THE DIVINE, That We Discover His Own Deficiency

Mark 9:21-24 (NLT)

21 "*How long has this been happening?*" Jesus asked the boy's father. He replied, "Since he was a little boy.

22 The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him.

Have mercy on us and help us, IF YOU CAN."

23 "What do you mean, '*IF I CAN?*'" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes."

24 The father instantly cried out, "*I DO BELIEVE, BUT HELP ME OVERCOME MY UNBELIEF!*"

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Have mercy on us and help us, **IF YOU CAN.**”

23 “What do you mean, ‘**IF I CAN?**’” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.”

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Why Did Jesus Deal With The Unbelief Before The Healing Of The Son

Mark 6:5-6 (NLT)

5 And **BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF, HE COULDN'T DO ANY MIGHTY MIRACLES AMONG THEM** except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them.

6 And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Unbelief limits what Jesus could do, not because His power failed,
but because **UNBELIEF CLOSED PEOPLE'S HEARTS TO RECEIVE IT.**

Warning:

Don't Allow The Atmosphere of Unbelief **TO BLOCK THE POWER OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE.**

Notice The Struggle of the Son

Mark 9:17-18 (ESV)

17 And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. 18 And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid.

Mark 9:20-22 (ESV)

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21 And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. 22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him.

The Boy Is Going Through A Visible Struggle

Because His Struggle Is Visible ~ He Is The Object Of Attention

The Father Seeks To Find A Solution ~ The Disciples Attempt To Fix His Sickness

HIS SICKNESS, HIS STRUGGLE, HIS SUFFERING

Pushed Others Into The Presence Of Christ

REMEMBER THERE IS PURPOSE IN YOUR PAIN

In Conclusion

HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN HAPPENING?

Focus #1 ~ Don't Assume You Are Operating In Power, Demonstrate It

Focus #2 ~ God May Affect Something You Love To Bring You Into His Presence

*Focus #3 ~ God May Be Using Your Situation To Give Victory
To Those Whose Weakness Is Not Visible*