

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Overcoming Unbelief

With Jeremy Vasic
October 22, 2023



We all have unbelief.

We need to acknowledge our unbelief.

Mark 9:14-27 When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and some teachers of religious law were arguing with them. ¹⁵When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, and they ran to greet him. ¹⁶“What is all this arguing about?” Jesus asked.

¹⁷One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, “Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won’t let him talk. ¹⁸And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn’t do it.”

¹⁹Jesus said to them, “You faithless people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” ²⁰So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth.

²¹“How long has this been happening?” Jesus asked the boy’s father. He replied, “Since he was a little boy. ²²The 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.” ²⁴The father instantly cried out, “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!”

²⁵When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. “Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak,” he said. “I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!”

²⁶Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, “He’s dead.” ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up.

Overcoming unbelief is both harder and easier than we think.

Overcoming unbelief is harder than we think.

Overcoming unbelief is also easier than we think.

Jesus will do the work within us that we can’t do.

Big Idea: Put yourself into positions to allow Jesus the time and space to overcome your unbelief.

Ephesians 1:18-20 I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. ¹⁹I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.



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live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

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Overcoming Unbelief
#2 - October 22, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at overcoming the stronghold of idolatry. How has the Lord been speaking to you this week? How were you able to apply this message?
- 2) Read Mark 9:14-27. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us as we talk about overcoming unbelief?
- 5) How can you put yourself into positions to allow Jesus time and space to help you overcome the unbelief in your life?
- 6) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this passage?



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- 6) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this passage?