

# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

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## Where Do We Go From Here?

### Part 3

July 21, 2024

The Gospel of Saint Mark 9:14-29, <sup>14</sup> And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. <sup>16</sup> And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” <sup>17</sup> And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup> 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.”<sup>19</sup> And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.”<sup>20</sup> 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.<sup>21</sup> And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.”<sup>22</sup> 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.”<sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.”<sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”<sup>25</sup> And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”<sup>26</sup> And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.”<sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.<sup>28</sup> And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”<sup>29</sup> And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word today, in Jesus Name! Amen!

1. If we are to grow into the fullness of our faith, we must reject the notion to simply settle for an experience!

- a. Notice with me verses 14-18, <sup>14</sup>“And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup>And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. <sup>16</sup>And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” <sup>17</sup>And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup>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.”
- b. The Disciples depended on an experience to equip them with the authority to drive out the demon and it did not work. And we must not fall into this trap.
- c. We must reject the notion to settle for an experience and press on relationally. Experience is based upon a singular interaction; relationship is based upon daily and moment by moment engagement. And their failure was that they acted upon an experience without wielding the power of relationship!

d. Thus, we can learn a great deal from this point that if we are going to grow into the fullness of our faith, we must reject the notion to simply settle for an experience! The Power of Christ is released through our relationship with Him and not an experience with Him!

2. If we are to grow into the fullness of our faith, we must be willing to wrestle with unbelief even while we believe!

a. Notice verses 21-24 with me, “<sup>21</sup> And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. <sup>22</sup> 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.” <sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

b. Church family, the reality is that we will all at some point struggle with the tug of war of belief versus unbelief. And as we can glean from this text, distress will drive us to our knees and force us to contend with the inward struggle of striving for belief but contending against unbelief.

- c. And notice it was the father of the child that cried out; not the crowd. One thing I have learned in following Jesus is that there will be times that the crowd has an easier time believing than I because they are not the one facing a do or die scenario.
- d. It's easy to believe God can heal unto you are not the one sick. It's easy to believe that God can restore when you are not the one who is broken. It's a different ballgame when it is you that needs the miracle.
- e. Thus it is from this place that we can understand the dilemma that this father is faced with; Lord, I believe but help my unbelief. And Church, if we are to grow into the fullness of our faith, we must be willing to wrestle with unbelief even while we believe!

3. If we are to grow into the fullness of our faith, we must not settle for what we think we know!

- a. Notice verses 25-29, “<sup>25</sup> And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” <sup>26</sup> And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and

lifted him up, and he arose. <sup>28</sup> And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” <sup>29</sup> And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

- b. As this passage of verses come to their conclusion, the Disciples were smart enough to know that they didn't know. They rectified themselves with the reality that apparently, they were missing something hence their question to Jesus. Why could we not cast it out? Simply put, why did what we did not work as we expected it to.
- c. Church family, it is ok to not know but it is not ok to remain in ignorance due to our settling for what we think we know. If we are to grow into the fullness of our faith, we must not settle for what we think we know! And if what we are doing is not working, we need to ask the Master for divine direction accomplish the Task at Hand.