



## Open

Share about a time when you were a child that someone got you to believe something that just wasn't true? Maybe it was a friend, a sibling, maybe you were the one who got someone else to believe in something that wasn't real?

## Scripture Focus:

Click to read scripture: [Matt. 17:14-20](#)

## Today's Focus:

*The Word of God is our Authority to speak, our road map to success and through life, our witness and our foundation of strength.*

## Watch:

Click to watch sermon clip: [1:25:08 - 1:30:31 \(5 min\)](#)

## Sermon Discussion:

Right now we find ourselves under attack in the most inopportune moments. It is then when the enemy strikes, we battle, we frustrate, and we argue. It is a moment like this that is happening to the disciples in Mark 9:14. It started with an argument. Someone was in trouble; Jesus had sent the disciples to take care of it and they could not. The disciples came up short. So, then Jesus steps in, to show them—not how to be Godlike—but how to be truly human. This is when the spirit of God in us is ignited by faith. As Jesus states here, **“All things are possible for those who believe” Mark 9:23.** The father doubted but asked for help in his belief. Christ was teaching the father and us that imperfect faith can be perfected.

- **When was it difficult for you to trust in God? When did you doubt? When did you need help with your unbelief?**

The boy was healed not because of a grand showing of faith but simply because a father fell to his knees and called out to Jesus. There is always hope in Christ. Mark makes a point to note the length of time the boy was suffering here. This is not the first time or only time the length of time is mentioned in conjunction with an illness or possession. Mark makes this point as do the other authors to show us that God is not constrained by the duration or timing of a condition. God is willing and able to heal our hearts no matter how long ago we suffered our abuse, illness, trauma, or sin. God can and will heal it.

- **When was a time God came to you in a time of need and restored your hope? How has Jesus grown your faith?**

*“Wait for the LORD’s help, Be strong and brave, and wait for the LORD’s help.”  
-Psalm 27:14*

*“That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships,  
in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”  
-2 Corinthians 12:10*

**Study Questions:**

1. **When was it difficult for you to trust in God? When did you doubt?  
When did you need help with your unbelief?**

2. **When was a time God came to you in a time of need and restored your  
hope? How has Jesus grown your faith?**

