

ONE SMALL STEP: UNBELIEF

Pastor Chad Gilligan | September 5, 2021

I. INTRODUCTION: ONE SMALL STEP

- *A spiritual experience sometimes requires a physical step.*

Mark 9:14-16 When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.

Mark 9:17-18 A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

II. FOUR THINGS WE SOMETIMES STRUGGLE WITH

1. *He was defeated.*

Mark 9:17 A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.

2. *He was disappointed.*

Mark 9:18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

3. *He was disillusioned.*

Mark 9:19-22 “You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to Me.” So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

4. *He doubted.*

Mark 9:23 “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

A. Everything is possible for one who believes.

Mark 9:24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

"He declares that he believes and yet acknowledges himself to have unbelief. These two statements may appear to contradict each other but there is none of us that does not experience both of them in himself." John Calvin

Mark 9:25-27 When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, He rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," He said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

B. Help my unbelief!