



**LIVING FREE:
I BELIEVE
BUT I'M
STRUGGLING**

[Mark 9:14-24]

14 When they came [back] to the [other nine] disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and scribes questioning and arguing with them.

15 Immediately, when the entire crowd saw Jesus, they were startled and began running up to greet Him.

16 He asked them, "What are you discussing with them?"

17 One of the crowd replied to Him, “Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him unable to speak;

18 and whenever it seizes him [intending to do harm], it throws him down, and he foams [at the mouth], and grinds his teeth and becomes stiff. I told Your disciples to drive it out, and they could not do it.”

19 He replied, “O unbelieving (faithless) generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!”

20 They brought the boy to Him. When the [demonic] spirit saw Him, immediately it threw the boy into a convulsion, and falling to the ground he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth.

21 Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he answered, “Since childhood.

22 The demon has often thrown him both into fire and into water, intending to kill him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!”

23 Jesus said to him, “[You say to Me,] ‘If You can?’ All things are possible for the one who believes and trusts [in Me]!”

*24 Immediately the father of the boy cried out [with a desperate, piercing cry], saying, “I do believe; help [me overcome] my unbelief.” **Amp***

- 1. STUDY THE WORD (ABIDE)**
- 2. BELIEVE THE WORD (TRUST)**
- 3. LIVE THE WORD (OBEY)**



•(Jn.1:1, 14), *“In the beginning [before all time] was the Word ([a]Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself...*

*14 And the Word (Christ) became flesh, and lived among us; and we [actually] saw His glory, glory as belongs to the [One and] only begotten Son of the Father, [the Son who is truly unique, the only One of His kind, who is] full of grace and truth (absolutely free of deception).” **Amp***

(John 8:31-32), *“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

(John 14:6), *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* **Amp**

(Hebrews 1:1–2), *“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son”*

(John 14:9–11), *“Jesus said, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. . . . Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?”*

The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work. Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me” **Amp**

Why Believing The Word Matters: Three Biblical Convictions

- 1. If God has not spoken, His truth is replaced by our opinion.**
- 2. If God has not spoken, His promises are replaced by our wishes.**
- 3. If God has not spoken, His love is replaced by our misery.**

I. If God has not spoken, His truth is replaced by our opinion:

(2 Pt. 1:19-21), ¹⁹ *So we have the prophetic word made more certain. You do well to pay [close] attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and light breaks through the gloom and the morning star arises in your hearts.*

²⁰ *But understand this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of or comes from one's own [personal or special] interpretation,*

²¹ *for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."* **Amp**

II. If God has not spoken, His promises are replaced by our wishes:

(Mark 9:20-21) *20 They brought the boy to Him. When the [demonic] spirit saw Him, immediately it threw the boy into a convulsion, and falling to the ground he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth.*

21 Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he answered, "Since childhood.

22 The demon has often thrown him both into fire and into water, intending to kill him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" Amp

III. If God has not spoken, His love is replaced by our misery.

(Mk. 9:17-19), One of the crowd replied to Him, "Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him unable to speak;

18 and whenever it seizes him [intending to do harm], it throws him down, and he foams [at the mouth], and grinds his teeth and becomes stiff. I told Your disciples to drive it out, and they could not do it.

19 He replied, "O unbelieving (faithless) generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!"

AMP

(Jer. 31:3), *“The LORD appeared to me from ages past, saying, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you and continued My faithfulness to you.”*

(Isa. 55:3). *“Incline your ear and come to me. Hear that your soul may live; I will make with you an everlasting covenant”*

(Jas. 4:8). *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you”*

(Mat. 11:28) *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavily burdened [by religious rituals that provide no peace], and I will give you rest [refreshing your souls with salvation].”*

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