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Learning to Live As God's Masterpiece

Part 10

Exorcising Unbelief Through Faith and Prayer

Mark 9:14

When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them.

Mark 9:15

As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

Mark 9:16

“What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.

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.

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.”

Mark 9:19

**“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.”**

Mark 9:20

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.

Mark 9:21

Jesus asked the boy's father,
"How long has he been like this?"
"From childhood," he answered.

Mark 9:22

“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.”

Mark 9:23

““If you can’?” said Jesus.
“Everything is possible for one
who believes.”

Mark 9:24

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

Mark 9:25

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.”

Mark 9:26

The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead."

Mark 9:27

But Jesus took him by the hand
and lifted him to his feet, and he
stood up.

Mark 9:28

After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

Mark 9:29

He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”



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Principle #1

Within every believer of Jesus Christ exist areas and tensions of faith and unbelief.

Mark 9:23

““If you can’?” said Jesus.
“Everything is possible for one
who believes.”

Mark 9:24

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

Faith has two aspects: objective and subjective. Objectively our faith is in Jesus Christ, and He is unshakable. Subjectively our faith is often mixed with hesitancy and doubt.

**The way to overcome uncertainty is to remember that what makes faith valid is not its subjective strength, but the trustworthiness of its object. We can confidently affirm this truth:
“I can’t, but Jesus can.”**

Principle #1

Within every believer of Jesus Christ exist areas and tensions of faith and unbelief.

Principle #2

**There are three types of faith:
struggling faith, clinging faith,
and resting faith.**

**Struggling faith looks like
someone treading in deep waters
in the middle of the night,
desperately fighting to keep
their head above water.**

**Clinging faith looks like someone
in the same deep waters in the
middle of the night, only they are
hanging onto the side of the boat.**

Resting faith looks like someone who is out in the same deep waters, also in the middle of the night, but they are safely in the boat, and they are able to reach out and help others get in.

Principle #2

**There are three types of faith:
struggling faith, clinging faith,
and resting faith.**

Principle #3

Like the disciples of Jesus, our unbelief will grow anytime we fail to prioritize constant and consistent prayer with the Lord.

When We Lose Focus

- **Engulfed by failure.**
- **Ensnared by arguments.**
- **More eager to acquire knowledge than walking with the Lord.**
- **Powerless on our own.**

Principle #3

Like the disciples of Jesus, our unbelief will grow anytime we fail to prioritize constant and consistent prayer with the Lord.

Principle #4

If you want to grow your faith and exorcise your unbelief you must be saturated in the Word of God.

Principle #5

If you want to grow your faith and grow your prayer life, you must allow God to surround you with a spiritual community of diverse believers who are always growing in faith and in prayer.

Principle #6

**We will never believe
we are meant for more
if we have deficient faith
and insufficient prayer.**

Principle #7

**We will never receive
the “more” God has for us
in this life if we continue to be
“believing unbelievers”!**

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