

**Intro:** Read the passage Mark 9:14-29

*"I believe...Help my unbelief!"* That is a prayer that most of us have prayed at some point over the years isn't it?

We Pray it when we see a spiritual mountain in front of us that we don't think we can climb...

I remember praying that while waiting for the Dr. to return with the blood test for my daughter's diabetes.

I remember praying that when my wife was in surgery..Dr had said it would be 45 mins...2 or 2 ½ hours

I have prayed that prayer with MANY of you at times...for you...or for a loved one:

*God...I know you can...what I don't know is if you will...I believe...help my unbelief*

What does it take to move from unbelief...to belief?

How and where do we find the grace to believe...when everything in us...and around us...is screaming...you CANT believe!

That's what I want to look at with you this morning...Turn with me to the passage I just read.

Mark 9:14-29 Pg 714

In order to understand the movement from Unbelief to Belief we should first look at:

### 1. What Drains our Faith, Causes Unbelief?

If we are honest we ALL struggle with unbelief sometimes. We find ourselves standing along side this father...desperately hoping that God will move...but unsure or uncertain if He can...or will do something to make things better

7 Causes of Unbelief I see in this encounter

>>Father I see 4

- **Tired/Weary:** Years of chronic struggle: Vs 21: Jesus asked: *"How long has it been this way?"* Childhood *Something happens when our struggle endures...when it is a chronic issue. We start to doubt...wonder...question We know what the bible says in Galatians..."Do not grow weary in well doing...for in due season..." But we do!!!*
- **Helplessness:** Personal Inadequacy in face of danger:Vs 21: *"it has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him!"* *When we are faced with something that is larger than we are...stronger... bigger...seemingly out of our control*
- **Hopeless:** People (disciples) can't help! Vs 18: *"I asked your disciples to help, but they couldn't* *Sometime we have done everything we know how to do: nothing has helped...Can't find it in us hope...be disappointed*
- **Limitations:** Our inadequate view of Jesus Vs 22: *"But IF you can do anything!"* take mercy and help" *Sometimes what holds us back is our limited view of God...and His power and love for us.* *~Can He ACTUALLY do something in THIS world?* *~Does He REALLY care enough to intervene?* *~Are there other things that hold him back!*

>>Disciples 3 more!

- **Lack of Prayer:** Vs 28-29 *"Only comes out by prayer!"* What happened here? They had walked with Jesus, seen Him...Been Commissioned by Him...Apparently did it before But somehow on this day they came up short! It happens to us all...Here is what I think: Past Success: We CAN! All of a sudden...they went off on their own...and having been there, Got cocky! Tried it in their own strength! **Quote:** *"The disciples were powerless because the disciples were prayer less!"*
- **Dependence upon self:** Already commissioned and sent them out (Mk 6) Tried own strength Jesus wasn't with them...they were alone ... and they failed to reach out to the Father....and they failed! They tried to do it themselves and they discover what we all do...we NEED Jesus Spiritual work is accomplished with Spiritual Power...and that only comes from the Father!
- **Our weak faith** >Boys Father: vs 24 *I believe...help my unbelief* >the disciples: vs 19: *Unbelieving generation...how long?* Mt 17:20 Mustard seed faith!

We read that and we tend to think, how could they NOT believe? How could they NOT know that Jesus was able. They have been walking with Him, listening to Him, watching Him.

Just like you and I they fell into the trap of trying to do spiritual work...in their own strength: Failed!

What do we do when our faith is limited...weak...uncertain and unsure?

What can we DO to build our faith?

When we find ourselves limited...wondering...questioning....Where do we turn...how do we strengthen our faith?

## 2. What Makes Our Unbelief BECOME Belief?

This is where I really want to focus with you this morning.

Honestly, most of us are pretty good at the UNBELIEF part! What we need is help building our faith, We need to know how to move from Unbelief to Belief!

### 3Actions that will Help us Move from Unbelief to Belief

- Seeing Jesus Personally: Seeing Jesus Changed everything in the story!  
~Crowd were amazed...couldn't wait to get to him! Wonder and Awe:(Many think like Moses Ex 34)  
~Scribes were shut up! Jesus asked...they didn't answer  
~Father was encouraged...I believe a little...but can you help me with more?  
~Disciples: Strengthened and taught  
~Demon: Furious!  
~Boy was healed: Jesus said: *"Bring Him to ME!"*

Illus: Seeing Jesus changes everything! When we see Jesus it builds our faith! Notice what I'm saying here!  
Not seeing our church...our Pastor...Our Building...Our activities, programs, and ministries....JESUS!  
The single most important game changer in anyone's life...is an encounter with Jesus!  
Can happen at church, Can be seen in our ministries...but at the end of the day people need to see HIM!!!

- Seeing Jesus Power: Vs 22: If you can? NO...the issue is not if I can HEAL...but If YOU can BELIEVE!  
The issues wasn't if Jesus could do it but if the father could BELIEVE IT!  
Jesus basically takes the Fathers words and turns them around...it's a play on words Original  
Jesus says, *"My doing is limited by YOUR believing!" Can YOU believe?*  
Where do you see Jesus power? It's all around you! But...you have to be with Him!  
In His presence: Peter James and John...they wouldn't struggle...Just seen Him!

Illus: Seeing Jesus power at work builds us up. That's why I think He was so frustrated with disciples: Faithless Generation  
They had seen Him, they had experienced His power...they Had been blessed...but still they struggled  
We need to put ourselves in places where we NEED him...where if HE doesn't come through...lost  
Our faith is built in those times and places, one small victory at a time...preparing us for greater things

Illus: I hear people say it all the time: Pastor, I could NEVER do that! Secret...I Never thought you could! Not at issue  
Here is the questions...Can you be available for Jesus to do it through you? Are you willing to be available?

2 Cor 3:4-6 *"Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—"*

- Seeking Jesus Help! Vs 22: If you can... take pity and help: Voice what you need...even if it's not perfect  
Vs 24: I believe help my unbelief Admit your limitations...but see HIM  
Asking him to supply what you know is missing  
~I need your GRACE (Unmerited favor) I know I don't deserve this,; but I'm asking anyway  
~I need your Strength ( I know I can't...but you can)  
~I need Confidence (I'm trying...but I'm struggling) God give me what I don't have!  
Jesus, can you supply what I am missing? That's what the Father did that day...

That is how our Unbelief becomes Belief: Seeing HIM>...Seeing His POWER...Seeking His Help!

CONCL: Where is Unbelief ruling in your life today? Where do you struggle to believe? Where Doubt?

- Are you seeing Jesus today? In His word? In Worship? In Ministry and service? Seeing Him...Strengthens You  
If you are feeling weak...maybe you are spending time in the wrong places! Rearrange your schedule...Worship/Ministry
- Are you willing to step out...put yourself in the place where His Power is at work?  
Are you in a place of ministry and service...a place where His hand is working...so you catch some of the overflow?  
When you see His power working in others...It builds your faith! When you experience it...Hear it...Stronger
- Are you asking Him for help? There is nothing wrong with the prayer of the Father...I believe...Help my unbelief  
Jesus ...Will you give me the grace to believe  
Jesus...will you strengthen me in my weakness...Pour your power out into my life...my spirit...Confidence  
Jesus...will you do through me...what I cannot do myself!

John 6:37: "and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."