



## **Pursuing Righteousness** **“Prayer is the key and faith unlocks the door”**

*Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.  
(v24)*

### **Mark 9: 14-29** **PRAYING THROUGH UNBELIEF**

Often there are several scriptures we use in an effort to encourage and uplift one another during times of crisis and distress. Just how often do we say to someone, “I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me” or ask “is there anything too hard for God” and the popular one today is “ask and it shall be answered, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened.” Not very often do we say to anyone or even to ourselves, Lord I believe, now help me with my unbelief. Is it fear that hinders us when it comes to admitting we all go through periods of unbelief? Are we afraid to let others know that we are not the “super-saint” we try to betray ourselves as? Have we, at some point, thought less of others when they have revealed their struggles, especially when those struggles revealed are the popular ones we look at as a life style choice, not an imposed circumstance. Well let me say this up front, we all go through periods where our faith is not as strong as it should be. Our focus scripture this month is not a testament of going from a lack of faith to a person of faith. It is however, a testament of knowing where to go when we are weakened by the overwhelming circumstances in life.

Who are the main characters of our scripture story and what are the messages they teach? First the father; most of the time we find a father in bible stories, depicting a role of God the Father. However, in this story the father allows us to look at ourselves. Today it is sure that we walk in the Grace of God. However, because of that fact, we often take on challenges without much thought as to who the true challenger is. We often confront problems believing that God will help us handle them. And like our story’s father, we go about doing the things that we feel should bring about an answer to our prayers. But there are some things that are so tough that it appears, things are just bad and will never change. This brings us to our next character, the son. The son allows us to look at those things which cause us to pray for a miracle. Be certain God is still in the miracle business. Jesus, the next character in our story, gives us the answer to why some miracles are not realized for us. “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.” We often do the ordinary then look to receive the extra-ordinary. Jesus desires that we obtain greatness in our lives. But it is the meek, that shall inherit the earth. Fasting humbles us before God. God knows our frame, and He remembers that we are dust. So he welcomes our request for help with our unbelief. It’s when I’m weak, that’s when I am made strong.

Finally, God desires that we walk daily in the grandeur of His blessings. However, we fail to understand and often even admit our limitations. We pray based on that which we see, not on who God is. We fail to receive the full measure of God great blessings, for we fail to conceive the greatness of God. God gives us the things which make us marvel, not to satisfy some temporal quest. But it is to bring about an eternal condition. The miracle is not the goal for God; it’s the message in the miracle that will be passed from generation to generation. Inside the head of each of us rages a battle for our heart. That is why fasting should never be about the stomach; it should be about the heart.

Asking God for help with our unbelief is a way of asking God to release His supernatural power onto a situation that will give Him glory. I expect a miracle everyday. I believe the impossible so that God’s people can receive the incredible. Jesus, I believe, help now my unbelief.

((A church that prays together, grows in faith together))

Let us pray

Deacon Larry Davis 09/07