



Possibilities By Faith

“Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth” (Mark 9:23).

Bulletin VCMT59

25 November 2020

Jesus' statement that “All things are possible to him that believeth” (Mark 9:23), made in connection with His miraculous healing of an epileptic deaf and dumb boy (Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43) declares the possibilities of faith, that is available to all believers.

“And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, 15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oft-times he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. 16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. 17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. 18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. 19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting” (Matthew 17:14-21).

- 1) The day after Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain (Luke 9:37), He came down to see scribes interrogating His disciples. He intervened - “What question ye with them”? (Mark 9:16) to protect the disciples.
- 2) The multitudes greatly amazed on seeing Jesus, ran towards, and saluteth Him (Mark 9:15).
- 3) The father of the lunatic boy, his only son (Luke 9:38) “came to him..., kneeling down” (Matthew 17:14), and pleaded for mercy.
- 4) Note the activities of the evil spirit by taking him, causing him to cry / foam, bruising him, making him to fall into fire and water, gnashing with teeth, pining away, making him dumb

“Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting” (Matthew 17:21).

and hardly departing from him (Luke 9:39; Matthew 17:15; Mark 9:17-18) demonstrates the wickedness of evil spirits and their determination to kill (John 10:10).

- 5) While on the mountain, the man had besought the disciples to cast out the evil spirit but they could not. Their failure to develop their faith by prayer with fasting has now resulted in failure of power for deliverance, thus earning them the description “faithless and perverse generation” (Luke 9:40-41; Matthew 9:16-17; Mark 9:18).
- 6) Jesus commanded the son to be brought to Him, at which point the evil spirit manifested again as before. After responding to the enquiry of Jesus on how long the problem had been, the father petitioned Christ **“If thou canst do anything, have compassion on us”** (Mark 9:20-22).
- 7) Jesus' response **“If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”** (Mark 9:23) reveals that healings, miracles and deliverances are not the issue of what God can do but what human beings are prepared to believe for.
- 8) In response, the father seized the opportunity to “cry and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief” (Mark 9:24).
- 9) Then, Jesus rebuked and commanded the evil spirits, who manifested for the last time as they were going out, leaving the son in a frail and lifeless state, but Jesus lifted him up completely healed (Mark 9:25-27).
- 10) All were amazed at the miracle.
- 11) The disciples seized that opportunity to learn from Jesus, the reason for their failure. **If we humbly apply the lessons of life, we will perform better as the disciples did in the rest of their life and ministry.**