

A Faith that Pleases God

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(Psalm 77:14 TLB) You are the God of miracles and wonders! You still demonstrate your awesome power.

(Mark 9:16-24) “What are you arguing with them about?” He asked. A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of his speech. 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. “You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” 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. Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. “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.” “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

Causes of Doubt

- We believe like those around us.
(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.”
(2 Corinthians 6:14-15) Do not be yoked together with unbelievers...What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?
- We’ve tried things that didn’t work.
(Mark 9:17-18) A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that

has robbed him of speech. 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.”

- We believe, sort of.
(Mark 9:24) Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief!”
(James 1:6-8) But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

Real Faith

1. Believes when it doesn’t see.
(Hebrews 11:1) Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
(Matthew 9:28) When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” “Yes, Lord,” they replied.
2. Persists when nothing changes.
(Colossians 4:2 GNT) Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God.
3. Works when it doesn’t make sense.
(James 2:22) You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

Faith believes God can, but trusts Him even if he doesn’t.