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# advance in the word - jesus’ dependency on prayer – 05/17/18

**JESUS' DEPENDENCY ON PRAYER**

In Mark 9:14-29 there is a story of Jesus casting out another demon from a teenage boy. While Jesus is away at the Mount of Transfiguration Jesus' disciples try to cast the demon out but fail. Jesus comes back into town and then addresses the issue. Jesus commands the demon, "You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again" (9:25).

How does the demon come out? With a great bit of commotion. The encounter is described this way, "crying out", "throwing him to the ground", "terrible convulsions," then stillness as if the boy is dead.

Why the absence of a smooth exorcism? One, it needed to be evident that a demon had indeed been driven out. If done silently and smoothly no one would have known and it would have been next to impossible to believe it had happened. Two, this amazing display pointed to an amazing deliverance. As in life, God may choose to deliver us in messy ways, chaotic ways. We may have to endure a little chaos as God brings healing and wholeness to our lives.

Also, note that Jesus commands the demon but tells the disciples this kind only comes out by prayer (9:29). Is Jesus not following His own advice? I would point you to the Gospel of John 11:41-42. Jesus was dependent upon prayer in every aspect of His life and ministry, including this story. A life of prayer joins with God and with God's power. The disciples had relied on an effective formula they had used before (Mk. 6:13). The story teaches faith in God not faith in a practiced procedure. Prayer looks to the Father in faith for healing and life. Jesus was absolutely dependent upon prayer.