

9-16-2026 – With God All Things Are Possible

Jesus wanted His disciples to have faith . . . it was a recurring topic/issue.

To believe in Him . . . to live for Him . . . to change the world. **Same!**
Faith pleases God. “w/out faith it is impossible to please” God (Heb. 11:6).

Mark 4 - Jesus Calms the Storm

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? **Do you still have no faith?”**

- Jesus could sleep b/c He completely trusted in God.
 - **Ability to remain calm in the storm is Rooted in Faith.**
- They’d **seen** Him heal many; cast out spirits... but **still had fear**.
 - **Storms will happen in our lives.** Do you still have no faith??
 - Face things w/ fear? Focus on all that could go wrong? Or are you a calming voice of faith?
 - **We’ve read the stories.** He did the impossible: Lame/walk
 - Deaf/hear. Mute/talk. Blind/see. Shriveled hand... leprosy.

Mark 8 - ¹¹ The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. ¹² He sighed deeply and said, “Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it.”

- Seen many miracles . . . but still doubt. Seen/all . . . Hardened hearts.
- Another sign ... one more . . . will **still not be enough for some**. **You?**
 - **The solution** is to repent. Use your heart, not your head.

- Jesus then warned the disciples, ¹⁵ “Be careful . . . “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”
- ¹⁶ They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.” ¹⁷ Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸ Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don’t you remember? ¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” “Twelve,” they replied. ²⁰ “And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” They answered, “Seven.”
- ²¹ He said to them, **“Do you still not understand?”**
 - Jesus asks us the same question – do you not Understand?? – **nothing is impossible!** Live w/ **Faith & tune out** the noise.
 - **He meets our needs. He rights/wrongs. God is real.**

Mark 9

¹⁴ When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ¹⁵ As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. ¹⁶ “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked. ¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ 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.”

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.” ²⁰ 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.

²¹ Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood,” he answered. ²² “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.” ²³ ““If you can’?” said

Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

²⁴ Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” ²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the

impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” ²⁶ The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

²⁸ After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” ²⁹ He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

Some people are like the **disciples** – belief, but no results.

Some battles in our lives are more powerful than others.

- They require absolute **dependence** on **divine intervention** ... we access that thru **prayer**. In prayer, we **connect** to the **vine**. Not us, but God.
- Consider why some victories [answered prayer] don’t come right away:
 - **1** – doubt. **2** – wrong motives; our glory (**James 4:3** – “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives”) God doesn’t partner with our schemes to get glory, live easy.
 - **3** – an effort to manipulate God; (1 Sam. 13:9-14) God is master, we are servants.
 - **4** – our sin/disobedience. (Psm. 81:10-12) God may withhold his gracious hand, give us what’s in our stubborn hearts until we return to Him w/ a repentant heart.
 - **5** – rejecting God’s method. (2 Kings 5) – Naaman almost missed his healing b/c he didn’t want to do what he was told to do.
 - **6** – God may delay to teach us to pay attention to Him. **Is. 48:18** – “If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river” . . . doing all but go to God.
 - **Evaluate your prayer life.** Be sure you are depending on God . . . trusting Him. Keep believing; keep praying.
 - Persistent prayer & faith . . . if you give up, that’s not faith.

Some people are also like **the father** . . . We have both belief & unbelief. We want to believe, but we doubt.

Look at Jesus' answer - ²³ **“If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”**

- **“IF you can...?”** - Jesus' abilities were not at issue here.
 - o **Q** – did Jesus possess unlimited power b/c He was the Son of God or b/c He had unlimited faith?

John 14 - during the Last Supper. He's going to prepare a place . . . to sit beside the Father . . . and he tells the disciples this:

...**11** Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me—or at least believe on account of the works themselves. **12 Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I am doing. He will do even great things than these, b/c I am going to the Father. 13**And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If you ask Me for anything in My name, I will do it.

What prayer are you too timid to pray? What is too great for God?
Have you given up? Praying with unbelief? Afraid to hope? **Be confident!**

1 John 5:14-15 – “And this is the confidence that we have before Him: If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. / And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we already possess what we have asked of Him.”

Let that sink in.

You already have it. It's on the way. Live with hope, not fear.