

Message Notes

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Date: February 24, 2019

Bible Focus: Mark 9:14-29

Message Series: Only by Prayer

Message Title: I Can't, But God Can

Mark 9:14-18 - *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."*

1. I _____

2. I _____

Mark 9:29 - *After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"*

Mark 9:25-27 - *When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil 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.*

Mark 9:19 - *"O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."*

Mark 9:29 - *He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."*

3. God _____

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Mark 9:14-29

1. Think of a time in your life when success was followed by failure. What changed that led to failure the second time? What did you learn in the aftermath?
2. In what ways do you identify with the disciples' "I can do this" spirit? How has past success given you an "I can do this" spirit in the current challenges you face? In light of this message, what needs to change?
3. When Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" they were about to learn how important continuing prayer is, especially in the aftermath of previous success. What lessons about prayer and belief did the disciples come away with after Jesus responded to their question?
4. From what you know about Jesus' life and ministry, did His prayer life reflect His reliance on God? Connect today's focus with specific examples you find in the Gospel accounts.
5. If God can do what you can't, and is willing to do what you can't, what must you do to depend on God more, now and into the future?