

Reflection Questions: What keeps me from depending on God in prayer?
When in my life do I rely on myself or technique instead of on God?
How can I more fully give myself to prayer? What challenges am I and
our church facing that can only be fixed by prayer? Do I realize who
God is? Do I regularly think about His power, ability, and what He can
do?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?

Quotes to Ponder

What you are on your knees, you are and no more.

Robert Murray M'Cheyne

While men have no faith, they are unconscious of their unbelief; but, as soon as they get a little faith, then they begin to be conscious of the greatness of their unbelief.

Charles Spurgeon

Prayer calls me to abandon my reliance on me, abandon my hope in me; abandon my delusion and my strength and wisdom. If I am strong, if I'm able, if I'm sufficient, prayer doesn't make any sense.

Paul David Tripp

The Lord is not limited by imperfect faith; even the strongest faith is always mixed with a measure of doubt.

John MacArthur

There is within every believer a tension between faith and unfaith, and that faith can only continue to exist by dint of divine aid.

Christopher Marshall

One cannot get ready for the moment by quickly uttering a special prayer; one has to be ready through a prayerful life when the moment comes.

David Garland



Believing Unbelief

Sermon
Notes

October 8, 2023

1. The Context (14-15)
2. The Dialogue (17-24)
3. The Exorcism (25-27)
4. The Solution (28-29)

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?

2. Read the following accounts, noting what you learn from each. Are there any contradictions? If so, how do you resolve them?

Matthew 17:14-21 —

Mark 9:14-29 —

Luke 9:37-43 —

3. Why was the crowd *amazed* when Jesus approached (*Mark 9:15*)?

4. How does our failure, like the disciples' failure, reflect on Jesus (*Mark 9:18, 28*)?

5. In *Mark 9:19* Jesus refers to this *unbelieving generation*. In what ways do we see faithlessness exhibited in this passage?

6. Why does the father ask if Jesus could have *pity on us and help us* (*Mark 9:22*)?

7. What does Jesus want us to believe in *Mark 9:23*?

8. Compare *Mark 9:23* with *Mark 10:27*. What does this tell us?

9. How does the father represent what the disciples lacked, even if was imperfect (*Mark 9:24*)?

10. What did the disciples do after their failure (*Mark 9:28*)? How can our own failures be made profitable?

11. How is prayer related to faith (*John 15:7; James 5:13-18*)?

12. How does prayer express faith, trust, and dependency on God?

13. What changes in our understanding of what Jesus teaches about faith and prayer here if we put the emphasis on faith and prayer instead of on God as the object of our faith and prayer?

14. How does turning to Jesus with questions and doubt demonstrate some faith rather than no faith at all?

What would no faith look like?

15. What do the following verses teach about faith?

Mark 1:40-41 —

Romans 5:1 —

Mark 2:4-5 —

Romans 14:23 —

Mark 5:34 —

2 Corinthians 5:7 —

Mark 6:5-6 —

Galatians 2:20 —

Mark 10:51-52 —

Hebrews 11:1, 6 —

Mark 11: 22-24 —

1 Peter 1:8-9 —