

Conversations with Jesus: "Bring Your Doubt to Jesus" **Mark 9:14-29**

1. What principles or observations from Pastor Walt's message did you find to be helpful or insightful?

2. After the transfiguration in Mark 9, Jesus and the 3 disciples (Peter, James, and John) return and see a large crowd surrounding the other 9 disciples with scribes (teachers of the Law) arguing with them. Jesus asks the 9 what their argument is about. A man in the crowd, the father of a demon-possessed boy, explains the situation to Jesus. What does the father say in verses 17 & 18?

3. What two rhetorical questions does Jesus respond with in verse 19?

Jesus intended to act with power where the disciples had failed, so what does He command at the end of verse 19?

4. What happens when the demonic spirit sees Jesus in verse 20?

5. How long had the boy been experiencing these near-fatal convulsions?

6. Because of the disciples' inability to expel the demon, the father says to Jesus: "But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" How does Jesus respond in verse 23?

7. The father's response to Jesus in verse 24 is immediate. What does he say?

The father declares his faith but also acknowledges its weakness. His statement brings to light an essential element of the Christian faith—all things are possible...but only with the help of the One who is the Object of our faith.

8. When Jesus sees that a curious crowd is quickly forming, what does He then do and say in verse 25?

9. With a final burst of violence upon his victim and a scream of rage, the demon finally flees in verse 26. The boy is laying still as a corpse and many think that he must be dead. But what happens in verse 27?

Has there been anything in your life...a broken relationship, a dream, a hope, perhaps your own spiritual life...that appeared to be dead but God raised to life? Talk about this.

10. When Jesus goes into the house, what do the disciples privately ask him in verse 28?

What is Christ's response in verse 29?

The disciples had failed because they had not prayerfully depended upon God's power. Perhaps they had been trusting in past successes and not leaning upon the Lord.

When are you tempted to trust in yourself instead of relying upon God?