

INTRODUCTION: FROM HIGH TO LOW

- A. COMING DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN** (9f,14f; see Ex.32:15f)
- B. UNBELIEVING AND UNSUCCESSFUL** (Mk.9:14-29; see Mt.17:14-21; Lk.9:37-43)

I. SPIRITUAL ASSAULTS: AGAINST THE DISCIPLES (see Eph.6:12f,18)

- A. BY THE SCRIBES: UNSUCCESSFUL IN CASTING DOWN** (14,16; see 12:34; Lk.21:15; Acts 6:9,10)
- B. BY THE DEMON: UNSUCCESSFUL IN CASTING OUT** (18; see Acts 19:14)
 - 1. purpose: to destroy the image of God in man (17,18, 22; Gen.3:5f; e.g., language)
 - 2. diagnosis: unbelief & disobedience (19; see Mt.17:17; Lk.9:41; see Rom.1:18f)
 - 3. how long?: suffering into glory resumed (19; see 8:34f)
 - 4. hope: bring him to Me (17,19; see 2:3f; 10:19; Mt.11:28)
 - 5. provocation of evil by righteousness (20; see 1:24)

II. IMPOSSIBILITY: DOUBTING PRAYER (24; see 11:24; Mt.21:22; Acts 14:23; Jms.1:5-8; 5:15)

- A. DISTRUST: FAITH UNDERMINED BY FAILURE** (17-19; 24)
- B. UNBELIEF: FAITH CONDITIONED ON SUCCESS** (22; also 1:40,41; see Ex.6:7; Ps.100:3,5; Rom.8:32; Heb.13:5; note: cross & resurrection)
- C. TRUTH: SUCCESS CONDITIONED ON FAITH** (23; see 5:36; 6:5f; 10:27,52; 11:22f; 14:36; Mt.15:28; Eph.3:20f; Heb.11:6)
- D. CONFESSION & PETITION: BELIEF & UNBELIEF** (24; see Jms.1:5-8; 5:15; Lk.17:5; 1Th.3:10)
- E. ANSWERED PRAYER: HELP FOR SON & FATHER** (24-27; see 22,24; Jn.14:16,etc.; Heb.13:6)
- F. THE AUTHORITY & POWER OF THE SON OF GOD, MESSIAH** (25-27; see Lk.4:18-21; 7:21-23)
 - 1. to cast out even very powerful demons (25-27,29; see 5:2f,9; Lk.10:17f; Jn.12:31; Rev.12:9f)
 - 2. to cast down & raise up people (26,27; see Acts 22:7,16; Rom.6:2f)

III. IMPOSSIBILITY: SELF-RELIANT WORK (18,29; Mt.17:20; Lk.17:6; see Jn.15:5; Phil.4:13)

- A. AUTHORITY, POWER AND SUCCESS IN EXORCISMS** (18; see 3:15; 6:7,13,30; see Lk.10:17f)
- B. FAITHLESS, LITTLE FAITH, UNBELIEF** (18,19; 24; Mt.17:20; see Dt.8:11f,17; Lk.18:9)
- C. PRAYERLESS: ABSENT OR INADEQUATE** (29,22; see Jms.4:2; 5:15; Jn.15:5; Phil.4:13)
- D. UNSUCCESSFUL** (18,28 versus 22f)
- E. SUCCESS THROUGH FAITH IN GOD** (23; Mt.17:20; see Mt.19:26; Mk.10:27; 14:36; Lk.1:37; 18:27)

CONCLUSION: BELIEVE & PRAY! (24)

- A. PRACTICE FAITHFUL PRAYER!** (22-24; see Rom.8:26; Heb.7:25; Jms.4:2,3; 1Jn.5:14,15(Mk.14:36); see Mt.21:21f; Mk.11:23f; Acts 14:23)
- B. BRING YOUR LOVED ONES TO JESUS IN PRAYER FOR HIS SAVING HELP!** (14,19; 2:3f,5; see 7:26; Ps.85:9)
- C. PERSEVERE IN FAITHFUL PRAYER INTO THE RESURRECTION FOR THE FINAL FRUIT OF YOUR TRUST!** (17f; see Mt.15:22f; Lk.18:1f; 2Tm.1:12; 1Cor.3:13; Eph.3:20f)
- D. GROW STRONG IN FAITH THROUGH THE MEANS OF THE SPIRIT** (29; Lk.17:5; see Rom.4:19f; Mk.14:22; 1Th.5:11; see Acts 2:42; 6:4; see 2Cor.10:15; 2Th.1:3)
- E. PRAY WITH FAITH AND PRAY FOR FAITH** (24; Mt.21:22; Lk.22:32)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)