

Series: Prayer: II. Doubt

## **MY STRUGGLE WITH DOUBTS**

**Mark 9:24b**

### **Review last week: faith:**

The Q in prayer is *never* whether God is **able**. He could move a mountain if He wanted. But it is not enough to acknowledge that intellectually.

Faith is God-honoring **confidence** in His power and promises.

Prayer is the way we lay hold of His power for things HE wants to change.

Because He is our only Hope.

But we all struggle with doubts. Does He answer the prayers of doubting sinners?

### **The Story**

Transfiguration: peace and confidence on mountain

Back down to brokenness of this world

- Scribes picking on the disciples to discredit Jesus
- Desperate father whose heart broken by his son's condition

Jesus to the rescue

- Of His disciples
- Of the father and son

The failure of the disciples and Jesus' lonely cry

What was their problem? Cf. 6:7, 13.

Success and the problem of self-confidence

The son's plight is ultimately spiritual.  
Demonic seizures and muteness.

9:22-23: "If you can..."

His faith shaken by failure of the disciples  
But not a Q of Jesus' power, but of *his* faith in Jesus

9:24: an honest statement of the ambivalence we all have!

9:25-27: but Jesus acts in compassion. He does not require pure faith, but rather faith in the right Object.

9:28-9: the question and answer

9:30-32: the One we must come to and trust

### **The Main Lessons**

1. We all have a mixture of faith and doubt.

Faith is like a muscle; it grows stronger through exercise.

Remember: build your "faith portfolio"

But we will not trust 100% this side of heaven.

2. The key is to look away from yourself and your faith to the **Christ** of v31, the only reliable Object of your faith.

- Not superstition
- Not faith in Faith

This Supper speaks of Him, to get our hearts fixed on Him. To assure us of His covenant love to meet the needs of sinners like you and me.

3. We do that because we realize at last He is our only Hope.

Stanley Grenz and the crow