

# A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke**

**Chapter 9- Luke 9:37-43**

181- The Nature of Biblical Faith Part 3

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## **Luke 9:37-43**

**37** On the next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Him.

**38** And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only *boy*,

**39** and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming *at the mouth*; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him *as it leaves*.

**40** "I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not."

**41** And Jesus answered and said, "**You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.**"

**42** While he was still approaching, the demon slammed him *to the ground* and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father.

**43** And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

To the Glory of God

Now as I told you two weeks ago- true genuine Biblical Faith is not some kind of spiritual muscle by which you make things happen that you really want to happen or that gives you the ability to achieve or acquire things that you want- and that is exactly how faith is portrayed by most in the modern Church. But true Biblical Faith is nothing more nor less than

**Putting our trust and our confidence and our hope in what God has revealed  
in His Word- for no other reason other than He said it.**

And that means that if God has not said anything about a particular situation- then there is no Promise to trust in- and in those cases- you then simply yield yourself to God and trust in Him and in His Goodness and in His Strength and in the general Promise that God is very busy working everything that He has either Sovereignly *allowed* to come into your life or that He has Sovereignly *caused* to come into your life with everything else that God has done for the greater “Good” of the Glory of God and ultimately the fulfillment of our joy as well. And we are to be content with that.

For example- if you are concerned that God has not forgiven your sins- Biblical Faith will compel you to turn to God’s Word to see what God has already said about that subject and you read a passage like **1John 1:9** that says:

**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

And true Biblical Faith will *trust* that Promise and many others just like it and then Faith will *act* on that Promise and will then compel the individual to make sure that he has obeyed what that verse says and that he has confessed his sins in all that the Bible means about Confession and true Faith will then compel that individual to place his confidence and his hope in that Divine Promise- that since he has confessed his sin- God will then do what God has promised to do and will

**... forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

...not because we are *entitled* to be forgiven or that God *owes* us forgiveness or that now that we have confessed our sins- God is now *obligated* to forgive us- no, no, no- we believe or trust or have confidence that since we have confessed our sins- God has forgiven us because:

**... [God] is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins...**

In other words- we believe that God has forgiven us for no other reason than He said He would. That is an example of Biblical Faith. And so if that is what faith is- then knowing what God has said is very,

very important or else we would not know what to trust in.

So if there is a situation that arises in our lives to which God has *not* said or promised anything specific- like physical healing for example- we cannot say,

*"I have the faith to believe I am going to be well."*

... as though we can actually make that happen; or that we can actually order God around; or cause something to be manifest; or speak something into existence; or create matter as long as we have enough faith. No, we cannot say that. The Bible doesn't teach that.

That is *not* an appropriate kind of Faith- that is a *misuse* of Faith because we do not know what God's Will is- concerning that particular disease at that particular time in our lives- precisely because God has not spoken about it. So we really do not know what God's Purpose is- in *allowing* us to be sick. And so since God has not revealed to us the future and since there is no specific Statement or Promise by God to trust in- we are left to trust in what we *do* know to be true:

- ✓ That God is Good by Nature
- ✓ That all of God's Wrath has been turned away from us because we have trusted in the finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ
- ✓ God has Promised to never leave us nor forsake us
- ✓ God is busy sanctifying us into His Image and His Likeness

.. and therefore our goal in that case- would not be to simply believe to be well- but to believe and trust and hope to be found faithful *in* that trial; or to believe and trust to be found fruitful *in* that affliction; or to believe to be found busy in the Work of the Lord *in* that situation.

Simply because we don't like something or simply because we really, really, really want something doesn't mean that God sees that like we do. And to assume that because we see something as being "bad" or "wrong" or "good" in our limited and finite eyes- and to assume that since it looks "bad" or "good" to us that it also looks as "bad" or "good" to God as He sees the Past, Present, and Future all at one time- is not great faith, dear friends- it is the height of arrogance.

So what Jesus and the other Biblical writers are talking about when they talk about Faith is not some tool by which we can twist God's

Arm to get what we want out of Him- but it is the gift of God that enables us and empowers us to trust in what God has said.

Now I also told you that the main point of this Passage is found in **Luke 9:41** that says:

**And Jesus answered and said, "You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here."**

And we also saw how that these Jews knew exactly what Jesus meant when He said these words because they knew the Old Testament and they knew that Jesus was fulfilling the prophecy of Moses in **Deuteronomy 32:5&6** that was made many hundreds of years earlier that says:

**5 They have acted corruptly toward Him, *They are not His children*, because of their defect; *But are a perverse and crooked generation*.**

**6 Do you thus repay the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is not He your Father who has bought you? He has made you and established you.**

So Jesus was rebuking the Jews lack of trust in Himself as being God Almighty in human flesh and so he was categorically condemning their false religion and their actions that were based on that false religion.

So that is what we have learned so far and so let's move through the verses of our text together. Let's look at **Luke 9:37-41** again together:

**37 On the next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Him.**

**38 And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only *boy*,**

**39 and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming *at the mouth*; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him *as it leaves*.**

**40 "I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not."**

**41 And Jesus answered and said, "You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here."**

Now as we have already found out- there never was in all of history- before or since- such an open manifestation of demonic activity as there was during the earthly Ministry of Jesus Christ because He literally just blew these fallen angels out of their cover as He delivered people from them. What the rest of the people couldn't see- Jesus could see. And, of course, the demons put on a massive effort against Jesus during the time of His Ministry- probably coming from all over the globe to concentrate their efforts in the land of Palestine in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century to try to thwart the Work of the Savior.

And as we have studied earlier- the main way that demons operate in the earth is not what you see from Hollywood in the movies- where little girl's head spin around and they vomit green vomit and are cast out through Roman Catholic priests throwing enough "Holy Water" on them. That just isn't true.

Demons do not want to be seen; they want to hide; they want to stay in the shadows; they want to do their work behind the scenes- hidden in the shadows- and not in the daylight. The only reason why demons were so visible and open in the Bible is because Jesus was God Almighty in human flesh and He was making their existence miserable by walking right up to them and defeating them to their face and commanding them and stealing and robbing the captive souls of men right out of their hands and away from their domination and delivering them into the Kingdom of God.

The main way that demons or fallen angels operate in the earth is by creating and propagating false doctrine; by deceiving people into believing a lie; by tricking people into false beliefs; by making lost people comfortable in their lost condition; by lying and seducing weak and unlearned people about God and the Truth and the Ways of God and by promoting false and wrong and real bad interpretations of the Scriptures.

As unpopular as this statement is- it is absolutely true and I will say it boldly and publicly as long as God gives me breath- all false religions- every single one them- from Islam to modern Judaism to Buddhism; to the worship of the stars to the occult- are all the invention of demons and demon possessed men who seek to destroy the souls of men.

There is absolutely nothing about any of these false religions that are good or productive to anyone; they cannot save a single person and

every single soul in the face of the earth who understands what these false religions teach and believes in them are doomed to spend eternity in hell. False religions are all bad- all the time.

All heresies and all false teachings and all cults and all abusive people- who go by the Name of Jesus- but who are ravenous wolves in sheep's clothing- are all operating under the power of demons. And all of what they teach and promote and believe is demonically arrived and cannot save a single soul. False teachings and heresies and cults are all bad- all the time too.

But Jesus had absolute and total Authority and Power over the demons so that at just His spoken Word- they came out and were banished from the people in whom they possessed and were tormenting.

And in **Luke 9:38&39**- Dr. Luke goes into great detail about terrible this boy's demon possession is:

**38** And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only *boy*,

**39** and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming *at the mouth*; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him *as it leaves*.

So this father is really desperate. His only son is demon possessed and he is being terribly tormented by this fallen angel who is living inside of him. Now look again at **Luke 9:40** again:

**I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not."**

Now since Peter, James, and John were up in the Mount of Transfiguration while all of this was going on- this man is probably referring to the other *nine* Apostles who remained down at the base of the Mountain. And we know this because the man is using the past tense of the verb- "to beg". He said,

**I begged Your disciples to cast it out...**

... past tense. So based on that- the man had already brought his boy- he had already gone to the other nine Apostles to see if they could

deliver the boy while Jesus and the other three Apostles were up in the Mountain.

Now why would he do that? Why would he go to these men? Because they had already been given the Authority and Power to cast out demons. Look back up to **Luke 9:1** and read with me:

**And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.**

Do you see that? These men were not just sent out to preach- but also to bring Divine Credibility to what they preached by being given the Supernatural ability to perform miracles and to heal diseases and to cast out demons. And we have already studied quite extensively that this is the purpose of miracles.

Miracles never did go to every soul who needed them- not even in the Bible and not even when Jesus walked the earth. Miracles and Physical healing and signs and wonders were always rare and always doled out in accordance with God's Will and not simply the need of people.

And miracles and physical healings and signs and wonders and the signs gifts were always used to bring Divine Credibility to what was being taught and what was being preached and what was being revealed.

The OT Prophets performed some miracles so that people would know that they were speaking on God's behalf and the NT Apostles also were given the ability to perform some miracles so that people would know to move away from the partial and inferior Revelation of God of the OT into the final full and completed Revelation of God in the NT.

And as soon as the NT was finalized- the age of miracle and signs and wonders and signs gifts of the Holy Spirit was ended- not because God can't still do today what he did back then- but simply because they accomplished what they were sent to do.

And so today- We know that God is a healing God by Nature- just like He has always been and God *can* and God still does heal sick bodies- but we also know that God doesn't *always* do that. And while it is *sometimes* God's Will to heal or to deliver or to perform miracles- it is also sometimes God's Will *not* to heal and *not* to deliver and *not* to perform miracles- but to strengthen the afflicted soul- to give them hope

and courage to remain faithful and fruitful as they suffer for God's Glory. And that isn't popular to say- but it is nevertheless true and it is what the Bible teaches and that is the only reason why I say it.

But even though God can and does do these things- the age where individual people have special gifts of healing and gifts that enable them to receive new Divine Revelation are over- again- not because God can't do that- but simply because we have all of the Divine Revelation that God wanted to give us and it is written down and that is what we call the Holy Bible today.

The Bible teaches very clearly that some people in the infancy of the Church were gifted to be able to perform miracles and healings and to receive new Divine Revelation directly from God. That happened; it is true and it is Biblical. But it is equally true and it is equally Biblical to also say that once we received that Divine Revelation and it was written down and once that new Revelation was confirmed as being from God by and through signs and wonders and gifts of the Holy Spirit- those 27 new Books called the NT no longer needed to be given any more credibility and so the performance of those wonders and miracles and sign gifts ceased.

So before any of the Divine Revelation that would eventually be written down into 27 Books that we now call the NT was ever given to the Apostles- called the Twelve together and He Personally gave them Power and Authority over all the demons. And so Jesus told the 12 men

*"You have power and authority over all the demons."*

And Dr. Luke tells us that these men had gone out after that initial Commission- all through Galilee- two by two- demonstrating this tremendous Power- which included power over demons and power over diseases; and even power over death.

They had already been used by God to do all of this. And so *their* reputation was spreading all over the region- just like Jesus' was. And so based on that spreading reputation- this man hears about them and so he brings his boy for them to deliver him.

But the Bible says that they couldn't do it. This was one demon who was too severe for them. Now it could have been that pride had overtaken them at this point- because that is a common problem. As soon as God begins to use people- they immediately get self- righteous



about it and begin to think that they possess some internal goodness about themselves or that others who are not used like they are- are simply inferior to them. And that may be true- but I think that the only way really to understand this is based upon what Levi wrote in **Matthew 17:19-21**- so let's turn there and read that passage together:

**19** Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not drive it out?"

**20** And He said to them, "**Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.**

**21** ["**But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.**"]

So Jesus Himself said that the reason why these other nine Apostles could not cast out this demon from this boy was:

**... Because of the littleness of your faith...**

They simply didn't believe it could be done. They thought, *"Here's a case that's too far gone- too severe for us. Here's a person's problem that's too terrible for us to fix."* This demon was just terrorizing this boy and the horror of it all intimidated these nine Apostles and they simply didn't have the faith to believe." Now remember, Jesus had told them back in **Luke 9:1** that He

**... gave them power and authority over all the demons...**

**... "all"** being the operative word. And then He tells them in **Matthew 17:20**:

**"But you didn't believe."**

And then Jesus answered and said to them in **Luke 9:41**:

**"O unbelieving and perverted generation..."**

So it's almost as if there's a level of exasperation here.

"How long shall I be with you and put up with you?"

Now the English word, “**generation**” that is used in verse 41 comes from the Greek word, *genea* and it basically means: *contemporaries*.

So Jesus is saying all of the people who exhibit unbelief, all of the people who exhibit perverseness- the crowd- all of the unbelieving people of Israel- they all exhibited a lot of that unbelief and perverseness while the disciples exhibited a little of it.

The Apostles were perverted in their belief- just a little bit- but it was enough to think that this boy was not a person who could be delivered. And so their faith was limited by their failure to believe in what Jesus had told them back in **Luke 9:1**.

And in this failure- to the extent of their failure to trust in what Jesus had said- no matter how difficult or severe the problem looked- in *that* sense- these nine Apostles were perverse. The Greek word that Dr. Luke used here is *diastrepho* which means: *distorted, perverted, twisted, depraved, crooked, or wrong*. All of those words can be a translation of that one Greek word.

So their perversion is that they didn't trust in what Jesus had said that they had the Power to cast out ALL demons and so as they saw the severity of this boy's possession- they thought that this was too hard for the Lord. They considered this to be beyond the Power available and their twisted view of God's Power then went along with their faithlessness.

Certainly the whole nation of Israel was twisted in their view of Christ and faithless to the extreme – to the point of not being saved. The religious experts- the scribes and Pharisees were guilty of being perverse and twisted to the maximum. They were so twisted and faithless that they were plotting on how to execute Jesus and how to murder Him.

But even though we might want to- we really can't let the Apostles off the hook here. The nine who failed to deliver the demon-possessed boy failed to do so because they did not believe and trust in what Jesus had told them back in verse 9. And in their faithlessness- they lost confidence that the Power was available to deliver this poor afflicted soul.

So in *that* sense- these nine Apostles had a distorted view of Jesus too. They had a lack of faith in what Jesus had specifically told them.

But they had absolutely no reason to have a wrong view of the Lord's Power or the veracity of what He said because they had seen enough. They had personally seen Jesus casting out demons. They had personally seen Him healing people and raising dead and controlling nature. They had personally seen Him deal with a maniac in Gadara who was full of a legion of demons. And now they had something that was infinitely superior to anything they had personally seen- they had the very spoken Word of God Almighty in human flesh- Who cannot lie.

So at this point on this day and the base of this mountain- these Apostles have a twisted view of Jesus and His Word. They lack full confidence in what Jesus has said and in the Power of the Lord to deal with this level of demon possession.

And their twisted weak faithlessness exasperates the Lord and He exclaims:

**"How long shall I be with you?"**

In other words- Jesus is saying,

*"How much more do you have to see? What is there left for Me to show you? How many more words do I have to speak to you? O you of little faith,"*

And Jesus said things like this so many times to them,

**"How long do I have to put up with you?"**

And I keep wondering how many times the Lord has had that same opinion of me. How long does He have to put up with me? How long does Jesus have to prove Himself and bear with my foolishness and my failure to trust in what he has said?

And in His exasperation- Jesus says in verse 41:

**... Bring your son here...**

Even though Jesus is exasperated with these nine faithless Apostles- He still manifests compassion and mercy on this demon possessed boy and He steps in to do on His own what His Apostles could

have done all along- if only they had trusted in what Jesus had said and **Luke 9:42** says:

**While he was still approaching, the demon slammed him *to the ground* and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father.**

Now keep in mind- it wasn't their believing alone that would cast this demon out- but it was their trust in what Jesus had told them- what God has said- what God had spoken. That is what Faith is- trusting and having confidence in what God has said- for no other reason other than God has said it.

God Almighty took on flesh and became a human being and as God- Jesus spoke and gave these men- all of them- the power to cast out ALL demons. And as they looked upon the viciousness of this particular demon as they gazed upon the torment of this boy as the demon slammed him to the ground and threw him into the fire and into the water- they were overcome with doubt and probably fear too- and they left off trusting in what God had said and they could not help this boy.

And the point that I'm going to keep emphasizing throughout this entire story is that we must believe and trust and have confidence in what God has promised. We can't believe things into existence; we can't create matter; we cannot create life or create objects ex-nihilo- as God did- that kind of Power is reserved solely for God- but what we can do and what we must do is to place our hope and our confidence and our trust in what God has said.

God is trustworthy; God is reliable; God is certain; God is sure; God is more real and more solid and more steadfast and more dependable than any human being including ourselves; He is stronger than any army and God is more able than any Government.

People will fail you- good people; saved people; honorable people will fail you and you will fail other people- but Jesus never fails. What He says- He does and what He promises- He carries out. We can trust God. Doubt me; doubt what I say- but trust God and place your confidence in what God says.

These nine Apostles didn't trust in what Jesus told them- so Jesus Himself took over and said

*"Bring your son here."*

This man was going to get what he wanted. And the demon was going to get what he did not want. The demon was now brought Face to face with God the Son and His absolute Sovereignty. This demon might have been fierce and terrible to this boy- but he was now Face to face with the God Who had originally kicked him out of heaven along with Lucifer. And the demon in response takes action. Look at **Luke 9:42**:

**While he [the boy] was still approaching, the demon slammed him *to the ground* and threw him into a convulsion.**

So the father and the boy are coming to Jesus. They are closing the distance from which the father had fallen on his knees and pled with Jesus crying in a loud voice. And so he now gets up and with the boy they close the distance to Jesus and as they approach Jesus- the demon dashed the boy to the ground.

Now we would say "smashed" him to the ground. The Greek word here is *sunsparasso* and it is a compound word that literally refers to *a strong and violent assault*. It is an intense word- slammed him down and threw him into a convulsion- no doubt traumatizing his head or his brain.

Now John Mark provides some amazing details at this point- so I would that you would turn with me and look at **Mark 9:20- 27**:

**20 They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he *began* rolling around and foaming *at the mouth*.**

**21 And He asked his father, "*How long has this been happening to him?*" And he said, "From childhood.**

**22 "It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!"**

**23 And Jesus said to him, " '*If You can?*' All things are possible to him who believes."**

**24 Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."**

**25** When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, **"You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again."**

**26** After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and *the boy* became so much like a corpse that most *of them* said, "He is dead!"

**27** But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up.

Now no doubt the Apostles were saying about right now- *"We told You it was hard. This vindicates our lack of faith."*

The poor boy was already scarred emotionally and scarred physically from having been slammed all over the place through his young life and here he is again pounded by the force of that demon in an effort to kill him.

And this desperate father cries out to Jesus,

**... if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!...**

And Jesus says,

*"What do you mean 'if we can do anything?' All things are possible to him who believes."*

And this poor frightened father just blurts out:

**"I do believe; help my unbelief."**

Oh what an honest statement! *"I believe- I really do believe. But maybe I just don't believe enough. Dear Jesus- give me whatever kind of faith I need so I do believe!"*

So Jesus is now going to use a man here- who is just a man out of the crowd; a man who didn't have Apostolic Power; a man who hadn't been given any Apostolic privilege; a man who hadn't been given any authority over demons that the Apostles had been given- but Jesus is going to show them that this man's trust in what God has said would activate the Power of God over that demon and deliver his son.

This is a perfect illustration of what true genuine Faith in the Word of God can do; what trust in the Promise of God can do. Jesus tells this man in **Mark 9:23**:

**All things are possible to him who believes**

.. but not just naked belief; not just generic belief- but belief; Trust; confidence in what God has said and in what God has promised.

And it is at this point that the man screams out:

**"I do believe; help my unbelief."**

*"Whatever I lack in my faith and in my trust and in my confidence in what You have said- please help me!"*

Now what we must understand, dear friends, is that Jesus didn't always require faith for healings. He didn't require faith for the casting out of demons. In fact, very rarely in the entire earthly ministry of Jesus did He call out to a person that they had to believe first. The Bible simply does not teach that- even though it is very popular to teach that today.

But here in this context- the main point of everything is to teach the Apostles that the Power that Jesus promised them is available to them if they will believe and trust in what he said.

God is not going to grant that Power to these 12 men if they don't hope and trust in what he said because that would reinforce their human initiative and give them confidence in their own ways. It would mean that they could come up short of really having a true view of the Lord and a true view of His Power and a total trust in Him.

So Jesus will not honor their lazy belief and their lackadaisical attitude about what He said and their twisted theology and He will not honor their lack of faith. So Jesus takes an ordinary man out of the crowd- who has just *some* faith- not a perfect faith- and certainly has not walked with Jesus and been taught by Jesus as the Apostles- and not somebody who has been given any direct Promises like the Apostles- and Jesus uses this man as an illustration of what just a *little* faith in the Lord will do. Now look again at **Luke 9:42**:

**While he was still approaching, the demon slammed him *to the ground* and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father.**

Luke writes this as though it was just so matter of fact. There's no fanfare- no music in the background- it's just an absolute matter of fact- very simple language describing what Jesus did.

**Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father**

But I want to fill in some of the gaps because this is just such a marvelous picture to paint in your minds at what is really going on here.

Back in **Mark 9:25** it says,

**When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "*You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again.*"**

So John Mark tells us exactly what Jesus said. Here in Luke's account it just says Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit. But here in **Mark 9-** it says Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit saying,

***You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again.***

And after Jesus said that- the demon threw the boy into a terrible convulsion and then came out. So before Jesus said anything in the story of Luke- the demon slams the child to the ground and the boy starts convulsing and foaming at the mouth and Jesus rebukes the demon. So the demon hits the boy with one final blow and throws him into terrible convulsions before he came out.

And then John Mark writes in **Mark 9:26&27:**

**26 After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and *the boy* became so much like a corpse that most *of them* said, "He is dead!"**

**27 But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up.**



Dr. Luke simply says that once the boy got up having been healed, Jesus gave him back to his father. So we can see that there's a lot of love here. There's compassion here. There's mercy here. There's kindness here all in the Heart of the Lord for those who suffer.

We can only imagine what joy there was in the heart of that father, what unbelievable gratitude there was to have his only son delivered who had been literally beleaguered by that demon for years and years for perhaps most of his life.

But that wasn't really the main lesson. Compassion is great; Love is great and it's all right here in the Person of Jesus Christ. But the main point is to show the faithless twisted disciples that the Divine Power was available to them because the Lord had promised them it was- if they would only believe.

Now there are several other side issues that we could spend a lot of time on. I don't have time to get into these very deeply- but I will mention them and revisit them at a later date.

First- there is the issue of fasting and prayer as it pertains to helping us build our trust and our confidence in what God has said- which is what **Mark 9:28 & 29** teaches us. So if your trust and confidence in God's Word is not strong and vibrant- you should be praying and fasting about that. And then there is the issue of different types of demonic attacks such as what **Daniel 10** teaches us when the angel was hindered for three weeks in coming with God's Answer to Daniel because of demonic activity- even though the angel does tell Daniel that God heard his prayer from the very beginning.

And then there is the issue that Levi raises in **Matthew 17:20** when he quotes Jesus as saying:

**... if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.**

Now we all know that passage, don't we? And we quote it all the time and yet I would dare say that most people who quote it really don't understand what it means. So let me just simply tell you what it means. Moving mountains was not a *literal* promise. Nobody's ever literally moved a real mountain except God Himself.

The term, “moving mountains” is a metaphor for really difficult things. So we use that term *metaphorically* to refer to extreme difficulties. Three of the Apostles had just been up in a mountain and they had all just seen a demon-possessed boy in a very extreme condition with a more formidable demon than perhaps they had ever seen before in their application of the Authority that the Lord had delegated to them.

So Jesus brings all of that together and uses the metaphor of how very hard and difficult things can be moved and won by and through just a small amount of faith- like a grain of a mustard seed. Now this concept diffuses the very popular notion that things don't happen – especially physical healing unless there is powerful and strong Faith- because Jesus says that only a small amount of faith is required to handle very hard and impossible things.

So this portion of God's Word isn't about teaching us how to cast out demons. And it isn't about teaching us how to heal sick bodies. This is not even about teaching us how to move mountains. This part of Luke's Story of Salvation is all about believing and trusting that God will do what He said He will do.

But God will not do that in a twisted and perverse heart because He will not honor a wicked heart. So no matter how impossible it may seem to be- if God said He will do it- then He'll do it- and we must trust that and have confidence in that and believe that.

For example- God promises no matter how wretched you are; no matter how wicked you are; no matter how sinful you are; no matter how ungodly your life has been; no matter how long you have wallowed in sin- if you come and confess your sins and trust in the finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ- God says that all of your sins will be cast into the depths of the sea and He will save you to the uttermost.

So that is a Promise from God. So the issue is not will God do that- because He said He would. The issue is- will we trust in what God has said and believe that? And then you go to God in faith and you believe that.

God has promised that when you need help in time of need- you can go to the Throne of Grace and God will provide everything you need so you can remain faithful and fruitful

God will always honor the prayer of faith that cries out at the Throne of Mercy to have your spiritual needs met. If you need hope in

the midst of the darkness; if you need joy in the midst of sorrow; if you need love in the midst of bitterness and hatred; if you need comfort in the time of pain and suffering; if you need strength in the hour of weakness; if you need wisdom in the midst of foolishness; if you need help in the midst of despair; if you need victory in the midst of defeat- God will provide what you have need of- because all that's been promised.

So if you need somebody to take all your cares and all your burdens and bear them- Jesus says He will do that. If you want forgiveness for your sins and cleansing for your soul- if you want spiritual opportunity for the proclamation of the Gospel; if you want a place to serve and minister- you can place your hope and confidence and trust in what God has said and God will move for you. Now look finally at **Luke 9:43**:

**And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.**

All of them were. I mean, there's no other explanation for what happened here. Everyone knew it was God. You know, the English word “**amazed**” comes from the Greek word, *ekplessomi* and this is really an interesting word. *Ek* is a preposition that means: *out of*. So this word literally means: *to be out of your mind; to be out of your senses*.

So this is a wonderful way to express something that is absolutely unexplainable. It is literally incomprehensible. These people were searching their brains for an explanation- but there was nothing inside their minds that could give them a rational explanation for what they had just seen.

This was completely outside their ability to understand- way beyond their capability to comprehend. And so they knew it was the Greatness of God.

Now by the way- that word "greatness" is also translated as “majesty” in **2Peter 1** where Peter is recalling the Transfiguration and he writes:

**2Peter 1:17&18**

**17** For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased" —

**18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.**

Peter says, "We were eyewitnesses of God's Majestic Glory- we saw God's Majesty and God's Greatness. So Peter says that he saw God's Greatness on the Mount of Transfiguration and now all these people saw the same Majesty- the same Greatness of God in His Power over that demon.

And that is the main message in this Passage. Dr. Luke wants Theophilus and us to know that:

- ✓ Jesus is the Majesty of God
- ✓ Jesus is the Greatness of God
- ✓ Jesus is the Glory of God

And we can trust what God has said and we can place all of our hope and all of our confidence in what God has said- because God cannot lie.

So whatever God has said- you can believe it and you can pray believing that He will do what He said He will do and He'll do it because His own Nature and His Own Integrity is at stake.

Jesus is still in the business of delivering tortured souls today, souls tortured by demons. He can do it, He does it constantly, even now. And He is faithful to all those who call upon Him according to His revealed Promises to deliver to them everything He has promised. So I beg you today- don't ever be guilty of being a part of a perverted and faithless generation- but read and study what God has said and put your hope in Him.

Let's pray