



**Sermon Discussion Guide**  
**02.16.25 Message | Chuck Sackett | Mark 9:14-29**

**Key Scripture (ESV):**

*“And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”*

- Mark 9:14-29

---

**Message Highlights:**

1. Every mountain has a valley—our faith is tested most in the valleys of life.
2. The disciples tried to act in their own strength, forgetting their dependence on Jesus.
3. Prayer reveals the level of trust we place in God.
4. Faith is not about eliminating doubts but bringing our doubts to Jesus.
5. Jesus' power is accessed through trust and prayer, not self-sufficiency.



## CONVERSATION STARTER

What is something you tried to do on your own but later realized you needed help with? How did that experience shape your understanding of trust?

## DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

1. Chuck said during the sermon that “every mountain has a valley.” What are some spiritual valleys you’ve experienced and how did they impact your faith?
2. The disciples failed to heal the boy because they relied on their own strength. When have you struggled with self-reliance instead of seeking God’s power?
3. Chuck mentioned that prayer is the most visible way we reveal trust in God. How do your prayer habits reflect your trust in Him?
4. The father in the story cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” How can we be honest about our doubts while still growing in faith?
5. Jesus emphasized that some battles can only be won through prayer. What situations in your life need to be surrendered in prayer rather than tackled by your own effort?

## THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

1. Why do you think Jesus responded so strongly to the disciples' failure? (Mark 9:19)
2. How does the father's statement, “I believe; help my unbelief,” reflect the reality of faith? (Mark 9:24)
3. Why do you think Jesus waited until after the disciples failed to teach them about prayer? (Mark 9:28-29)
4. What does this passage teach us about the connection between faith and action? (Mark 9:23)
5. How does this story challenge our view of spiritual authority and dependence on God? (Mark 9:29)



**THINK LIFE CHANGE** (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

1. What areas of your life do you still try to control instead of fully trusting God? Why?
2. How can you begin to pray in a way that truly expresses your faith in God rather than just asking for help in emergencies?
3. Where do you struggle with unbelief and how can you bring that to Jesus like the father in the story?
4. What habits could you develop to ensure prayer is central to your faith journey?

**THINK ENGAGE** (Does your group know how to apply the challenge?)

1. How can you encourage someone else in their faith journey by helping them bring their doubts to Jesus?
2. How can you model the kind of faith that is willing to admit doubt while still pursuing Jesus? What doubts and fears come from this type of faith? Discuss as a group how you address these challenges.
3. What can your group do together to cultivate a stronger culture of prayer and faith?

**THINK KINGDOM** (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

1. How does this passage reshape our understanding of what true spiritual power looks like verses what we experience in how the world uses power?
2. What does it mean to depend on God's power instead of our own within the church and our communities?
3. What role does "faith" play in expanding the Kingdom of God beyond our personal lives?
4. What does it look like to faith the Lord in our prayer lives? How does this differ from repetitious prayers?