

ELIJAH



I Believe - Help My Unbelief

THE LIFE OF A
Prophet



Mark 9:14-29 ESV

- A desperate father brings his demon-possessed son to Jesus after the disciples fail to heal him.
- The father pleads with Jesus, saying, “I believe; help my unbelief,” showing both faith & doubt.
- Jesus rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith & tells them the healing requires prayer.
- With compassion, Jesus commands the demon to leave, & the boy is healed & restored.

The Point

True faith is not about having it all together—it's trusting Jesus with both our belief and our unbelief.

Growing in your **FAITH**



Growing in Your Faith

- When life feels broken, Jesus meets us there.
- The father of the boy brings him to Jesus, not with perfect faith, but with desperate hope.
- Life's hardest moments often expose our weakest faith & that's where Jesus enters in.
- Jesus doesn't wait for perfect belief; He acts in compassion when we cry out sincerely.

Growing in Your Faith

- The valley moments of suffering are where God reveals His power & grace most personally.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18 ESV)

- Jesus doesn't scold the father - He responds with healing power & love.

HONEST FAITH

SPIRITUAL IDENTITY

MESSY

QUESTIONS

OPEN

AUTHENTIC

MIXED MESSAGES



Honest Faith

- “I believe - help my unbelief” is a faithful prayer.
- The father's cry reveals that God honors honesty over religious performance.
- It's not the size of our faith that matters - it's the object of our faith.

(Matthew 17:20)

Honest Faith

20 He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matthew 17:20 ESV)

Honest Faith

- Doubt doesn't disqualify us - God meets us even in our questions & fears.

18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. (Psalm 34:18 ESV)

- God doesn't demand perfection - He invites us to trust Him with our brokenness.

(Hebrews 4:15–16)

Honest Faith

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:15–16 ESV)

- Jesus healed the boy not because of perfect faith, but because of His perfect mercy.

**POWER OF
PRAYER**

Power of Prayer

- True power is found not in effort - but in dependence on God
- Jesus told the disciples that some battles can only be won through prayer.
- Prayer is not our last resort - it is our first and most powerful response.

17 pray without ceasing, (1 Thessalonians 5:17 ESV)

Power of Prayer

- When we feel powerless, prayer connects us to the One who is all-powerful.

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4:6–7 ESV)

Power of Prayer

- The disciples failed when they relied on themselves, not on God.
- Even a mustard seed of faith - expressed through prayer - can move mountains.

Practical Application

- Bring your fears & doubts honestly to Jesus - He welcomes them.
- Trust Jesus even when life doesn't make sense.
- Pray first - don't wait until it's your last option.
- Admit to God when you're struggling to believe.
- Remember that Jesus understands your pain & stands with you in it.

Practical Application

- Be compassionate toward others who are wrestling with faith.
- Celebrate the small faith you do have - it's enough in the hands of Jesus.
- Remind yourself daily of God's faithfulness through Scripture & prayer.
- Pray for healing, restoration & spiritual breakthrough.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Jesus honored the father's broken faith?
- What valleys in your life have strengthened your faith the most?
- How can prayer become more of a first response in your life?
- How do you think God uses our weaknesses to show His strength?
- What's one area in your life right now where you need Jesus' help?

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