

The Power of Prayer

Mark 9:14-29

- I. Scene One – Spiritual Power Missing – The disciples could not cast the demon out of a boy at this time in God’s plan (Mark 9:14-19).
 - A. Argument: The scribes discredit Jesus for the disciples’ failure to deliver the boy (14-15).
 - B. Desperation: The father explains to Jesus that the disciples could not help his demon-possessed boy (16-18).
 - C. Rebuke: Jesus expresses his dismay at the crowds’ lack of faith (19; “perverse generation” – Matthew 17:17).
 - **Faith Note**: Sometimes God’s power is sovereignly inactive because of His purpose in a particular situation. (Antagonistic attitude here by scribes?)
- II. Scene Two: Spiritual power is Present – The father has new, growing faith and Jesus delivers the boy from demon possession (Mark 9:20-27).
 - A. Brought to Jesus: The convulsing boy with the evil spirit is brought to Jesus (20-22a).
 - B. Plea for help: The father begs Jesus to help (22b-24).
 - **Faith Note**: We must ask (22; “in his name” John 16:24)!
 - **Faith Note**: Anything is possible when we trust God (23).
 - **Faith Note**: God delights in new, growing faith (24a).
 - **Faith Note**: We need God’s help to trust God more (24b).
 - C. Deliverance: Jesus casts out the demon (25-27).
- III. Scene Three: Spiritual power depends on prayer – Jesus instructs the disciples about their failure to pray in faith (Mark 9:28-29).
 - A. Disciples want to know why they failed (28).
 - B. Jesus wants them to know why they failed (29).
 - **Faith Note**: Power requires Prayer: We often don’t have God’s power at work in our lives because we fail to pray.
 - **Faith Note**: Power requires Faith: It’s not how much faith, but in whom we are putting our faith (Matthew 17:20-21).