

Making Believers

"If you can?" Jesus said. "Everything is possible for him who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief."

I believe that this is a powerful statement and prayer, "I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief." Jesus, in this story from Mark chapter nine, has just come off the Mount of Transfiguration where he revealed his glory to Peter, James and John. He comes down from that mountain and is immediately confronted by his disciples who are in a panic because a young boy is being tormented by a demon. They can do nothing and they are arguing among themselves as to what to do. Jesus rebukes them because of their unbelief and then has the father bring the boy to him. Then Jesus confronts the dad. The dad has just said, "If you can do anything, take pity (have mercy) on us and help us. This is when Jesus says, "If I can?"

Do you believe that Jesus can do anything? I know that sounds kind of silly but just stop and answer the question honestly. Ok, next question: Do you believe that you can do anything? Most likely you said yes to Jesus and no about yourself. Me too. But... Jesus said, "Everything is possible for him who believes." Did you read those words??? Is Jesus making a joke? Is he just teasing? Is he kind of like a TV evangelist who says that if you buy my book you will walk in power and anointing? I do believe we need to buy into something here. I think we need to change our minds about who we are in Christ! Jesus in you is the hope of glory (read Colossians 1:27). And greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world! Then what's your problem? It's your unbelief. Jesus was NOT kidding. He meant it. EVERYTHING is POSSIBLE for him or her who BELIEVES. A believer is a receiver who delivers. But you and I are like the boy's father. We are saying things like, "If you can, Jesus..." And Jesus is saying things like, "If I can? Did I just hear you say that? If I can? Oh, unbelieving generation, how long must I put up with you?!"

The best thing we can do at this point is to do what the father did, "I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief." First, the dad took ownership, "My unbelief." Not pastor Gene's. My unbelief. Be honest. You are not expecting God to show up and use you to deliver some poor soul who is tormented by the devil. Face it. You leave your home in the morning and just expect the same old same old and that's just what you get. What you expect you get. If you had faith that could move mountains, you would move mountains. Right now you are having trouble moving yourself none the less mountains. Gosh, pastor, you're being a little tough. Nah, I'm just thinking like Jesus. He is saying to you, "Where is your faith?" "Your faith." We all must become accountable with what we do with Jesus. Either he is a savior, deliverer and Lord of all or he is not. If he lives within you than that makes you a very powerful entity. One that the enemy, who lives in darkness, fears. He means to keep you in the dark too. If you begin to deal with your unbelief like you should, he just might lose the battle and you can walk out of your cocoon and deliver a few souls like Jesus did. Jesus wants to raise up deliverers in this generation and the devil wants to keep us in unbelief. So, who do you want to win? The devil or you? If you want to be what Paul called "More

than conquerors” then you have to deal with your unbelief. Jesus is about making believers who receive his power and deliver the lost.

The father of the boy who was bound by the devil took ownership of his unbelief but he also asked very boldly, “Help me overcome my unbelief.” Help me overcome! That’s the prayer you need to be praying right now. Help me overcome ME. Jesus, I’m the problem here. I don’t believe and I am getting in your way. When you want people set free I say, “Send Pastor Gene!” Oops. That’s not a good thing is it Jesus? I need to be stepping up every day and asking you to help me overcome the spirit of intimidation and fear. I need to be stepping it up and believing that You can use little old me. I need to be the one who stands in this generation and declares freedom to the captives. I am not a bunch of lip service, but an actual deliver of the lost and bound. I need to overcome. Help me overcome, Lord.

Here it is again, “All things are possible for him who believes.” The possibilities are there for you. The possibilities are endless. Your potential is not the problem. The opportunities for ministry are there. Let’s take ownership of the issue. It’s our faith. Pray this: I need to overcome a big perspective problem. Jesus said that all things are possible. That means that if I keep going around and moaning about all the mess that’s going on in my life, in my family, at work, at school or even at New Life Fellowship, then I’m not using my potential with faith that will overcome the adversary. It’s not Pastor Gene’s problem (although he could use more faith himself) it’s my problem and I’m fed up. I’m going to pray that the Lord would help me overcome...today. Right now. I’m not going to settle for a mediocre faith. I must have a faith that delivers.

Even so, come Lord Jesus. Make believers out of us today. Amen!