

Sermon Reflection

Keeping It Real: Real Faith for Real Life

When Doubt Gets in the Way of Your Faith – July 12, 2026

Scripture

Mark 9:14–29 (NKJV)

Main Scripture

Mark 9:24 (NKJV)

"Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!'"

Key Thought

God is not waiting for perfect faith. He invites us to bring Him our honest faith. Even when doubt is present, God's power is still greater.

Overview

In Mark 9, a desperate father brings his son to Jesus after the disciples were unable to help. Caught between faith and doubt, he cries out, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

His words remind us that faith and doubt can exist in the same heart. This passage is not merely about a father's struggle with faith. It is about how God responds to people whose faith is still struggling.

Point 1

Bring Your Honest Faith to Jesus

Scripture

Mark 9:24 (NKJV)

"Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

Reflection

The father did not pretend to have stronger faith than he actually had. He brought his faith and his doubts to Jesus. His honesty became the doorway to his miracle.

God does not ask us to hide our struggles. He invites us to bring them to Him. Faith grows when we are honest about where we are.

Reflection Questions

Am I honest with God about my struggles and doubts?

What am I trying to hide from God that I need to surrender to Him?

This Week's Application

Bring your concerns to God honestly.

Stop pretending everything is fine when it isn't.

Trust God with your faith and your doubts.

Point 2

Trust God's Power More Than Your Feelings

Scripture

Mark 9:23 (NKJV)

"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Reflection

The father's feelings were shaped by disappointment, frustration, and past experiences. Yet Jesus redirected his attention from the problem to God's power.

Our feelings are real, but they are not always reliable. Faith grows when we focus on God's ability rather than our emotions.

Reflection Questions

Am I focusing more on my feelings than on God's power?

What situation do I need to view through the lens of God's ability?

This Week's Application

Remind yourself of God's faithfulness.

Focus on what God can do rather than what you cannot do.

Choose faith over fear and discouragement.

Point 3

Keep Trusting God in Spite of Your Doubts

Scripture

Mark 9:27 (NKJV)

"But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose."

Reflection

The story does not end with the father's doubt. It ends with the child's deliverance. The father's faith was not perfect, but he continued to trust Jesus. And Jesus responded.

This passage reminds us that doubt does not have to have the final word. God's power is not dependent upon perfect faith. While the father struggled with uncertainty, he still brought his need to Jesus, and Jesus brought healing to his son.

Sometimes we focus so much on our doubts that we forget to look at God's faithfulness. The miracle was not produced by perfect faith. It was produced by a perfect Savior.

Reflection Questions

Am I allowing my doubts to overshadow God's faithfulness?

What evidence of God's faithfulness do I need to remember today?

Can I continue trusting God even when I don't have all the answers?

This Week's Application

Keep bringing your needs to Jesus.

Focus on God's faithfulness more than your uncertainty.

Trust that God is still able to work, even when your faith feels weak.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for meeting us even when our faith is struggling. Help us to bring You our honest faith, trust Your power more than our feelings, and continue trusting You when doubts arise.

Remind us that Your faithfulness is greater than our uncertainty and that Your power is not limited by our weaknesses. Strengthen our faith, deepen our trust, and help us keep our eyes on You.

Like the father in this passage, may we always be willing to say, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief."

In Jesus' name, Amen.