

Help My Unbelief

Pastor Matt Garvin

**"Under all that we think lives all we believe,
like the ultimate veil of our spirits."**

~ Antonio Machado (Spanish poet and philosopher)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is---his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2 NIV

"As God reveals Himself to us we often experience a crisis of belief that calls for major adjustments in our lives so that we can relate to Him and His mission. As we make the adjustments and obey Him, He moves us into the middle of His activity, in order to experience Him and to enjoy the astounding experience of being on mission with God." ~ Henry T. Blackaby and Avery T. Willis Jr., On Mission With God

Mark 9:14-29 NIV

*When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were **overwhelmed with wonder** and ran to greet him. "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked. A man in the crowd answered, "**Teacher, I brought you my son**, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." "You **unbelieving** generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." "If you can?" said Jesus. **"Everything is possible for one who believes."** Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, **"I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"** When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."*

The Kingdom in Action

October 20, 2013

"This is a generation that has rejected the church, but it hasn't rejected Jesus. The world and this generation are desiring a dialogue with a church that won't listen. This generation is falling through the cracks of Christendom." ~ Steve Rabey, In Search of Authentic Faith

What is faith?

- Faith is not presumption
- Faith is not a "right" set of ideas
- Faith is not a feeling
- Faith is not about where your money comes from
- Faith is not a religious currency with which to buy favours from God

Faith is seeing the world from God's perspective of reality and acting on it.

"Faith creates nothing; it simply reckons upon that which is already there. God and the spiritual world are real. We can reckon upon them with as much assurance as we reckon upon the familiar world around us. Our trouble is we have established bad thought patterns. We habitually think of the visible world as real and doubt the reality of any other. The root of the Christian life lies in belief in the invisible. The object of the Christian's faith is unseen reality." ~ A.W. Tozer

"Seek not to understand but believe that you might understand."

~ St. Augustine

"Faith is not an instinct. It certainly is not a feeling - feelings don't help much when you're in the lions' den or hanging on a wooden Cross. Faith is not inferred from the happy way things work. It is an act of will, a choice, based on the unbreakable Word of a God who cannot lie, and who showed us what love and obedience and sacrifice mean, in the person of Jesus Christ." ~ Elizabeth Elliot

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
James 4:7 NIV

**"I believe the most adequate description of prayer is
simply 'talking to God about what we are doing together.'"**

~ Dallas Willard, The Divine Conspiracy (p.243)

"A day without morning and evening prayers and personal intercessions is actually a day without meaning or importance." ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Spend some time in listening prayer and ask Jesus:

- Where am I not seeing the world from your perspective?
- What is your perspective?