

A silhouette of a person rappelling down a rock face on the left side of the image. The person is wearing a harness and is suspended by a rope. The background is a vibrant sunset with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a warm orange and red glow. In the distance, there are silhouettes of mountains and hills. The entire scene is framed by a light blue border.

**FAITHING IT THROUGH**  
**MARK 9:14-29**

## Faithing It Through

- As Christians we sometime forget, we are in a spiritual battle that is reflected in our physical lives
- **Ephesians 6:12 NIV**, “12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

## Faithing It Through

- **Daniel 10:12-13 NIV**, “12 Then he (*messenger from God*) continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. 13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.”
  - What do you think this that was like for Daniel?
  - Daniel had to hang on like Brock in the video clip to see the answer to his prayer, the promise of God in the physical, the word of God real in his life

## Faithing It Through

- **2nd Corinthians 1:20 NLT**, 20 For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.
  - All the promises of God are yours when you are in Christ Jesus
  - You will see them in your physical if you will wait for them and not lose heart or faith and don't stop at the 30–50-yard line instead of the end zone
- This is illustrated for us this morning when the remaining disciples let go of faith in a hard situation

## Scriptures - **Mark 9:14-19 NIV**

- 14 When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. 15 As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. 16 “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked. 17 A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. 18 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.”

## Scriptures - **Mark 9:14-19 NIV**

- 19 “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.” 20 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.
- 21 Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. 22 “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.” 23 ““If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” 24 Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

## Scriptures - **Mark 9:14-19 NIV**

- 25 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.” 26 The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.
- 28 After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” 29 He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

## Faithing It Through

- Jesus and three disciples had been in a glorious adventure in the heavenlies where the true nature of Jesus was let loose
- Even Jesus needed a time of refreshing and encouragement, and He ran to His Heavenly Father
- This gives us just a brief glimpse of what Jesus set aside to pitch His tent in our world
- Just as He came down from heaven, Jesus came down from the heavenly mountain into our sinful world
- Immediately He is confronted with the reality of sin and the lack of faith

## The sins we let live in our lives are stubborn to overcome

- Anyone here have experience with a strong-willed child?
  - You tell them it's time for a nap and go to their room, so what do they do?
  - Do you instantly throw up your hand and declare defeat?
  - You work them through their stubbornness until they are in bed
- Think of the stubborn sin in your life like strong-willed child
- It does not respond by just throwing Bible verses at it any more than a child would after telling them to do something they don't want to do

## The sins we let live in our lives are stubborn to overcome

- What we have in our verses this morning a description of a spiritual battle
- We saw this in [Mark 6:6-8 NIV](#), 6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. 7 He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God’s name don’t torture me!” 8 For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!”
  - The demons did not tell Jesus no, they just wanted to negotiate the terms
- I have a sense that is what is going on here

## The sins we let live in our lives are stubborn to overcome

- The disciples attempted to expel the demon by Jesus' authority as they have done in the past with great success
  - **Luke 10:17 NIV**, 17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."
  - Now they encounter one challenging their faith and grit in what Jesus has given them

## The sins we let live in our lives are stubborn to overcome

- Think of the sin in your life like this demon
  - Your old nature craves the fruit of those sins and delights in them for a season
  - Your new nature craves for you to have freedom and gives you the spiritual authority to overcome it and a battle takes place
  - **Romans 12:1 NIV**, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.
- Even when conquered the sin attempts to sneak back into your life for another battle because it is stubborn

## The disciples lost their grip on the authority given them by Jesus

- Jesus had previously sent the disciples out twice with the authority to heal the sick, cast out demons, and proclaim the Kingdom of God
  - I don't find where Jesus took it all back
  - The scriptures today seem to suggest the disciples still had Jesus' authority to accomplish expelling this demon
- They tried but it did not happen the first time, maybe not even the second or third time

## The disciples lost their grip on the authority given them by Jesus

- Then Jesus' enemies began arguing with them
  - “Who gave you this authority that’s not working?”
  - “What make you think you can overcome this?”
  - “We’ve done it before!” “Prove it!”
  - “You are a terrible disciple of Jesus.”
- Purpose is to take their eyes off Jesus and place it on themselves

## The disciples lost their grip on the authority given them by Jesus

- Sin in our lives works the same way
- Because we have the Spirit of God active in our lives, James could write in **James 4:7 NIV**, “7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will (*eventually*) flee from you.”
  - Submit and keep submitting, resist and keep resisting
- **Hebrews 4:12 MSG**, “Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God.”

## The disciples lost their grip on the authority given them by Jesus

- Peter lost his grip and denied Jesus 3 times
  - John Mark lost his grip and left the ministry work with Paul
  - Abraham lost his grip of God providing a son trying it on his own
- In each of these cases they refocused their eyes upon God and His authority
  - Peter was restored, John Mark returned, and Abraham simply believed God and received the promise

**The answer is recognizing our great need and pleading to God for His overcoming strength to hold onto His promises until physically seen**

- As maturing Christians, we know the promises Jesus has left us
  - The Holy Spirit will bring them to our minds or lead us to them in Scripture
  - But do you really have faith in them, trust them enough to let go?
- Do you have rock climber trust?



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**The answer is recognizing our great need and pleading to God for His overcoming strength to hold onto His promises until physically seen**

- This father had a great need
  - He had heard of Jesus' healing abilities
  - Could Jesus heal if His disciples failed
  - He had heard of His love and care for those hurting
  - He questions whether Jesus would do it for him and his child

## The answer is recognizing our great need and pleading to God for His overcoming strength to hold onto His promises until physically seen

- The father recognized his greatest need and cried out to Jesus
  - **Vs. 24**, Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"
  - This must be our prayer, "Jesus I do believe in your promises to me!"
  - "Help me overcome **MY** unbelief, to hang on until your promise becomes real in my life!"
- If this prayer is given with the same need this father had, God will bless and answer in His time and in His way

## Faithing It Through

- **Vs. 23**, “If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”
  - As God in human flesh, Jesus affirms His omnipotence to accomplish anything He determined to do
  - The only limitation is the person in need of God’s aid
  - The Lord has determined to make His activity contingent upon belief in Him
  - Not in the action you want Him to do but Him
  - Greek belief = to consider something to be true and worthy of one’s trust, to be confident about

## Faithing It Through

- Rock climbing faith – to place you clip into the anchor and let go
- This verse has been misquoted and abused by the “Word of Faith” movement
  - They claim if you have enough faith God is required to give you whatever you want
  - They leave out the part of the definition, “anything He determines to do”

## Faithing It Through

- I often wonder how many blessings we have left on the side of the road of faith because we did not wait on them
  - We exited the faith lane too early
- Hang onto faith in Jesus Christ, Set you eyes upon our Lord Jesus Christ
- And cry out to your Heavenly Father, “Help me overcome my unbelief!”
- And look ahead for brighter days

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