

This One Thing Changes Everything.

SERMON NOTES:

who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

— **Hebrews 11:33-34**

The importance of faith

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

— **Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

— **Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)**

The object of faith

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered.

— **Mark 11:22 (NIV)**

Your faith is not in your faith

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The size of faith

"What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.

— **Mark 9:16 (NIV)**

A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.

— **Mark 9:17 (NIV)**

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."

— **Mark 9:18 (NIV)**

And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me."

— **Mark 9:19 (NIV)**

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.

— **Mark 9:20 (NIV)**

Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered.

— **Mark 9:21 (NIV)**

"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."

— **Mark 9:22 (NIV)**

"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

— **Mark 9:23 (NIV)**

Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

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– **Mark 9:24 (NIV)**

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."

– **Mark 9:25 (NIV)**

The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead."

– **Mark 9:26 (NIV)**

But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

– **Mark 9:27 (NIV)**

The flare up isn't a sign that your faith failed. It's a sign that your faith is growing.

DISCUSSION GUIDE:

1. What is a miracle that you are believing God for?
– Do you believe that He can do that?
2. Are you faithless or faith-filled?
3. What "flare-ups" are you seeing come up in your situation?
4. Will you let the "flare-up" scare you from believing God for the miracle?
5. Is your faith failing or growing?
6. Are you going to submit to the unbelief or press through and submit it to the Lord?