

# God Is in Control

## Mark 9:17-27

### Mark 9:17-27 (NASB)

<sup>17</sup> “And one of the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute;

<sup>18</sup> and whenever it seizes him, it slams him *to the ground* and he foams *at the mouth*, and grinds his teeth and stiffens out. I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not *do it*.”

<sup>19</sup> And He answered them and said, “O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!”

<sup>20</sup> They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he *began* rolling around and foaming *at the mouth*.

<sup>21</sup> And He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.”

<sup>22</sup> “It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!”

<sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to him, ““If You can?” All things are possible to him who believes.”

<sup>24</sup> Immediately the boy’s father cried out and said, “I do believe; help my unbelief.”

<sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again.”

<sup>26</sup> After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and *the boy* became so much like a corpse that most *of them* said, “He is dead!”

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up.”

In today’s Scripture passage, a father brings his demon-possessed son to the Lord. Nothing is more important to this father than to see his boy healed, and he believes that Jesus has the power to do it.

When he finally reaches Jesus, however, the father experiences a slight hesitation in his faith. We can detect it in the way he words his request: “***If You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!***” ([Mark 9:22](#), *emphasis added*). Jesus, sensing the man’s subtle doubts, replies, ““If You can?” All things are possible to him who believes” ([Mark 9:23](#)).

At once the father realizes the disparity between his words and his actions, and he cries out, “**I do believe; help my unbelief**” ([Mark 9:24](#)). What an odd statement! What are we to think—does this man have faith or not?

Yet when we look closer, we realize that this father is crying out in complete, unashamed honesty to the Lord. He knows that there is no point in attempting to “**puff up**” his faith before Jesus. Instead, he humbly admits that while he does in fact believe in Jesus’ saving power, some things—such as parental concern for his son—can still interfere with his faith in God.

Scripture says that the Lord is sovereign over all things ([Psalm 103:19](#)).

**Psalm 103:19 (NASB)**

**<sup>19</sup> “The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.”**

Do you believe He has the power to change your life? Do you allow outside influences to affect your trust in Jesus Christ? If so, be honest with God about your fluctuating faith, but always remember that His power does not ebb and flow along with our confidence in Him. Regardless of how we feel, God is always in control.