

UNSHAKABLE FAITH

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Pastor Steve

Unshakable Faith: Standing Strong When Facing Doubt

Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. Matthew 7:24-25

¹⁴ When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and some teachers of religious law were arguing with them. ¹⁵ When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, and they ran to greet him. ¹⁶ "What is all this arguing about?" Jesus asked. ¹⁷ One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, "Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk. ¹⁸ And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it." ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, "You faithless people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." ²⁰ So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth. ²¹ "How long has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father. He replied, "Since he was a little boy. ²² The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can." ²³ "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." ²⁴ The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!" ²⁵ When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. "Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak," he said. "I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!" ²⁶ Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, "He's dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up. ²⁸ Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" ²⁹ Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer."

Mark 9:14-29

Key Truths About Doubt:

- I) It's easy to have faith on the _____, but it's hard not to doubt in the _____ . Mark 9:2-29
- II) Doubt is a sign there is a broken connection _____ . Mark 9:19
- III) My doubts limits God's _____ in my life. Mark 9:23
- IV) Jesus only requires a _____ amount of faith. Mark 9:24
- V) The essential tool to overcoming doubt is _____. Mark 9:29

Overcoming the 5 Different Kinds of Doubt:

- I) When difficult circumstances cause doubt, my prayers release God's _____ into my life.
 - A) Mark 9:17-18
 - B) Mark 9:23
- II) When intellectual arguments cause doubt, my prayers reminds me of _____ .
 - A) Mark 9:14
 - B) Real faith develops when we experience _____ in a real way.
- III) When imperfect Christians cause doubt, my prayers enable me to look past them to _____ .
 - A) Mark 9:18
 - B) We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Hebrews 12:2
- IV) When times of spiritual dryness cause doubt, my prayers allow me to _____ .

They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. Psalm 1:3
- V) When recurring sins in my life cause doubt, my prayers reveal _____ to me.

¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway...

²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin. ¹ So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. Romans 7:19, 24-25; 8:1

The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"

Mark 9:24