

Bring the Boy to Me

Mark 9:14-29

by Don Falkos

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A man in a crowd called to Jesus, "Teacher, please do something to help my son. An evil spirit keeps taking hold of him. It won't let him speak; it throws him to the ground; it makes him foam at the mouth and grind his teeth; it won't let go of him until he's completely worn out. I pleaded with your disciples to get rid of this evil spirit, but they couldn't do it."

Jesus said, "Oh, you people. Where is your faith? How long do I have to be with you before you believe? Bring the boy to me."

The boy was brought to him. But as soon as the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the boy into a convulsion. He rolled around on the ground foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has this be happening."

"Ever since he was a child. It often throws him into fire or water to kill him. Please, if you can do anything, take pity on us, help us."

"What do mean, 'If I can'?" said Jesus, "Anything is possible if you believe."

The man instantly cried out, "I do believe! But please, help me to overcome my doubt."

Jesus stepped in and commanded the evil spirit, "Leave him, and never enter this boy again."

The evil spirit screamed, threw the boy into a violent convulsion, and left him. The boy was absolutely still, and the crowd thought, "He's dead." But Jesus took the boy by the hand and helped him to his feet.

Later Jesus disciples' asked, "Why couldn't we cast out this evil spirit?"

Jesus replied, "This sort can only be cast out by prayer."