

**HOW CAN WE KEEP FROM FAILING IN WHAT GOD CALLS US TO DO?
JESUS' GRACIOUS INSTRUCTION TO HIS FALTERING DISCIPLES
Matthew 17:14-21**

- I. **RECOGNIZE WHEN WE FAIL IN WHAT GOD HAS CALLED US TO DO, IT GIVES UNBELIEVERS OPPORTUNITY TO BLASPHEME:** Jesus, breaking up an argument between His disciples and the scribes, is petitioned by a desperate dad to heal his demon possessed son, rebukes the crowd, and heals the boy (14-18, Mk 9)
- A. Jesus arrives during an argument between His disciples and the scribes concerning their inability to cast out a demon (14-16, Mark 9:14-18)
- B. After being petitioned by a desperate dad, Jesus rebukes the crowd and the dad and casts out the demon (17-18, Mark 9)
1. Jesus reproves the crowd: They are evil, unbelieving and wearing on Him (17, Mark 9:17-19)
 2. The reproof of the dad: "if you can?" (Mark 9:20-24)
 3. The vindication of God: Jesus casts out the demon (17b-18, Mark 9:25-27)
- II. **REALIZE GENUINE FAITH IS ACCOMPANIED BY DEPENDENT PRAYER:** Jesus answers His disciples private question, why they couldn't do...because their faith was deficient, as manifest by a lack of prayer (19-21, Mark 9:28-29)
- A. Jesus reveals they couldn't do it because of the littleness of their faith (20a)
- B. Jesus further explains if they had had persistent growing faith, as illustrated by a mustard seed, they would have been able to do whatever His will was (20b)
- C. Deficient faith is characterized by a lack dependent prayer (Mark 9:29)

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word,
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know: "Thus saith the Lord."

Chorus:

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!**

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood,
Just in simple faith to plunge me
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease,
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace.

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.