

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

- I. **RECOGNIZE THAT 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. Jesus' 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'...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. Deficient faith is characterized by a lack dependent prayer (21, Mark 9:29)
- C. 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-21)