



“Faith That Fails”

Luke 9:37-45

Dec. 4, 2022

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- Peter, James, and John had a mountain top experience.
- Now its time to get back into the real world.
- You go from the glorified Christ to a demon possessed boy.
- The contrast is stark.
- This is true of us as well. You go from the sacred to the unsacred.

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- Here is another example of a parents concern for a son or daughter.

Jesus ministry often dealt with young people.

- There's the daughter of Jairus. (only child)
- There's the nobleman's son at Capernaum.
- There's the daughter of the Canaanite or the Syrophonecian woman.
- There's the widow's son at Nain. (only child)
- Strong words are used – “shouted” (βοαω), “beg” (δεομαι), “look” (επιβλεπω), only” (μονογενης).
- Here is a son who is an unbeliever. A heartbreak to his father. Children can do that.

Where are youth at today?

- **In the next 24 hours** –
 - 1,439 teens will attempt suicide.
 - 2,795 teenage girls will become pregnant
 - 15,006 teens will use drugs for the first time.
 - 3,506 teens will run away.
- **In 2018** –
 - 744,500 juvenile delinquency cases.
 - 1/3 of crimes by juveniles are committed by girls.
 - 16,400 crimes by juveniles involved weapons.
 - 100,000 drug related offenses were by juveniles.
- **Suicide is the second leading cause of death of people between the ages of 10 to 34.**
- **More teens and young adults will die from suicide than from heart disease, AIDS, Birth defects, pneumonia, influenza, cancer, and lung disease combined.**
- **In 2017 there were 194,377 babies born to women between the ages of 15 and 19.**

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"There are many Christian fathers and mothers at this day who are just as miserable about their children as the man of whom we are reading. The son who was once the desire of their eyes and in whom their lives were bound up, turns into a spendthrift or a prodigal or profligate and a companion of sinners, and the daughter who was once the flower of the family and of whom they said, 'This girl shall be our comfort in old age' becomes self-willed and worldly-minded and a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God and their hearts are very well-near broken. An iron seems to enter into their souls and the devil appears to triumph over them and rob them of their choicest jewels and they are ready to cry, 'I'll go to my grave sorrowing. What good shall my life do to me now?' Now what should a father or mother do in a case like this? They should do as the man before us did. They should go to Jesus in prayer and cry to Him about their child. They should spread before that merciful Savior the tale of their sorrows and entreat Him to help them. Great is the power of prayer and intercession. The child of many prayers shall seldom be cast away. God's time of conversion may not be ours. He may think fit to prove our faith by keeping us long waiting, but so long as a child lives and a parent prays, we have no right to finally despair about that child's soul."

- J.C. Ryle

19th century evangelist

39 and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming at the mouth; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him as it leaves.

- We don't know why this son is demon possessed.
- Here are his symptoms:

Screams (unexpectedly)

Convulsions- αναρρασσω – to mangle, to tear in one direction and then in another.

Foaming at the mouth

Demon does not want to leave

Being mauled – συντριβω – to shatter, to bruise.

- Dr. Luke is very descriptive.

Matt 17:15

15 "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water.

- This activity was not psychological or physiological – the father saw it for what it was – demon possession.

40 "I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not."

- Refers to the other 9.
- He went to them because they were followers of Jesus, who cast out demons.
- Why couldn't they cast out the demon?
 - They thought that the demon too powerful.
 - They were too afraid.
 - Belief that only Jesus can do this.
 - Lacked the right formula.
 - We need leadership.
- Jesus gets to the real reason in verse 41 . . .

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Standing on the Promises

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

- Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.
2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.
 3. Standing on the promises I now can see
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,
Standing on the promises of God.

Salvation

Rom 10:9-10

- 9 that, if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;
10 for, with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Sanctification

Phil 2:12-13

- 12 . . . work out your salvation with fear and trembling;
13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Glorification

2 Peter 3:10-13

- 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.
11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!
13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

41 And Jesus answered and said, "You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here."

- Why does Jesus say this? Because Jesus had given them the power to do it.

Luke 9:1

9 And He called the twelve together, and **gave them power** and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.

2 Cor 12:12

- 12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.
- To the 9, the problem was greater than their faith. They weren't claiming the promise and believing the Word.
 - This is the whole point of the passage.
 - The promises of God in His Word are where we place our faith.
 - God is a God of Scripture. He is not more than the Scripture and He is not less than the Scripture.
 - Our question is" What has God said?
 - We believe what God has said because He has said it.
 - If you fail to learn the promises, and claim the promises, you have a "failed faith."

4. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,

Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,

Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,

Standing on the promises of God.

5 Standing on the promises I shall not fall,

List'ning every moment to the Spirit's call.

Resting in my Savior as my All in all,

Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

- Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

1 Thess 4:14-18

- 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.
- 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.
- 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

"Every promise in the book is mine, Every scripture, every verse, every line. All are blessings of His love divine, Every promise in the book is mine."

This is not true.

Promises that are not for us . . .

Lev 26:7-8

7 But you will chase your enemies and they will fall before you by the sword; 8 five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword.

Matt 18:19

19 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.

Phil 4:13

13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

3 John 2

2 Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers

Be careful to note whether a promise may be to some one specifically, or is a specific situation, or is not a promise at all. Study the context carefully.

42 While he was still approaching, the demon slammed him to the ground and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father.

- As the demon gets closer to Jesus, the demon becomes more violent. That is always the reaction.

"slammed him to the ground" – body slam.

- Jesus cast the demon out and heals the boy.

Mark 9:26

26 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!"

- Jesus casts the demon out and heals the boy.

- The disciples should have done this.

43 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. But while everyone was marveling at all that He was doing, He said to His disciples,

- Peter, James, and John saw the greatness of God on the mountain. The people saw it down in the valley.

- Jesus now uses this occasion to drive home what he has been teaching them all along.

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- Jesus is going to be delivered over to men.
- This will mean His death.
- "Does this mean it is all over?"
- "Is there no future for us, His disciples?"

Isa 53:10

10 But the Lord was pleased

To crush Him, putting Him to grief;

Rom 8:32

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all,

Acts 2:22-23

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know —

23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

Acts 4:27-28

27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

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- The disciples were kept from the full understanding of what Jesus said.
- Jesus protected them from the full force of what this would mean to them. But He was preparing them little by little.
- But they understood enough so that they did not want to know more.

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Application

1. God's promises to believers are found in His word and we are expected to know them and believe them.
2. Does God say about our failure to believe His promises, "How long do I have to put up with your unbelief? How long do I have to put up with you?"
3. I start with my faithful study and memorization of His Word.
4. Do you know His promises when you face money problems, a health crises, struggles with sin, failure when you sin, doubt, anxiety, depression, family issues, loneliness, etc.?
5. Do I see my problems as greater than His promises?
6. Do you live a life of despairing or astonishment?