



*Luke 17:5 NLT The apostles said to the Lord,
"Show us HOW TO INCREASE OUR FAITH."*

*Enlarging our ability to confidently trust in God and in his power
IN Favor Resource video teaching series*

#1a OUR PURPOSE AND OUR PRAYER

<i>Matthew 17</i>	<i>Mark 9</i>	<i>Luke 9</i>
<p>¹⁴ When they came to the crowd,</p> <p>a man approached Jesus and knelt before him.</p> <p>¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water.</p> <p>¹⁶ I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him."</p>	<p>¹⁴ When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ¹⁵ As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. ¹⁶ "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked. ¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid.</p> <p>I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."</p>	<p>³⁷ The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him.</p> <p>³⁸ A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹ A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him.</p> <p>⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not."</p>

This was a serious case: he is "possessed by a spirit" (Lk), that "robbed him of speech" (Mk); has "seizures" and "convulsions" (Mt & Lk), is "suffering greatly" (Mt); "thrown to ground" (Mk), and "often falls into fire and water" (Mt); "foams at the mouth" (Mk & Lk); it "scarcely ever leaves him" (Lk), and it "is destroying him" (Lk). When Jesus asked, "How long has he been like this?" the father answers: "From childhood; it has often thrown him into fire or water *to kill him*" (Mk).

On an earlier occasion the disciples had been given power over demons:

Mark 6:7 Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. (And see Matthew 10:1)

The 72 had experienced victory over the dark forces:

Luke 10:17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

This time they were _____ .

"The episode exhibits the disaster which occurs when men from whom the power of faith may be expected are proven to be void of power when it is needed." (Lane, *Mark*)

Pressing in:

What is your impossible thing? What is it you have prayed for, but not yet received?



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