

Immediately the boy's father cried out and began saying, "I do believe; help my unbelief" (Mk. 9:24; NASB).

No doubt, at one time or another you have felt like this man. You believe in God and His great power. You have witnessed His providence work in your life and in the lives of others, but there is still that little nagging doubt that keeps you from reaching your potential. You can say with him, "I believe, but help my unbelief!"

Allow me to suggest three "levels" of belief. The first is our belief in God as creator and sustainer of the universe. We see His handiwork and know that it is more logical and rational to believe in creation and a sovereign God than not to.

Second, we believe in God's moral will. We have read His word (the Bible) and believe what He has told us about right and wrong, sin and righteousness. We believe in the eternal salvation that was wrought by Jesus at Calvary.

But it is this third "level" that is most difficult. It is the "level" the man in Mk. 9:24 was struggling with--the "level" that says I will have faith in God and His care to provide for me in ways I won't always understand. This level is where we live life every day. It is a level in which we must ask, are we going to trust self or trust God?! Oh, Lord, help my unbelief!

Worry, doubt, fear, and anger are terrible substitutes for faith, but we allow these problems to supplant our belief in God and his daily care (Mt. 6:33; Phil. 4:19).

Faith must be more than an intellectual exercise. It must become the cornerstone of everything we do. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6), so my prayer is that of this man, "Lord, help my unbelief!"

See you Sunday!

-gls