

MESSAGE NOTES



Series: Encounters
Message: The Unyielding
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: June 29, 2025

Lessons from this encounter

The “secret” to faith isn’t the size but the source.

“You don’t have enough faith,” Jesus told them. “I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.”

Matthew 17:20 (NLT)

The boy’s father shows us how to gain a strong, life-changing faith.

“²³ What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes. ²⁴ The father instantly cried out, “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!”

Mark 9:23-24 (NLT)

Some other takeaways

Some followers never pray for things like healing. Others do pray but have self-centered motives.

“² Yet you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it. ³ And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.”

James 4:2-3 (NLT)

Effective prayer approaches God with humility and trust that He knows best.

“⁸ Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹ Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.”

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 (NLT)

Be faithful with what you know for sure and build on that.

The father instantly cried out, “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!”

Mark 9:24 (NLT)

An easy place to build from is giving and forgiving. People can be generous and forgiving without loving God but you cannot love God if you aren’t generous and forgiving.

The “secret” to faith isn’t the size but the source.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation

TAKE HOME SHEET



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There is much in our reading this week so please take a few minutes and read the passage we used for the message. Mark 9:14-29 (NLT).

In his exchange with Jesus, the boy's father shows us the way to finding a strong and powerful faith:

*"What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked.
"Anything is possible if a person believes. The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"*

Matthew 17:23-24 (NLT)

Take a moment and imagine you are having a one-on-one chat with Jesus. What is something in your life that He might point out where you lack real faith in Him?

It may be something you haven't prayed about and are just doing things your way.

It may be something that you are praying for but haven't humbly asked God for His will about it.

When He was facing the upcoming horror of being wrongly arrested and then executed, Jesus prayed this, *"Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."* Mark 14:36 (NLT)

How can Jesus' example help me pray better?
[See Paul's example in 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 too]