

The Journey to Eternity
Week 2 | Jan. 11/12, 2014

Who Gave You This Authority?
Mark 9:14-29; 11:27-33



This week we see Jesus, Peter, James and John coming down from a mountaintop experience only to find the other disciples in hot debate with the teachers of the law.

Read Mark 9:14-29 and 11:27-33.

[Q] Mark 9:15 says that the people were *overwhelmed with wonder* and ran to greet Jesus. Why do you think there was such a strong response to His presence?

[Q] From Mark 9:19 and 23, what does Jesus see as the basic problem of all who are involved?

[Q] Why does Jesus speak so sharply to the disciples? According to Mark 6:7 and 13 what authority had Jesus given the disciples?

[Q] What is the father's prayer that is offered to Jesus in this passage? (Mark 9:24)

[Q] How do you talk to God when you question His decisions in your life or the lives of loved ones? Are your questions honest and humble like the disciples in Mark 9:28?

Read 1 John 5:14-15:

¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him. NIV

[Q] How can we learn to have confidence in God in the midst of uncertainty? Share some ideas.

[Q] What role does prayer play in overcoming unbelief? (Mark 9:24)

Apply

[Q] What would your prayer life look like if you trusted Jesus completely? Would you pray differently? How?

Application Ideas: Think of one or two things that you would like to work on in the coming week. Remember that this is all about quality, not quantity. It's better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don't try).

- Take inventory of your prayer life —everything from the way you pray and how often, to where and about what. Ask God for guidance on what would help grow your faith, give you faithfulness in prayer and bring you closer to Him.
- Memorize a verse like 1 John 5:14-15 or James 5:16.
- Write a prayer (or simply pray one in silence), inviting God to work on your mind and heart in those areas you've noted. Be honest about your desires and fears.
- Talk with other group members about your ideas and commit to being accountable to one another.
- During the coming week, ask the Holy Spirit to continue to reveal truth to you from what you've heard, read and studied.

Quote:

One of the subtlest hindrances to prayer is probably the most pervasive.

In the broader culture and in our churches, we prize intellect, competency, and wealth. Because we can do life without God, praying seems nice but unnecessary. Money can do what prayer does, and it is quicker and less time-consuming.

Our trust in ourselves and in our talents makes us structurally independent of God. As a result, exhortations to pray don't stick.

Paul Miller
A Praying Life: Connecting with God

Pray

[Q] Who do you know is struggling with unbelief? How can you pray for them?
