



All Things NEW:
A Study of the Gospel of MARK

“Descent into Unbelief”
(Mark 9:14-29)

Descending into Unbelief ...



Descending into Unbelief ...






Descent into
Unbelief
(Mark 9:14-29)

The Chaos Unbelief Creates
The Rescue Christ Brings
Help MY Unbelief



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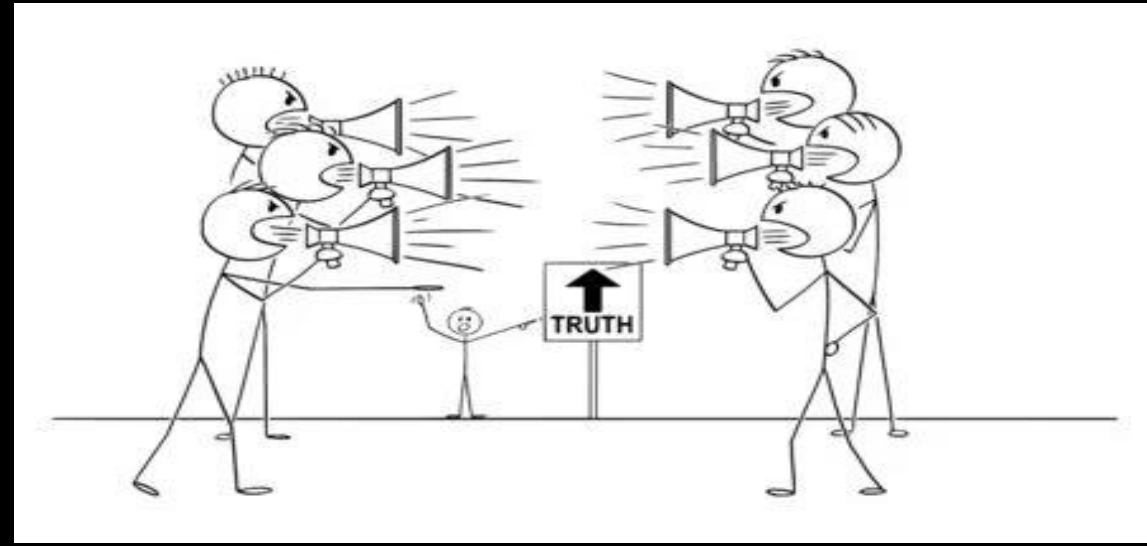


The Chaos Unbelief Creates
(Mark 9:14-22)

The Chaos Unbelief Creates

Assigning Blame

(Mark 9:14-22)

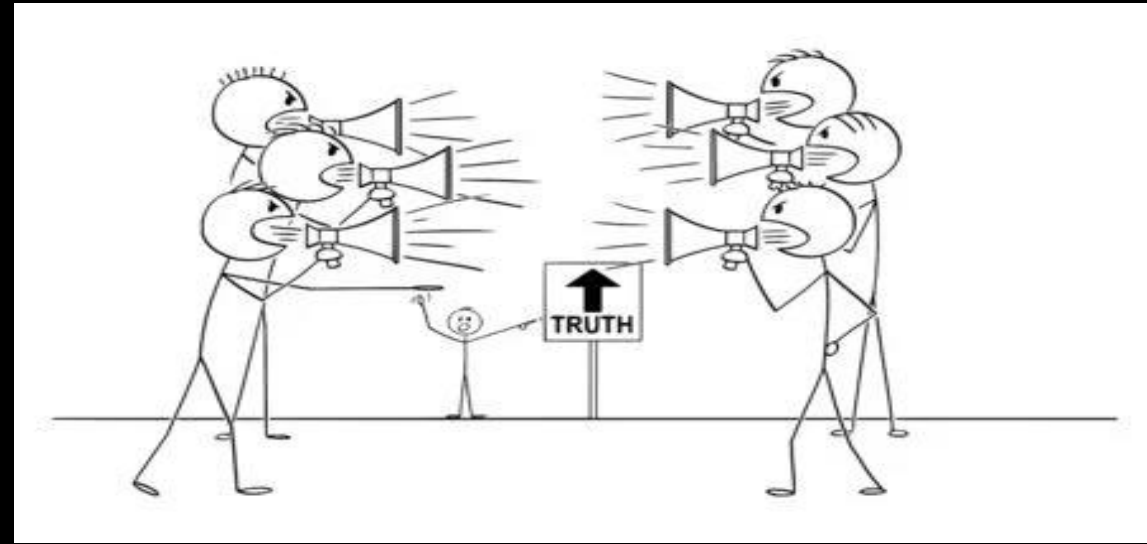


v14-18 ... they saw a great crowd around the (9) disciples, and **scribes arguing with them**. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw Jesus, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, **I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute**. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So **I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able**.”

The Chaos Unbelief Creates

Assigning Blame

(Mark 9:14-22)



They ALL believe in God's POWER – He CAN!
They ALL believe in God's PROMISES – He WILL!
They ALL conclude – He should ... but He hasn't
So who messed up?

The Chaos Unbelief Creates Admitting Exasperation (Mark 9:14-22)



v19 ... *And Jesus answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.”*

Faithless = Unbelieving

How long am I to be with you before you believe?

How long am I to bear with you in your unbelief?

What is “everyone” in the crowd failing to believe?

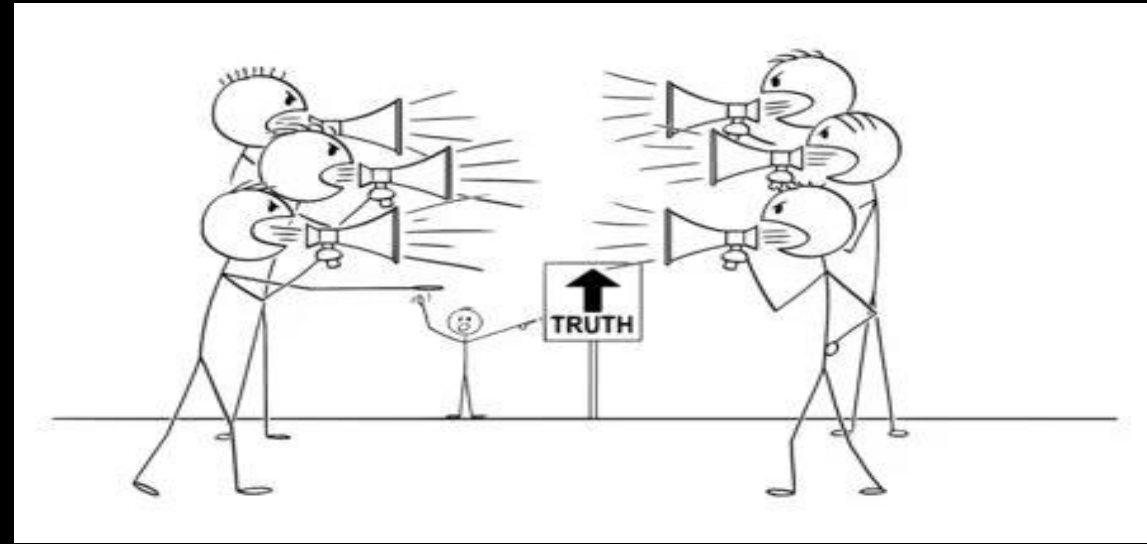
The Chaos Unbelief Creates Admitting Exasperation (Mark 9:14-22)



v20-22 ... they brought the boy to Jesus. And **when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy**, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But **if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.**"

The Chaos Unbelief Creates Admitting Exasperation (Mark 9:14-22)



God CAN + God WILL = God SHOULD ...???

Who is to blame?

The voice of unbelief is denying God's GOODNESS!
(in the person of JESUS)



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The Rescue Christ Brings Overruling Despair (Mark 9:23-29)



v23-24 ... *And Jesus said to him, “If you can’! All things are possible for one who believes.”* Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, *“I believe; help my unbelief!”*

ALL things ... far beyond what you can see!
Help my UNBELIEF ... let me see!

The Rescue Christ Brings Overruling Despair (Mark 9:23-29)



Mark 9:22 ... *if you can, have compassion on us!* (father)

Mark 1:42 ... *if you are willing, you can make me clean!* (leper)

The first denies Jesus' **AUTHORITY** over evil

The second (may) deny Jesus' **COMPASSION** for us

Neither denies our **DESIRE** to be God or challenges our
UNBELIEF in God's **GOODNESS!**

The Rescue Christ Brings

Re-centering Belief ... on His purpose

(Mark 9:23-29)



v25-27 ... when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." And **after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead."** But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose ...

Did this boy die?

The Rescue Christ Brings
Re-centering Belief ... on God's will
(Mark 9:23-29)



v28-29 ... *And when Jesus had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “**Why could we not cast it out?**” And he said to them, “**This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer (and fasting)**” ...*

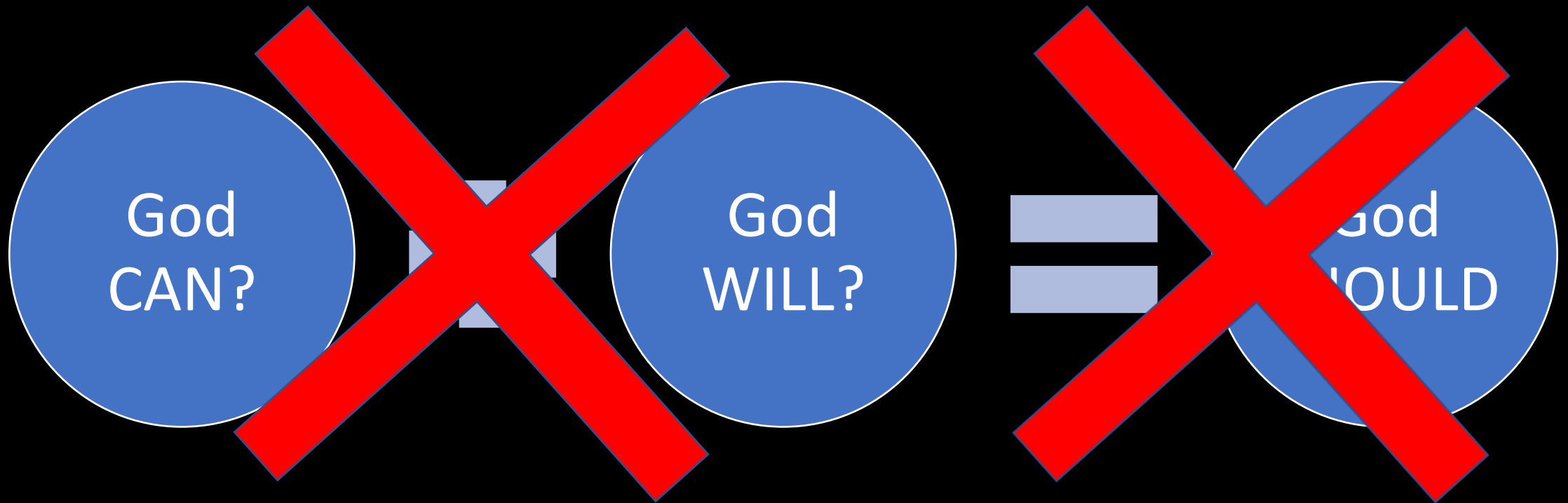
How does one center their belief on what God IS doing?
Through prayer (and fasting)



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HEBREWS 1:3 ... Jesus
upholds the universe by
the power of His word!

EPHESIANS 1:10 ... God's
plan is to unite all things
together in Jesus!

1 THES 5:24 ... God who
calls you is faithful!
He is sanctifying you
completely in Christ!

Help MY Unbelief

1 PETER 5:6-7

... humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him because ...

Help MY Unbelief

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He is omnipotent (all-powerful)?

Help MY Unbelief

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... humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him because ...

~~He is omnipotent (all-powerful)~~

He is omniscient (all knowing)?

Help MY Unbelief

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He is sovereign?

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... humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him because ...

~~He is omnipotent (all-powerful)~~

~~He is omniscient (all-knowing)~~

~~He is sovereign~~

HE CARES FOR YOU!

Help MY Unbelief

The Christian life is the long journey of letting go of our natural assumption of who God is to be replaced with God's own insistence of who He really is.

– Dane Ortlund



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