

# The Gospel of Mark

Part 14: The Adventures of Ministry

Mark 9:14-29 • Pastor Dean Lancaster • November 11, 2018

---

The “breakthrough/battle” syndrome **afflicts every believer.**

**Mark 9:14–16** *When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.*

In this passage we see some of the inner-workings of the breakthrough and the battle.

## How the young are targeted by Satan.

**Mark 9:17–20** *A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.” “You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.*

- Satan is not interested in a **fair fight.**
- We dedicate our time and resources to teaching children the **Gospel message.**
- Human beings are the most vulnerable as babies.
  - Believers are at their most vulnerable as **new converts.**

## How faith and unbelief can exist in the same person.

**Mark 9:21–24** *Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” “ ‘If you can?’ ” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”*

- No child of God is **perfect** this side of Heaven.
- To be delivered from unbelief we must **admit we have it.**
  - A prayer of true humility “help my unbelief!”
- Do not confuse **doubt with** unbelief.
  - Doubt is a **momentary temptation to commit** unbelief.

## How our Lord has complete dominion over Satan and all his agents.

**Mark 9:25–29** *When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”*

- Note Satan’s **immediate obedience!**
- There is no **power equal** to our Lord.
- Jesus is able to save the **vilest sinner.**

## Take this with you...

- Are you prepared for the **ups and downs of walking with Jesus?**
- What **new believer** will you pray for this week?
- What **acts of unbelief** do you need to receive forgiveness for?
- Is He your Lord?

