

THE LORD OF POSSIBILITIES

We need to yield our desires to the will of God, knowing that He is the Lord of possibilities who will accomplish what is in our ultimate best interest.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ *Faith* is defined as ‘complete trust or confidence in someone or something’ and it is the basis on which we engage with God.
- ❖ Hebrews 11:6 makes it clear that faith is required in order for us to be pleasing to God.
- ❖ Faith is not static, but dynamic – continually active.
- ❖ Faith is shown by our attitudes, words and actions.
- ❖ Jesus said that all things are possible to those who believe. When we put our faith in God, anything is possible because He is the Lord of possibilities.
- ❖ A man brought his demon-possessed son to Jesus’ disciples, asking them to cast out the demon. However, they were not able to do it (Mark 9:14-24). The situation, later presented to Jesus, was very dramatic:
 - The son was possessed with a demon.
 - The demon possession caused the son to have convulsions.
 - The description “from childhood” indicates that the possession had been taking place for an extended period of time.
 - The situation was potentially deadly: the demon possessing the son frequently attempted to kill him by throwing him into fire as well as water.
- ❖ The question we might ask now is, “How does this scripture relate to me?”
- ❖ Effectively answering this question requires some honest self-reflection. I need to ask myself some questions:
 - Am I dealing with a dramatic situation? Am I facing a challenging circumstance? Has my situation been happening for an extended period of time? Is my circumstance something that potentially could kill me physically? Could this situation that I am facing potentially destroy my faith in Jesus? Is what I am dealing with something only Jesus can solve?
- ❖ If the answer to any of these questions is “yes”, then we need to bring the situation(s) we are facing to Jesus. All things are possible to those who believe.
- ❖ *Lord* is defined as ‘a person who has authority, control or power over others.’
- ❖ Revelation 17:14 describes Jesus as “Lord of lords”. Jesus’ lordship is exalted and greater than any other lordship that exists. He is the Lord of possibilities.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Mark 9:14-24

- ❖ This means that He has authority, control and power over all possibilities.
- ❖ The Bible says God calls into existence that which does not exist (Romans 4:17), which means Jesus is able to *create* possibilities where they did not previously exist.
- ❖ What then should my response to the word of God be?
- ❖ Like the father in Mark 9, I need to bring my situation to Jesus for help.
- ❖ I need to exercise faith by following the directions He gives me through His word.
- ❖ I have to understand that I can approach Jesus for help even if I am experiencing doubt. Jesus can help me overcome my doubt and increase my faith in Him.
- ❖ The reality is that some situations and circumstances He takes us into won’t seem to be leading to our ultimate good.
- ❖ But we must persevere because they are designed to develop the nature of God in us: patience, kindness, faithfulness, self-control, peace (Galatians 5:22, Rom. 5:1-5).
- ❖ Persevering through all situations and circumstances also helps us to sympathize, empathize and encourage the faith of others.
- ❖ As Jesus demonstrated in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:39), we need to yield our desires to the will of God, knowing that He is Lord of all and everything He does is in our ultimate best interest.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Why might the father in the Mark 9 event have had unbelief? Can you relate to him?
2. List some ways that we can increase our faith in God.
3. Describe what the phrase “Jesus is the Lord of possibilities” means to you.
4. Discuss: How can going through unpleasant situations (give examples) be beneficial to us and to others?

Prayer Time




Lord, help me yield my desires to Your will, knowing that You are Lord of possibilities and You will accomplish what is in my best interest.




Start-up: What are some pieces of information that you/others consider “modern myths” (that you/they have trouble believing)?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

 (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)

 (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline