

LUKE 9:38-40 -- A BOY, “MY ONLY SON”, IS HEALED!

4/16/16 Sat Morn Prayer

Luke 9:37-42 Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him. [38] Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, "**Teacher, I implore** (ask, beg pleadingly) **You, look on my son, for he is my only child.** [39] **And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him.**

[40] So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." [41] Then Jesus answered and said, "**O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.**" [42] And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father.

Mat 17:14-21 And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, [15] "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. [16] So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." [17] Then Jesus answered and said, "**O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.**" [18] And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. [19] Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" [20] So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. [21] However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Mar 9:14-29 And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. [15] Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. [16] And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them?" [17] Then one of the crowd answered and said, "**Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.** [18] **And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid.** So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." [19] He answered him and said, "**O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.**" [20] Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. [21] So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. [22] And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." [23] Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." [24] Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" [25] When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" [26] Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." [27] But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. [28] And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" [29] So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

Context/Biblical Background -- We're shown this storm in three gospels – the disciples were unable to heal the boy. LUKE is here very brief, presenting few new details, except "my only child". All three Gospels place the events recorded in this section just before our Lord's final departure from Galilee (Luk 9:51).

Are you sensing a “loss in spiritual power”? A “loss in effectiveness”? What is the remedy?

Luke 9:37-39 Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him. [38] Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, "**Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child.** [39] **And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him.**

- The Greek phrase translated “for he is my only child” is literally “for he is my only begotten son.” Thus, the only begotten Son of God is coming down the mountain to deal with the only begotten son of this father; the **beloved Son is about to free a bedeviled son.**
- **My only child** (*monogene s moi*). Only in Luke as already about an only child in Luk 7:12 – Jesus raises the son of the widow of Nain; Luk 8:42 – Jairus' daughter is restored to life.

Luke 40-42 So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." [41] Then Jesus answered and said, "**O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.**" [42]

And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father.

- Jesus had given His disciples authority and power over demons in Luke 9:1. Yet here was a demon they couldn't cast out. Was this because their power had "run out"? No, for the gifts and callings of God are without repentance (Romans 11:29). That is, He never takes them back.
- But even though the gifts of God remain in place, **their effectiveness is not automatic.** This is where people so easily err. God uses them in a counseling, teaching, evangelistic or hospitality ministry, and they think, That's my gift. And it is. But when it starts losing its effectiveness, they wonder why. "This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting,"
- Jesus said. In other words, "The authority is given, the power is present, but it won't operate without your participating in prayer and fasting." Therefore, although you might have been one of the most gifted witnesses in the whole country, **you're ineffective today if you have not been maintaining that gift by prayer and fasting, by spending time in the presence of God.**
- Apparently the nine apostles had stopped praying and fasting, and their faith had become weak. The powerful faith they had exercised on their tour (Luk 9:10) was **now too weak to claim the promises of victory** Jesus had given them.
- **We cannot live and serve on the basis of past victories. We must constantly be alert and disciplined, trusting the Lord to work.**

SUMMARY:

- **Spiritual power is needed for the casting out of demons.** We, weak men, in our own strength cannot successfully grapple with evil in ourselves or others.
- **There is no true spiritual power without faith.** Let us observe, that in order to lose spiritual power it is not necessary to commit a flagrant sin.
- **What, then, is the first condition of true spiritual power? It is the possession of a living and growing faith.**
- **Faith imparts power because it lays hold of the truth,** and it is the truth which purifies. It imparts power because it quickens and inspires all the faculties of the soul. It imparts power because it establishes an alliance between God and man, by which Divine help is given in moments of need. It imparts power by means of its innate courage and invincibility.
- **There is no living faith without earnest prayer and by spending time in the presence of God.**

Take Time To Be Holy – Hymn# 12 –William Longstaff/George Stebbins

*1. Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; abide in Him always, and feed on His word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.*

*2. Take time to be holy, the world rushes on; spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be; thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.*

*3. Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul, each thought and each motive beneath His control.
Thus led by His spirit to fountains of love, thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.*

Please Note: You may see or download any of the past notes and audio of the Prayer/Devotional Notes by going to: www.missioncalvary.com
When the screen comes up, scroll down on the left side to "Saturday Prayer Studies" Click on it and you'll see studies of Bible Prayer/Devotions. If you have any trouble, email me at ptwente@gmail.com