

Jesus reached out to a desperate dad.

Mark 9: 17 - 29. A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ 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." ¹⁹ "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." ²⁰ 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.

²¹ Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. ²² "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." ²³ "'If you can?'" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

²⁵ Jesus... rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." ²⁶ The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out... ²⁷ Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

²⁸ After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" ²⁹ He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

Heed the words of Jesus to a desperate dad: "Everything is possible for one who believes." Verse 23. And follow the example of this man seeking the help of our Lord: "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" verse 24

Few of us can claim that we experienced the extreme problems of this household, and let's not forget to thank our God for that. I cannot even imagine the pain of parents and family when their son is thrown around, and into fires and water, while dealing with a demon that not only robbed him of speech, but wanted to kill the boy. Horrible fear and pain must have ruled in that household. Despondency must have flourished. Faith, God and new life became far off realities when dealing with such a spiritual battle that seemingly have been lost.

And then Jesus and his disciples came to his neighbourhood! Hope returned and a disparate plea for help is addressed to the disciples. And they could not drive out the unclean spirit.

But the Gospel message is: Jesus can. And the message is that faith that holds on to the truth that nothing is impossible for one who believes - and the realisation that this faith will have to be a gift from Christ, after all they endured emotionally and spiritually in that household!

The message is clear. **Jesus can!** *Jesus can grant us the faith and Jesus can drive out any form of evil that causes havoc in the lives of people and families!*

Jesus can! Through prayer, Christ said, even this ultimate suffering as a result of evil can be overcome!

Why not pray now for deliverance, for peace and healing - and share this message with anyone who suffers!