

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF TRUTH AND FREEDOM
SMYRNA-VININGS, GA, USA
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"I BELIEVE; HELP MY UNBELIEF"

2nd August 2026 © IHTF

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The Challenge of Unbelief

Mark 9:21-24 (NIV)
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!"

This was an expression of a paradoxical mix of trust and doubt by a father who sought Jesus' healing for his son. He stood before Jesus, God in human form, and was inclined to disbelieve that He could help his son, but because of what he had heard or seen, he believed his son could be healed by Jesus. He was double-minded. However, Jesus knew his predicament and eventually healed the son. Many a time, as believers, we face such challenges in the face of life struggles. Dear brothers and sisters, the good news is that we have God the Holy Spirit residing in us, and even in the face of doubts we can always cry out to Him, "Lord, help me overcome my unbelief".

2

The Sin that Easily Entangles

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)
12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

We are encouraged to let the lives of the 'great cloud of witnesses' in Scripture help build our faith, and to cast off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles us, unbelief or lack of faith. Why is unbelief a challenge? It can block us from believing God's promises, which are available to us, and prevent them from being fulfilled. It can limit our spiritual growth, restrict God's power in our lives, and cloud our perception of God's presence and truth, making us trust circumstances more than God's Word. This can happen to any of us at any time. Gradually, this can lead to a condition of spiritual blindness, where we miss God's leading and blessings. May our fellowship with the Holy Spirit grow stronger and stronger every day, so that at all times we will have someone to help our unbelief. Amen!

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