

10092022 Who loves a powerful spiritual experience? What happens after someone has a powerful spiritual experience? ...we shall see today....Last week was Jesus' glorious transfiguration on the mountain. The scene of Jesus shining like the sun, together with Moses and Elijah, and with Peter, James, and John, was like a preview of heaven, where God reigns. They had been changed. They had been transported from the mundane world to see Jesus' heavenly glory and majesty image as the Son of God had been burned into the hearts of his three top disciples, Peter, James and John. Peter wanted to stay there forever, who wouldn't.... We all love especially powerful Mountain top spiritual experiences...

But human life is lived mostly in the world, the valley... for Jesus came to seek and save the lost...and the lost live at the foot of the mountain...so that is where the Father sends Jesus...and that is where he Sends you and me... right down to the everyday stuff of this life...enemy attacks ...it is at the foot of the mountain where the work of Jesus takes place...Before some of you think I have not had that great spiritual experience...well neither did 9 of the apostles

Only the Apostles Peter, James and John were up in the mountain... the other nine disciples experienced an entirely different situation, they were slugging it out in the valley below!

Lets see what we can learn today....after James John and Peter saw Jesus in his heavenly form...they too descended back to the foot of the mountain

NLT Luke 9:37 ***The next day, after they had come down the mountain, a large crowd met Jesus.***

Mark tells us this was the scene... a chaotic scene... they witnessed the nine other disciples surrounded by a massive crowd of people arguing with the religious leaders...

NLT MK 9:14 When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and some teachers of religious law were arguing with them. ¹⁵ When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, and they ran to greet him. ¹⁶ “What is all this arguing about?” Jesus asked.

This is what they argued about...

NLT Luke 9:38 38 A man in the crowd called out to him, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, my only child. ³⁹ An evil spirit keeps seizing him, making him scream. It throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It batters him and hardly ever leaves him alone. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast out the spirit, but they couldn’t do it.”

- **Jesus' nine apostles had tried to heal him with the power and authority which they had been given at the time of fieldwork training.**
- **But the demon in him did not leave.**
- **The nine apostles had failed...were now defending themselves and probably confused.., and the religious leaders and crowd now mocking...probably accusing them of being magicians...unable to perform their magic anymore...**
- **The wonderful thing...Jesus found them in the midst of their failure...they would not fail alone...and he would help them...I will never leave you nor forsake you...**
- **Now... The father was desperate and so glad to see Jesus. **Jesus’ reply was probably not one that was expected. Most likely, people****

would have expected Jesus to simply say “Okay,” deliver him, and go about His day.

- **But instead He voices His amazement...and frustration...and disappointment...**

NLT LK 9: 41 Jesus said, “You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you and put up with you?” Then he said to the man, “Bring your son here.”

The first statement you faithless and corrupt people...Why would he say that?

- **These same people witnessed the miraculous feeding of the 5k plus people ...by a couple of fish and some loaves.**
- **Have most likely witnessed the disciples power when they were sent out 2x2...they had witnessed miracles and deliverance...it meant nothing now...”it was the what have you done for me lately syndrome”...they were still faithless!**
- **And the religious leaders have been following and harassing Jesus and his disciples for many months...they have seen many, many miraculous events...herd much teaching and still rejected...ISA 6:9**

NLT Matt 13:14 This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that says, When you hear what I say you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend. ¹⁵ For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes— so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.

- **They refuse the truth so live in the corruption of their own lies**
- **Then Jesus ask the question... “How long must I be with you and put up with you?”**

question —is directed to everyone: the crowds, the father as well as the disciples (judas)...those who believe, believe those who don't, wont no matter how long he stays!

- **Jesus saw that the demon-possessed boy was suffering unbearably, and his father as well.**
 - **But Jesus did not consider them or their problem as the biggest problem.... Jesus saw Unbelief as the worst curse on humankind feuled by corruptia corrupt heart...**
 - **Jesus saw in the demon-possession of this young man the symptom of an unbelieving and corrupt generation. The destruction of the image of God in man... corruption means to distort...**
 - **His statement was also directed at his apostles... that the apostles, after being through so much, still lacked the faith to persevere and fight until victory**
 - **Now His purpose in this was not to jump on their cases, but to make a point, which was “I’m not going to be here forever. You must use the power I give you...**
 - **You’re going to have to be able to do this when I’m gone.”**
- Jesus then turns his attention to the demon in the boy.**

NLT Luk9:41Then he said to the man, “Bring your son here.”⁴² As the boy came forward, the demon knocked him to the ground and threw him into a violent convulsion.

- **The fear factor must have worked in scaring the faith out of the apostles...**
- **Jesus was not perturbed. Noisy and attention demanding as the spirit in the boy may have been, it did not distract the Lord at all.**
- **Jesus remained focus on being about his Father's business and went on to have a conversation with the boys' father.**

- Interestingly Jesus asked questions about the boy's condition as he rolls around in a seizure...
- The Gospel fill in a detail ...Luke leaves out

NLT MK 9: 21 "How long has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father. He replied, "Since he was a little boy. 22 The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can."

- Interestingly Jesus asked questions about the boy's condition. "How long has this been happening?" receiving the answer, "From childhood."
- " It had been a long an ordeal as the demon has been ectrencehd since this man was a boy... ... Interestingly Jesus asked questions about the boy's condition. "How long has he been like this?" receiving the answer, "From childhood." He must have been burned and scarred from fire ... His parents must have been always scared and suffering from a life time of *Post traumatic stress disorder*...with no relief...
- " So it has been a long an ordeal... impossible to cure...No One could do anything about it...
- Ever notice the longer someone is in a particular condition...faith often diminishes...
- Jesus question drew out what he needed from the man...he doubted whether Jesus had the power to help him... **The failure of the disciples is regarded as a reflection on their Master. So is our failure. There are people who don't believe Jesus has power because they don't see power in us.**
- **This Also probably scared the apostles...Ever notice the longer someone is in a particular condition...faith often diminishes...**

- **The history and severity of these attacks along with the disciples' failure to end them leaves this father doubting that anyone can stop them.**
- **The failure of the disciples is regarded as a reflection on their Master. So is our failure. There are people who don't believe Jesus has power because they don't see power in us.**

NLT^{MK} 9:23 "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes."

His view of Jesus was distorted...perverted...

If you can?": this question reveals the father's belief about Jesus that this demon might be more powerful than you..since your disciples couldn't move it...you might not be able too

Like Jesus and his disciples were alike! He is God! They are Human !

NLT^{MK} 9: 24 The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"

Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" I can take a lesson from this desperate father. What is his and our chief sin? Unbelief. I get you...help me overcome what I don't understand or beleivew about you!!

- **He repents of his unbelief. He admits his need, his lack of faith, and asks for help. And this is music to Jesus's ears.**
- **Here is a man who is suffering greatly, and Jesus wants his repentance about not believing in Jesus ...in the midst of tragedy.**
- **Repentance IS OUR MODE OF RESCUE AND OUR WAY THROUGH It is what brings us back to Him—it is what causes us to return to him. NO MATTER WHAT ISGOING ON!!**

- **JOB** is great example of faith in tragedy in fact it is the point of entire book of Job.

NLT MK 9:25 When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. "Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak," he said. "I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!" ²⁶ Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, "He's dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up.

Jesus the reviver...helped the boy up in his time of need...

Now his disciples need to learn more and as good students ask the teacher to help them...

Although His disciples had granted the request to drive out the spirit, they were unable to do so. And they wanted to know why...

MK 9:28 After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" *MK 9:29* He replied, "***This kind can come out only by prayer.***"

- **We must admit this. Whether in overcoming evil in our personal lives or in the lives of those who have come to us for help, we often fail.**
- **We can't accomplish much when we are indistinguishable from the unbelieving culture around us.**
- **We too live in an unbelieving generation and one of the main ways our unbelief is seen is in our prayerlessness. Do I worry more than I pray?**

But there is more

NLT MT 17: 19 Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, "Why couldn't we cast out that demon?" ²⁰ "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told

them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."

- **Mountains are moved one rock at a time...there is the do part...but faith must precede...faith grows through prayer...if small rocks cant be moved...don't expect to move Boulders..**
- **Why is faith so important? Because faith is our affirmation of the truth about God, His character and abilities, while unbelief is really believing lies about God.**
- **'This kind of demon had an unusual element of difficulty. Jesus wanted them to understand that there degrees of powers within the dominion of Demons, Satan being the most powerful....**

Even the angels know this

NLT Jude 1: 9 But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses' body.)

Satan's authority is great ...but the Lord rebuke through Michael far greater!!

Paul informs us also

NLT Eph 6:12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

The answer *Eph 6:13* Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the *belt of truth* and the *body armor of God's righteousness.* ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the *peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.* ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the *shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows*

of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- **And to receive this faith, a person must pray to God for help. Help to believe, as the father did. Even today, we cry to God and say, “Please, dear God, help our unbelief!” we pray...**
- **Prayer overcomes the unbelief that blocks us from new experiences of God’s power.**

We must leave such high places of devotion and spiritual refreshments and descend into the valleys to meet fathers and their sons and demons...but alas we must return to the foot of the mountain...for that is where the work of Jesus takes place...

- **There, is where the devil is ruling...**
- **There is where the unbelieving and perverse people and malicious demons reside**
- **For this is where the problems and terrible suffering of humanity occurs.**
- **No one wants to live in such an atmosphere....But Jesus came down the mountain and entered that dark valley..**
- **So too will we...**
- **We must Press in...into our own areas of fear and reluctance..**
- **We must Persevere**
- **We must Pursue!!**

end

- **The Jews were God's chosen people yet rejected God's messiah.... Thereby failing to bring the good news of God to the world...**
- **But because of the religious leaders' unbelief and their distorted perceptions of God and the ordinary people's perversion distorted views on life..., was symbolized by a father's only son, instead of becoming a shepherd and source of blessing for his people, became the playground for a demon.**

NLT Daniel 10:12 Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. ¹³ But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. **Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia.** ¹⁴ Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come."

- **Daniel prayed 21 days...God sent angel...who called for another angel**
- **Soon to be followed by another evil prince...**

NLT Daniel 10:21 Meanwhile, I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one **helps me against these spirit princes except Michael,** your spirit prince.

As his son needed the help of Jesus to be free from the evil spirit, this father recognizes that he needs the help of Jesus to overcome the unbelief in his life. And the disciples realize they need Jesus to overcome the unbelief in their lives...

Faith is the first victory that we need in our lives. Jesus came down the mountain to show man how to live by faith...through prayer...

No victory can be won without faith...Faith is know that with Jesus I can...so therefore I will do the do...

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Life is made up of both mountain tops and valleys down below. It wouldn't be good for us to be always at the communion table/in church or on the mountain top.

Life is made up of both mountain tops and valleys down below. It wouldn't be good for us to be always at the communion table/in church or on the mountain top.

- *As they walk down the mountain the next day... they discuss among themselves "rising from the dead mean" Zombies??*

MK 9:9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰ They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant.

- **Jesus has now twice spoke to them about himself dying and rising from the dead..in three days**
- **They discuss how this will be...How could the son of God be killed?? And if he was going to rise from the dead in three days...why die at all??? And How could he rise from the dead??? Is this literal is it a figure of speech...**
- **They could not figure it out...**

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Tell of Peter in second peter

NLT 2 Peter 1:14 For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life,¹⁵ so I will work hard to make sure you always remember these things after I am gone. ¹⁶ For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes ¹⁷ when he received honor and glory from God the Father.** The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."¹⁸ **We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.** ¹⁹ Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets.

Back to the mountain....

Though....His majestic and awesome image as the Son of God had been burned into the hearts of his three top disciples, Peter, James and John. They too had been changed. They had been transported from the mundane world to see Jesus' heavenly glory and majesty. But human life is lived in the world...

- He takes Peter (remember :Satan) James and John up alone to a mountain and allows them to see who he really is in his heavenly body and clothes

- They do the appropriate thing and fall down terrified...for they had never ever seen a Jesus in his awesomeness...
- Why does he do this?
- To build their faith...Peter had the faith to acknowledge who Jesus was to him...but still thought along with other disciples that his plans were as valid, as well thought out as Jesus....
- Remember Jesus was building twelve men on whom his message would be sent to the world but they were men like other men...they still needed to be built up...
- So that is what he did....
- And lastly for today....

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Which we will examine in a little while but first we need to understand more of who Jesus is... Was he fully man like us? Or did he pull the God card when he had trouble?

Let's go back...

Jesus asked his apostles who they thought he was...

After a year and a half of following Jesus the disciples are asked a very important question....Who do you say I am?

LK 9:20 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

- They got it...he was god come to earth...
- Then he took three up a mountain...

LK 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³² Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³ As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) ^{LK 9:34} While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

- taking off his earth suit shows them his heavenly suitblows the mind of his disciples...talks to two prophets who were dead...but are alive....they are having a debriefing with Jesus ...
- Peter wanted to stay there forever and wanted them too., asking Jesus if he could build shelters for everyone.
- Moses and Elijah go away in a cloud...God the Father speaks...then everything goes back to normal...
- **Why does he do this? To reinforce their correct assertion of who Jesus is the one from God is God...**
- **the son is of the same essence as the Father...he is God...**

when John later writes his gospel...He shares this experience...as pivotal in his in his life as it gave him a much more complete understanding of Jesus..

JN 1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

JN 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is a picture of what the incarnation is all about. Christ, who is eternal God, became flesh and dwelt among us. Though he was rich, for our sakes he became poor. That through him, we who were poor might become rich.

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- **Taking off his earth suit shows them his heavenly suitblows the mind of his disciples...talks to two prophets who were dead...but are alive....they are having a debriefing with Jesus ...**
- **The three apostles... do the appropriate thing and fall down terrified...for they had never ever seen a Jesus in his awesomeness...**
- **Peter wanted to stay there forever and wanted them too., asking Jesus if he could build shelters for everyone.**
- **I am with Peter...let's build shelters and stay up here...**

Why does he do this? To reinforce their correct assertion of who Jesus is.. the one from God is God...

- **That Jesus plan to die and be resurrected is the right plan...backed by the father and Moses and Elijah...**
- **He shows them the Magnificence and splendor of his natural state of being...**

In fact this experience is so profound...

Peter 30 years later when he pens his last letter to the churches he could have wrote about any of his many, many experiences with Jesus on earth the miracles he could have recounted , the sayings he could have reported, the good deeds he could have shared...nope not a one...just that he saw Jesus in his Heavenly glory...why? The afterlife is true!!! It is the proof he needed the reality of the invisible ...made visible...the reality that Moses and Elijah are truly alive...

He writes...

*2PE 1: 13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴ because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. ^{2PE 1:16} We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸ **We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.***

- of all the events to personally share in your last correspondence...this is what he recalls as being most impactful...
- he recalls seeing Jesus in his heavenly majesty
- **there is a heaven and there is life after this life... but a whole different life than he could have ever imagined...**
- **What Peter now knows is were meant to be people of the resurrection**
- and God the Father speaking from the invisible... the realm of God.....it is true... there is a whole other dimension...there is an afterlife...
- **Peter Gets it much better 30 years down the road...so will we..but back to the present...**

MK 9:8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

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- Then Jesus changes back into his earth suit... and they walk down the mountain

LK 9:37 The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him.

The question to ask then before we move on...is how human was Jesus...I mean when times got rough did he pull out the God card...and just zip through it?

- God taking on flesh.

Philippians 2 gives us a glimpse of how the Word became flesh and dwelt among us-how God and man were united into this God-man Jesus.

PHP 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

PHP 2:7 but made himself nothing, (emptied himself) taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

How did Christ become fully human?

- The Greek word "morphe" which means very "nature" or "substance" is used both in verse six and seven.
- Verse six refers to the nature of God and verse seven refers to the nature of man. This Jesus, "being in the very nature God (morphe) did not regard equality with God something to be grasped but made himself nothing, taking the very nature (morphe) of a servant, being made in human likeness. "
- Philippians 2:7 tells us what happened. "God made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant." God chose to temporarily cloak his deity, to veil it, in order that his humanity could find full expression.
- By adding humanity, he chose temporarily to restrict the full expression of his deity.
- To fully experience Jesus would not call on his Godly power to deliver him from servant circumstances...he must depend on his father like we servants must...

This is a picture of what the incarnation is all about. Christ, who is eternal God, became flesh and dwelt among us. Though he was rich, for our sakes he became poor. That through him, we who were poor might become rich.

Point #1: Jesus did dip into his not deity to live out his humanity.

- If Jesus would have used his deity to live out his humanity, he would not have been fully human. He would have been less or more (depending upon your perspective) than human.
- Instead he "shared in our humanity" (Heb. 2:14) and "he had to be made like his brothers in every way" (Heb. 2:17).

*HEB 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels **he helps**, but Abraham's descendants. 17 **For this reason** he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because **he himself suffered** when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

*HEB 5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a son, he **learned obedience** from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him*

- **What a profound thought! Jesus, with his sinless nature throughout his earthly life, experienced all of life as we do.**
- **He did not utilize his divine power to live out his human life on earth.**
- Jesus, who lived in a world filled by sin, greed, lust, and pride, just like us. And yet he did not sin.
- He successfully handles everything in life how? By obedience to his Father...he was led by God... and learned like you and I

From the first minute of his life, all the way to his last minutes on the cross, Jesus, in reverent submission to his Father, obeyed him in all aspects!

He grew normally in wisdom...

LK 2:49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

LK 2:51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

- **What a profound thought! Jesus, with his sinless nature throughout his earthly life, experienced all of life as we do.**
- **He did not utilize his divine power to live out his human life on earth.**

Point 2. What about his miracles? Surely Christ's miracles are proof that Jesus used his deity.

- **Jesus in his own words tells us that he did nothing in and of himself-everything he did was done through his Father and in submission to his Father's desires.**

John 10:24 The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

JN 10:25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me,²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.³⁰ I and the Father are one."

JN 10:31 Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him,³² but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

JN 10:33 "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

John 10:37 Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does.³⁸ But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

- **From the first minute of his life, all the way to his last minutes on the cross, Jesus, in reverent submission to his Father, obeyed him in all aspects! Amazingly, he did this without dipping into his deity to live out that humanity!**

- *HEB 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith*

@@@@ Perseverance is the enemy of Discouragement..

And discouragement is the enemy of Perserverance

First...We must learn to persevere in Faith

per·se·vere intr.v

To persist in or remain constant to a purpose, idea, or task in the face of obstacles or discouragement.

Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did.

Or as the French proverb says... One may go a long way after one is tired.

And Second... we must learn to overcome Discouragement

dis·cour·age tr.v.

To deprive of confidence, hope, or spirit.

To hamper by discouraging; deter.

To try to prevent by expressing disapproval or raising objections.

Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly set about remedying them - every day

begin the task anew.

Saint Francis de Sales

to realize that the Lord has purpose in all He does and can be trusted in what he does and that those who wait patiently for his promise to happen will never be disappointed.

Is vitally important if we hope to have soundness of mind...and the heart to persevere when times are discouraging...

Hebrews 11:1-2 tells us

HEB 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

Now...is a present tense word...the time is now

The faith in God's character, there hope is in Gods word...

They are certain of God's word being true...even when there is no visible evidence of it in the natural

Faith is...In the present being sure ...Being sure means... clear in your mind, fully persuaded, convinced , in no doubt

The direction is hope...hope in who God is and what God says

Certain that what we do not see...means absolutely nothing in regards to it happening...we just do not see it yet!!!

This is exactly what the ancients were commended for... the faith or trust of there lives was directed toward God's promises...period...how when and where was left in his hands.

Today we will examine five principles we can apply in our lives about persevering in faith even when facing great discouragement...

Nobody trips over mountains. It is the small pebble that causes you to stumble. Pass all the pebbles in your path and you will find you have crossed the mountain.

Name calling was not going to throw her off her mission....good lesson for all of us...

Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing till it gets there.

This is what God has promised us in his word

2 Cor 2:20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. 21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Every promise is a yes in Jesus... not maybe but yes...

Let me give you some promises:

The humble He will exalt

The Proud he will humble 1 peter 5:5

To all that call on the name of the Lord he will save Rom 10:13

To the lost he will find

To the hurting he will help

He has promised us a new beginning even today

He promised if we hear his voice today...he will save us

He promised the sick he will comfort them

He has promised to the generous he will give generously

He has promised to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine

He has promised To the compassionate he will show compassion

he has promised to the repentant he will restore them

He promised the weary and heavy burdened that if you come to him he will give you rest

He promised to show us a way out of temptation

He promised if we confess our sin he will forgive and cleanse us

To those who believe will never be ashamed

He has promised that he has overcome the world

He has promised that nothing is too hard for him

He has promised to not forget to forget my sins

He has promised that the moment we leave this body...we will be in His presence

He promised the devil cannot harm us

To those that love him, He has promised to bless our families for a thousand generations

He has promised to hear all our prayers

He has promised to answer all our prayers according to his will

What is sown will be reaped

What he starts he will finish

All things will work for the good of his children

He will never leave nor forsake us

He is our shield

He has promised that His word is true...the bible

He is our great reward

He will discipline

He is preparing a place for us

He will come and take us to be with him

He has promised to wipe away every tear

He has promised us a place where sin and death no longer exist

He has promised us a joy unending

He has promised us a new heaven and a new earth

And a home of righteousness

2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

He learned some couldn't and some could's..

- Peter learned he couldn't undo the promise of God
- He couldn't help the promise of God
- He couldn't hurry the promise of God
- He could not figure out how the promise would be fulfilled

He learned he could

- He could believe the promise
- He could depend on the promise
- He could wait on the promise

Leave here today knowing that every promise God has made ...He will keep...Nothing will be left undone...

We have discovered that to walk in relationship with God one must exercise faith...

Faith is the unshakeable belief that God will do everything He has promised to do even before there is visible evidence to that effect.

The basis of Faith is that God is Good...

It is a truth we would all do well to continually remind ourselves of.

Because that is the crux... the Reasonableness of Faith is that God is good... it is the Foundation of Faith,

RO 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

This verse is the universal verse for any child of God in any situation on earth. Every message for the save can end with this...because it is so comforting and the comfort comes from it being true.

Any faith you and I hold onto is based on the belief that God is good,

In any area of our lives where we doubt, fear or drag in obedience to God it is because we in our heart of hearts doubt his goodness.

Faith is the unshakeable belief that God will do everything He has promised to do even before there is visible evidence to that effect.

The ways of God are sometimes hidden at first, misunderstood and very often seem contradictory.

But the scriptures read in their great sweep and in their progress of time reveal God as Love---A love more expansive and profoundly wiser than human souls can immediately recognize.

Jesus knew that the boy was possessed by the demon. Jesus' disciples had tried to heal him with the power and authority which they had at the time of fieldwork training (9:1). But the demon in him did not budge.

The father was now desperate, the disciples now sheepish, and the religious leaders and crowd now mocking. Looking at the situation before him, what did Jesus say? Verse 41 says, "O unbelieving and perverse generation, how long shall I stay with you and put up with you?" Of course, Jesus saw that the demon-possessed boy was suffering unbearably, and his father as well.

But Jesus did not sympathize with them or their problem. Rather, Jesus saw in the demon-possession of this young man the symptom of an unbelieving and perverse generation.

The Jews were God's chosen people. But because of the religious leaders' unbelief and the ordinary people's perversion, a father's only son, instead of becoming a shepherd and source of blessing for his people, became the playground for a demon.

Unbelief is the worst curse on humankind. If only his people would repent and believe the good news of the kingdom of God. If only his people believed, they could experience God's healing touch and by the power of faith overcome all the devil's hindrances to become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

After lamenting, Jesus rebuked the demon in the boy. The demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion in protest, but he had no choice but to leave him. And they were all amazed at the greatness of God (43). They were too familiar with the power of demons.

But Jesus showed them that the power of God is greater. Jesus could heal the

young boy with the power of God, out of his compassion. We can also have the power of God to heal demon-possessed young people when we have the compassion of God.

This was a good chance for Jesus to explain what he would do. So Jesus said to

his disciples, "Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men" (44). Jesus was ready to give his life to rescue all men from the unbelieving generation.

But the disciples did not understand God's purpose for Jesus because they were still earthbound and were afraid of giving up their earthbound dreams (45).

Second, a truly great man (46-48). Look at verse 46. "An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest." Probably, they were in hallucination that the earthly messianic kingdom would come as soon as Jesus arrived at Jerusalem. The disciples were all really ordinary men. But they had a hope for human greatness because of Jesus.

When they deciphered his going to Jerusalem, their human ambition made them fantasize that greatness would soon be theirs by becoming cabinet members in the earthly messianic kingdom they thought Jesus would establish. But who would be the greatest among them troubled their hearts. When Jesus went up the Mount of Transfiguration with the three top disciples, he left the other nine disciples at the foot of the mountain.

Jesus had already set the order and role of each disciple. The top three were Peter, James and John. Among the three, Peter was the top. Philip and Thomas, the men of brains, were in the second circle.

Andrew, the brother of Peter, because of his good influence, might have been recognized as a kind of top leader-without-portfolio.

Outwardly, they seemed to follow the order which Jesus had set among them. But they were too young spiritually to submit to this order. Peter was more than sure that he was at the top at the present as well as in the future. But James and John would rather die than be under him, even if it was in the messianic kingdom. So they had negotiated through their mother to obtain the top positions to the right

and left of Jesus' throne in his kingdom (Mt 20:21).

Luke the historian understood well the disciples' human desire to be the greatest. In order to follow Jesus, they had left their sweet homes. Peter, James and John had given up a prospering fishing business. On account of their human ambition, they could overcome their petty desires for small pleasures. They were compelled by human ambition to risk their future security. Why are men like this? It is because God created man in his own image, and God put in man endless desire to grow in the greatness of God (Ge 1:27).

This is the unfathomable wisdom of God. When we have the desire to be great in

God we are true men.

Look at verses 47,48a. "Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.'" From his words, we learn who would be truly great men.