

## A WONDERFUL EXPECTATION

1 Peter 1:3 All honor to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by his boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again. Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead.

### A Wonderful Expectation In Spite Of Doubt

Mark 9:14 At the foot of the mountain they found a great crowd surrounding the other disciples, as some teachers of religious law were arguing with them.

15 The crowd watched Jesus in awe as he came toward them, and then they ran to greet him.

16 "What is all this arguing about?" he asked.

17 One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, "Teacher, I brought my son for you to heal him. He can't speak because he is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk.

18 And whenever this evil spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground and makes him foam at the mouth and grind his teeth and become rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it."

19 Jesus said to them, "You faithless people! How long must I be with you until you believe? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

20 So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth.

21 "How long has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father. He replied, "Since he was very small.

22 The evil spirit often makes him fall into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us. Do something if you can."

23 "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes."

24 The father instantly replied, "I do believe, but help me not to doubt!"

25 When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. "Spirit of deafness and muteness," 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 lay there motionless, and he appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd, "He's dead."

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up.

28 Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?"

29 Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer."

## The Doubts That We Face

### Doubt Caused By Intellectual \_\_\_\_\_

14 At the foot of the mountain they found a great crowd surrounding the other disciples, as some teachers of religious law were arguing with them.

### Doubts Caused By \_\_\_\_\_ Circumstances

17 One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, "Teacher, I brought my son for you to heal him. He can't speak because he is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk.

18 And whenever this evil spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground and makes him foam at the mouth and grind his teeth and become rigid....

### Doubts Caused By \_\_\_\_\_ Christians

18 ...So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it."

### Doubts Caused By \_\_\_\_\_ Christianity

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23 "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes."

### Doubts Caused By Incessant \_\_\_\_\_

28 Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?"

James 1:5 If you need wisdom - if you want to know what God wants you to do - ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking.

6 But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

7 People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

8 They can't make up their minds. They waver back and forth in everything they do.

The Defeat Of Our Doubts

Be A Person Of \_\_\_\_\_

Be A Person Of \_\_\_\_\_

Be A Person Of \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 94:19 When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer.