



October 17, 2021

## The Power of Words

*"You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart". (Jeremiah 29:13)*

A great part of faith lies in the intensity with which we want something. When the father cried out in tears, "Lord, help my unbelief!", he was expressing his deepest heart. It may be helpful advice to not worry about someone who wants to believe, because they already believe enough to want to believe more. If they didn't already believe a great deal, they would not even want to believe. That is what God is saying to us through the prophet Jeremiah, faith leads us to seek God with all our heart.

The nature of faith involves love and the desire for good. When the father begged Jesus to heal his son, that was faith—love and desire—in action. When with tears he cried out, "Lord, I believe," he did believe. He had just enough faith to make a fool of himself by coming there in the first place. You know what they were all saying back home: "Yeah, yeah. Old Josh. He took his kid up to see this wild preacher . . ." Yes, he did just that. With a great deal of desperation and tears he cried out, "I believe. Help my unbelief." And Jesus did help, by healing his boy. The cup of the man's faith only had a few drops in it, but you can be sure he left with a whole lot more. All things are possible to him who believes.

We must understand, all relationships and kingdoms work by words, and the first act of faith is to speak. If you have enough faith to speak it, then you may have enough faith to do it. That's why praise is so important. Praise the Lord in every situation; speak it out even if it is a struggle because things are so bad. Think about God's creation, or things he has done for you in the past, and speak praise to him for who he is and what he's done. Try to think of even one thing you can say. And if you try, God will meet you where you are.

You are primarily a mind with a will in a body, and that will is the center of your being. So if you will remember the cry of this desperate father, and follow his example in words and action, you will know the all-sufficient love and power of God. If you do that, proceeding in this way, your heart will gradually be strengthened. This is what Jesus knew when he responded to the devil in the desert; he was in a time of duress, and he used the words of Scripture. He affirmed the truth of those words and He spoke them out.

**Reflect:** *Many people misunderstand faith; it often falls into the category of mystery or superstition. This is especially true for many who go to church regularly, where we hear how important it is to have faith. You may feel some degree of pain or guilt because you think you do not have enough faith. A deeper understanding of faith can help you gain a greater peace and confidence about your own faith and how you are growing in it. Faith, however, is not a mystery. In its most basic aspect, faith is simply reliance upon something in both attitude and action. It may or may not involve reliance upon God.*

*Maybe you have faith in the car you're planning to drive home tonight. If you did not have faith in your car, you might have trouble concentrating on what you're doing, it might cause you to stop and give someone a call to see if they could come and pick you up. My attitude (concern to get home) would affect my action (making the call). Again, faith is reliance (trust/confidence) revealed in attitude and action.*

*(Q) How do you experience faith in very practical and ordinary ways in your life, day in and day out?*