



"Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But <u>if you can do anything</u>, take pity on us and help us. <u>If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes</u>."

-NIV

## No more "if"s, Just believe



The phrase "only if", is one that I'm sure we all said at least once in 2021. "Only if I had enough money, I would have...". "If only I had been able to find the right job, I would have...". As Christians, we should remember that the word "if" creates a mindset by which we arrest our future until a certain condition happens. And all too often, this doubt prevents us from even bringing our request to God in prayer -- doubtful in the purpose of prayer amid the unmet "ifs" of life.

In our verse of the day, a father pondered the same question of <u>if</u>. Bringing his demonpossessed son to Jesus, the father in <u>Mark 9:23</u> wondered if Jesus could do anything to deliver his son. Jesus' refreshing response is recorded in the text; it reads, "*If you can?*' Jesus said, "*Everything is possible for one who believes*." I like how Eugene Peterson puts it in the Message Bible paraphrase, he writes, "Jesus said, "*If? There are no 'ifs' among believers. Anything can happen.*"

This father looked to Jesus, hoping that he had enough power to save his son. Yet, Jesus provided a change in perspective, showing this man that the barrier to our miracle does not reside in the impotence of God's power but the faintness of our faith.

In 2021, many miracles did not happen because of unbelief. In 2021 God wanted to heal many sicknesses, renew torn marriages, restore finances, and even heal mental health issues and addictions -- yet many did not pass the point of <u>if</u>. Let us enter 2022, no longer being held back, wondering if God can do this, or if God can do that. This year, simply align yourself in God's WILL, believe God's WORD, and be amazed.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

To believe and receive, you must shift the way you perceive.

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, please take the word "if" out of my spiritual vocabulary regarding my petitions in prayer and heart posture towards you. Help me to desire the things you love so that my request will be in accordance with your perfect WILL. God, please let 2022 be my year of simply believing you. In Jesus name, I pray, amen.

Your brother in Christ, WNL

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