

He Will Be Great For You In 2017
1/1/2017

Mk 9:20-24

And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. 21 And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 23 And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

We have a great God...unequaled, unlimited, sovereign.

- It was true in 2016 and centuries past, also true in 2017/all time to come. Omnipresent, Omniscient, Omnipotent.
- He will provide for all our physical, emotional & spiritual needs, able to heal physically & emotionally. He will give freedom from sin regardless of how long it has controlled someone, and grant salvation to most evil.
 - He is able to do far more than anyone could imagine.
 - He Will Be Great For You In 2017

Often times we believe He is great in our head but not always in our hearts. Mk 9:20-24, Lk 17:5-6, Heb 11:6

- Unbelief is the exact opposite of faith...trust clearer.
- Lord does not expect perfect faith but does expect us to desire more faith. Ultimately it's God (not human accomplishment) who gives the gift of faith in areas we truly don't own truth of His greatness.
- But we have a personal responsibility to increase our degree of faith in areas where we walk in unbelief. 2 Thes 1:3, Rom 4:19, Mt 8:26, 15:28
- It is not great faith that is required as much as faith in a great God.
 - Faith increases the more we know a person & see a pattern that warrants trust in them to do what they promise & act in ways we can rely on.

To have a great God you must know God greater.

- The primary way to know God deeper is through regular, daily time in Word & prayer. Rom 10:17, Ps 119:11 & 105,
- "Aim at nothing and you'll hit it every time."
 - Bible in year. many plans online, w/smart phone apps.
 - Prayer is a constant battle.
 - We get too comfortable with safe prayers or not asking rather than asking & not receiving.

Knowledge without application is primarily theory. Jam 1:22

- One way to apply scripture & be accountable & encouraged is to be a part of a small group. Heb 10:24-25, Prov 27:6, 1 Cor 12:14

- God has not called us to be Christians in isolation, but in relationship.
 - For some this is a very basic idea, so find a younger believer & help them put these things in place in their daily life.

We are all prone to fall for quick/easy solutions to problems that really require long, hard discipline to conquer...this is the reason diet scams/lottery so successful.

- Transformation occurs in 10,000 little moments, not 1 event. 1 Cor 9:25-27, Lam 3:22-23, Eph 3:20
- In 2017 pursue your joy in JC & by the Lord's grace/strength be faithful to day-by-day & step-by-step time with the Lord & in community with Christians.
 - As you read the Word, & experience God's beauty & faithfulness in community your faith will increase.
 - The Lord will *seem* even greater for you in 2017 than He was in 2016.