

Lord, I Believe—Help My Unbelief

“Lord, I Believe—Help My Unbelief”

Key Texts: Micah 6:8; Ephesians 4:15; Mark 9:14–29; Hebrews 11:6 (NASB 1995)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqLM6SiJ5LQ>

Introduction

- Micah 6:8 tells us what God wants in plain words: **do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.**
 - That call to humility fits the whole life of discipleship.
 - Christians are not finished products; we are **works in progress** under God’s hand.
 - Today’s lesson centers on a prayer every disciple must learn to pray:
“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.” (Mark 9:24)
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I. God’s Call Is a Call to Humble Growth (Micah 6:8; Ephesians 4:15)

“He has told you, O man, what is good...” (Micah 6:8)

- A. Micah’s message transcends time and covenants.
 - God wants a people who walk humbly—before Him and before others.
- B. Paul describes the Christian life as growth.
 - Ephesians 4:15 — “speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him.”
- C. A disciple is, by definition, a learner.
 - Not finished.
 - Not perfected yet.
 - Being shaped into Christ’s likeness over time.

Callout — Application:

If you are not growing, you are not following. Humility accepts that growth is still

needed.

II. Christians Are Forgiven—but Still Under Construction (1 John 2:1; Romans 6:3–4)

- A. When we were baptized, our sins were washed away.
 - We rose to walk in **newness of life**.
- B. God does not want us to sin—but He knows we will stumble.
 - We have an Advocate when we do.
- C. Grace does not excuse sin, but it **meets us in our weakness**.
 - God is patient.
 - Over time, some struggles grow weaker.
 - New challenges may arise.
- D. This is what it means to be a **work in progress**.

Callout — Warning:

Do not confuse patience with permission. Grace trains us—it does not coddle us.

Callout — Encouragement:

If God is patient with you, keep working. Do not quit.

III. The Disciples' Failure Exposed Weak Faith (Mark 9:14–18; Mark 6:7, 13)

- A. The disciples had been given authority before.
 - They had cast out demons.
 - They had healed the sick.
- B. In this case, they failed.
 - The scribes mocked them.
 - The crowd questioned them.
 - The father was desperate.
- C. Past success does not guarantee present faithfulness.
 - Spiritual pride weakens dependence on God.

Callout — Rebuke:

Experience without dependence breeds confidence in self, not trust in God.

IV. “I Do Believe; Help My Unbelief” (Mark 9:19–24)

“Immediately the boy’s father cried out and said, ‘I do believe; help my unbelief.’”

- A. This sounds like a contradiction—but it isn’t.
 - “I believe” — faith is present.
 - “Help my unbelief” — faith is incomplete.
- B. This is honest faith.
 - Not pretending to be stronger than it is.
 - Not hiding doubt.
 - Bringing weakness to Jesus.
- C. The disciples needed to hear this as much as the father.
 - They believed.
 - But not enough to face this challenge.

Callout — Application:

Real faith does not deny weakness. Real faith brings weakness to Christ.

V. Faith Grows Where Prayer Lives (Mark 9:28–29)

“This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer.”

- A. The disciples asked, “Why couldn’t we do it?”
- B. Jesus gave a simple, sharp answer: **prayer**.
- C. Faith is not strengthened by pride, argument, or self-confidence.
 - Faith is strengthened by **dependence on God**.
- D. Prayer is not a last resort.
 - It is the lifeline of growing faith.

Callout — Warning:

A prayerless Christian will always be a powerless Christian.

Callout — Encouragement:

When faith feels small, prayer is where strength begins.

VI. Even Jesus Faced the Cross with Prayer and Trust (Mark 9:30–32; Hebrews 12:2)

- A. Right after this lesson, Jesus spoke again about His death and resurrection.
 - B. The disciples still did not understand.
 - C. Jesus never lost sight of:
 - Where He came from.
 - Where He was going.
 - D. Hebrews 12:2 — He endured the cross **for the joy set before Him**.
 - He faced suffering with faith.
 - He faced death with confidence in the Father.
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Conclusion / Call to Action

- Christians are not finished works—we are **under construction**.
- We believe—but our faith must grow.
- When doubt shows up, do not host it.
- Take it to Jesus in prayer.
- Make this your prayer this week and every week:

“**Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.**”

- Walk humbly.
- Keep growing.
- Keep praying.
- Stay faithful.

Final Call:

Do not pretend your faith is perfect. **Bring your imperfect faith to a perfect Savior.**