

A Leap of Faith?

"I believe; help my unbelief!"

Mark 9:24

Mar 9:17 And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to You, for he has a spirit that makes him mute.

Mar 9:18 And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able."

Mar 9:19 And He answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me."

Mar 9:20 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.

Mar 9:21 And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.

Mar 9:22 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."

Mar 9:23 And Jesus said to him, "'If you can?' All things are possible for one who believes."

Mar 9:24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

Mar 9:25 And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

Mar 9:26 And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead."

Mar 9:27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

Mar 9:28 And when He had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"

Mar 9:29 And He said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

Did Jesus expect this man to take a leap of faith?

Mar 9:23 And Jesus said to him, "'If you can?' All things are possible for one who believes."

Mar 9:24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, **"I believe; help my unbelief!"**

Mar 9:25 And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

He believed some, but still had doubts.

He was not alone. The apostles spent years with Christ and still had doubts.

Mar 16:14 Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining *at the table*; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

Mar 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Mar 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

Leap of faith

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A leap of faith, in its most commonly used meaning, is the act of believing in or accepting something intangible or unprovable, or without empirical evidence. It is an act commonly associated with religious belief as many religions consider faith to be an essential element of piety.

A leap of faith, in its most commonly used meaning, is the act of **believing** in or **accepting** something **intangible** or **unprovable**, or without empirical evidence.

The apostles had plenty of tangible evidence. What was their excuse?

The man was later given evidence by the healing of his son. Jesus helped his unbelief.

Exo 3:1 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Exo 3:2 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.

Exo 3:3 And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."

Exo 3:4 When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

Exo 3:5 Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

Exo 3:6 And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Exo 3:7 Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, Exo 3:8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Exo 3:9 And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

Exo 3:10 Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Exo 3:11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

Exo 3:12 He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

Exo 3:13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

Exo 3:14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Exo 3:15 God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations...

→ Chapter 4

Exo 4:1 Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The LORD did not appear to you.'"

Exo 4:2 The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff."

Exo 4:3 And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it.

Exo 4:4 But the LORD said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail"—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—

Exo 4:5 "that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

Exo 4:6 Again, the LORD said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow.

Exo 4:7 Then God said, "Put your hand back inside your cloak." So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh.

Exo 4:8 "If they will not believe you," God said, "or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign.

Exo 4:9 If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground."

Exo 4:10 But Moses said to the LORD, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue."

Exo 4:11 Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

Exo 4:12 Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."

Exo 4:13 But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else."

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Did Moses take a leap of faith?

Luk 1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

Luk 1:27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

Luk 1:28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

Luk 1:29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

Luk 1:30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Luk 1:31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Luk 1:32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

Luk 1:33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luk 1:34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

Luk 1:35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

Luk 1:36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

Luk 1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God."

Luk 1:38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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Did Mary take a leap of faith?

A leap of faith, in its most commonly used meaning, is the act of believing in or accepting something intangible or unprovable, or without empirical evidence.

We have shown empirical evidence in previous months that the Bible can be reliably accepted as the Word of God.

This evidence can be found in sermons on the web at *www.gbchurchofchrist.com*

We are not expected to take a leap of faith as described by the world.

Our faith starts out small and grows!

Mat 13:31 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field.

Mat 13:32 It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

1Co 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

The seed is the word of God
(Luke 8:11, 1Peter 1:23)

The seed must be planted.

The seed must be watered.

God gives increase.

Helping our unbelief

1. Study the Word of God
(Romans 10:17)
2. Supplement your faith
(2Peter 1:5-8)
3. Be transformed.
(Romans 12:2)

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing,
and hearing through the word of Christ.

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from
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1. Study the Word of God
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2Pe 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,

2Pe 1:6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,

2Pe 1:7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

2Pe 1:8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Virtue – moral excellence, goodness

Doing the right thing, not doing
your own thing.

Following God's rules for human
behavior, not the world's rules.

Pro 14:12 There is a way that seems right
to a man, but its end is the way to death.

1Co 2:12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

1Co 2:13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

1Co 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

When we add virtue to our lives, we become able to accept the things of the Spirit of God.

The “natural person” or worldly person cannot accept or understand spiritual things.

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knowledge – awareness, intellectual
understanding, familiarity

Jer 9:24 ...let him who boasts boast in
this, that he understands and knows me,
that I am the LORD who practices
steadfast love, justice, and righteousness
in the earth. For in these things I delight,
declares the LORD."

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self control – temperance (KJV),
moderation in satisfying natural
appetites and passions

Behave yourself!

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness,

Gal 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against
such things there is no law.

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steadfastness, perseverance (NASB),
patience (KJV)

Continuing in a course of action
without regard to discouragement,
opposition or previous failure.

Persistent determination to adhere
to a plan of direction; insistence.

Mat 10:38 ...whoever does not take his
cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

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godliness - pious, devout, devotion
to God, God fearing

1Pe 1:14 As obedient children, do not be
conformed to the passions of your former
ignorance,

1Pe 1:15 but as He who called you is
holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

1Pe 1:16 since it is written, "You shall be
holy, for I am holy."

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brotherly affection – brotherly
kindness, love for the family of God

Joh 13:34 A new commandment I give to
you, that you love one another: just as I
have loved you, you also are to love one
another.

Joh 13:35 By this all people will know that
you are My disciples, if you have love for
one another."

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love – care, goodwill, not just for the family of God, but for all mankind.

1Co 13:4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant

1Co 13:5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

1Co 13:6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

1Co 13:7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

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Helping our unbelief

1. Study the Word of God
(Romans 10:17)
2. Supplement your faith
(2Peter 1:5-8)
3. Be transformed.
(Romans 12:2)

Rom 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

conformed – to be formed by, to become similar

Jello takes on the shape of the bowl or mold.

transformed – to be formed across, to convert, to become something else

Alchemists attempt to turn lead into gold.

Rom 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of

1Jn 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

1Jn 2:17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Rom 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern

1Co 11:1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Eph 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

1Th 1:6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

1. Do not be conformed to this world.
2. Do be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

That's **2** things! Don't stop at one.

Read your Bible and renew your mind.

Helping our unbelief

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God will give the growth
(1Co 3:6)

We are not expected to take a leap of faith as described by the world.

Our faith starts out small and grows!

You may not have an epiphany.

You may have doubts, but God can take care of that.

Psa 37:5 Commit your way to the
LORD; trust in Him, and He will act.

Will you trust God?