

MARK 09:18 LACK OF POWER

“Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.” Mark 09:18

Why do the servants of God fail? Why do they often lack power? Why does their faith weaken? This experience of the disciples reveals much about spiritual failure and lack of power.

1. A sense that Christ is far away and out of reach makes one ineffective. The indwelling presence and power of Christ are just not felt — not to the extent that they need to be available. In the above situation Christ was absent, but His power was still available. The disciples were just not all that aware of His power.
2. The lack of leadership causes the faith and loyalty of some to weaken. The nine disciples apparently had no leader to stand forth as a Champion of faith and power.
3. Uncompromising unbelief can weaken one’s trust (v. 16). This was true of the teachers of the law, their unbelief and arguing weakened their trust. They distracted and sapped the disciples’ faith and power.
4. An atmosphere of questioning and unbelief often affects the faith and power of a person’s life. A terrible atmosphere of unbelief and distrust in God was created by everyone present: the man’s questionable belief (v. 22), the teachers of the law arguing of (v. 16), the disciples’ lack of faith and power, and the people’s disturbance over the whole affair.

What happens when the servants of God have no power? What are the results of a powerless life and ministry?

1. No power causes embarrassment and shame.
2. No power causes the world to argue and ridicule and belittle.
3. No power argues against the deity (validity) of Christ and God.
4. No power causes the arguing about God and His ability to deliver.

The answer to no power is given by Christ. Power comes

- (1) by seeking and
- (2) by prayer (vv. 28-29). □