

And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. 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.” And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” [Mark 9:21-23 ESV]

I was reading Mark 9 recently and the above verses caught my attention. Preceding these verses, Jesus was transfigured on a mountain, revealing his glory to Peter, James and John. Upon returning to the others, Jesus finds a dispute going on between the disciples and the scribes over the disciple's failed attempt to cast out a demon from a little boy. Jesus intervenes and speaks with the father. The father then pleads with Jesus, ***“If you can do anything...”*** to which Jesus corrects the father by saying, ***If you can!***. What is going on with this statement. Allow me to illustrate with a story.

When I was living in Western Washington, I followed a Twitter account called, “Mount Rainier Watch”. This account was dedicated to mountain sightings, where people would post their pictures of the mountain. I regularly posted pictures of Mount Rainier and enjoyed the pictures that others would post. One particular picture I took was a breathtaking sunset picture of the mountain, so I posted the picture to the Twitter account with the caption: “God’s masterpiece”. Mount Rainier Watch quickly liked my post and then retweeted it for their followers. Later that day I got a comment from someone that said, *“No God here, just a random picture of nature.”* As a pastor this caught my attention. To make this long story shorter, I got into an ill-advised Twitter debate with an atheist. He was trolling me, and I took the bait. But I digress, now on to my point.

All things are possible for one who believes. Outside of faith in Jesus one misses all the many wonderful and beautiful things God does. When someone is healed of a disease, the one who believes sees God, but the one who does not believe sees a random healing. When someone is not healed, the one who believes sees a God who is still in control and knows the bigger picture. The one who does not believe either is angry with God or becomes hopeless, depressed, etc. All things are possible because we have a sovereign God.

And you know what else is possible? Yup, that’s right, your salvation. Salvation is not possible for the one who does not believe in Jesus. But for the one who

does, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, sees an awesome, gracious, merciful God. Brothers and sisters, open your eyes of faith and see an awesome God at work and give Him all the glory. In Jesus name I write this, Amen.