



Pastor Scott Archer 03.01.2020*
Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
www.ccclamesa.com

Faith in the Trenches

Mark 9:14-29

Series: Getting In on the Good News
The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

Central Passage

Mark 9:19–29 (NIV) — **19** "You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." **20** So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. **21** Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. **22** "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." **23** "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." **24** Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" **25** When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." **26** The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." **27** But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. **28** After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" **29** He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

Central Thought: We get in on the Good News when we recognize that our lives are lived in the context of a spiritual battle, and thus make prayer a priority so that we might grow in faith and authority in Christ Jesus.

*Access today's sermon notes via your smartphone or tablet with the **YouVersion** Bible app from LifeChurch.tv. CCChurch Guest Wi-Fi password: central8360church.

In the Trenches of life...

- ❖ Theological debate is a poor substitute for genuine spiritual power. (vs.14-19)

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NIV) — **20** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

Acts 19:15–16 (NIV) — **15** One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" **16** Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

- ❖ The demonic is our ultimate enemy. (vs.20-22)

Ephesians 6:10–12 (NIV) — **10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- ❖ Dynamic faith in Christ is our ultimate hope. (vs.23-27)

Ephesians 6:13–17 (NIV) — **13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- ❖ Prayer is our ultimate weapon. (vs.28-29)

Ephesians 6:18 (NIV) — **18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Central Congregational Church – 8360 Lemon Ave. - La Mesa – 91941 – (619) 466-1261