

God's Servant Conquers

Mark 9:14-28

Main Idea: Jesus is always bigger than any problem we face. When we come to the end of ourselves, Jesus avails Himself to us. He designs our big problems to help us look to Him and see His glory.

What to do when we face a problem bigger than us?

Action #1: Do not get frustrated.

Truth: Frustration is the refuge of a proud heart.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”
(Galatians 5:22-23 [ESV](#))

Truth: Until we are free of frustration, we are not able to be an instrument of God to resolve the big problems that confront us. Our frustration removes us from being a godly influence in hard situations.

Action #2: Lean deeper into Jesus.

Truth: God intends for our problems to be a platform upon which God reveals His love and power to us. Without big problems, we would never know God for the faithful, compassionate and sufficient God that He is. Without big problems, we would not learn to lean upon Him.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5 [ESV](#))

Action #3: Take the problem to Jesus.

Truth: A spiritual dimension lies at the heart of the problems we face. The question is not whether we will find a solution to the problem, but whether we will be brought near to God through them.

“Difficulties afford a platform upon which He can show Himself. Without them we could never know how tender, faithful, and almighty our God is. How much we may and ought to trust Him!” Hudson Taylor

“Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.” (Jeremiah 32:17 [ESV](#))

Action #4: Ask Jesus to strengthen your faith.

Truth: Our problems provide motivation for us to ask God to strengthen our faith. The Lord loves to hear our prayers for our faith to be made strong. He delights to answer our cries for more faith.

“And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” (1 John 5:4 [ESV](#))

Action #5: Pray, pray, and then pray.

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.” (1 John 5:14-15 [ESV](#))

The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.” (Psalm 33:16-17 [ESV](#))