

***Common Enemy #1: Unbelief***  
**(Mark 9:14-29)**  
**Lynn Haven United Methodist Church**

Introduction

Are you ever surprised when something you're praying for comes to pass? Do doubts and fears ever seem to weigh you down? Have you resigned yourself that things will never change or get better? Have you given up hope for some person or situation? In some form or fashion, unbelief is a common enemy we all face. Scripture makes it clear that Satan uses a variety of tactics to disrupt our lives and get us off course spiritually. One of the primary ways Satan uses to disrupt our lives is by attacking our faith. Read Mark 9:14-29.

Discussion

1. Where does faith come from? Read Romans 12:3b. Stronger faith doesn't save us in our battle against unbelief. We are saved by the One in whom we put our faith.
2. Discuss the following adage: faith is not being free of doubts; it is having doubts and believing anyway!
3. Read 2 Cor. 5:7. Many people are filled with unbelief because they have trouble believing in the unseen or think they have to fully understand God before they can trust Him. Why is it so hard for people to believe what they can't see or what they don't understand?
4. In Mark 9, the disciples had witnessed Jesus heal and deliver persons countless times so they thought they knew how to handle this evil spirit. But they failed because they trusted their own abilities rather than God's. Why do people tend to try and rely on their own abilities rather than God's?
5. Many people are convinced God has let them down because the church or other Christians have let them down. Read Mark 9:18, 22b. What can we say to people who feel God has let them down because of the failures of His people?
6. How has a story/character in the Bible helped grow your faith?
7. Discuss a time when an answered prayer confirmed your belief in God.
8. If you have ever fasted, how did it build your faith? If you have not, why have you never fasted?

Conclusion

Unbelief is a common enemy, but it can be overcome as long as we bring our unbelief to Christ. What areas of unbelief do you need to submit to the Lord? What steps will you take to surrender them?