

Reflections

He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you?" How long shall I bear with you?" (Mark 9:19)

The healing of the demon-possessed son immediately follows the incident of Jesus' transfiguration. Peter was so overcome with this mountain top experience that he wanted to build three tabernacles for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. But immediately after this incident we read that the disciples could not cast the demon from a boy. When the disciples asked him why they could not heal the boy, Jesus replied, "This can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:29). He thus meant that it is not enough only to express ones faith but rather faith can take effect only by a very close relationship with God. James goes further by saying that our faith must be made evident by our good deeds (James 2:18).

We must respond to the teachings of Christ by repentance and faith. Repentance is turning from sin while faith is turning to Christ. Faith is putting our complete trust in Jesus. Faith is a gift from God, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this not your own doing, it is the gift of God." (Eph.2:8). Hebrews 11 lists out a list of men and women who in their lives exhibited great faith and were therefore rewarded. One of them, Abraham, heeded to God's command, left behind the comforts of his father's home and set out to a place that he did not know. In our lives when we face challenging situations let us yield completely to God's will and have faith that God will make everything work for our good.

Prayer

Pass me not O gentle Saviour, hear my humble cry; while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by. Amen.