

**Faith Box**  
**Part 1**  
**Mark 9:14-30**

(With Harmony From Matthew 17:14-20 and Luke 9:37-43)



*You should have received a list .....*

**Part 1 Introduction to Faith**

Question? How are dead nouns made into living verbs?

-From the **Oxford Living Dictionary**:

"A rather common pattern is for a word to have two parts of speech.

-In particular, many words function as both nouns and verbs.....

.... Technically, this very common process in English is known as 'conversion': it converts a word into a different part of speech.....

....One particularly common form of conversion is using nouns as verbs.

-This specific process is called 'verbing': converting a static or non-moving, non-acting entity into action,

-whether that action is attitudinal, verbal or seen in our walks of life.

-These conversions are not only what they are but also describing their life as verbs

**When it comes to the noun 'faith',**

-What do we call it when it also becomes a verb?

-We could say we are 'faithing', which sounds somewhat awkward.

-Instead we say: 'believing', but I like 'faithing'

-It directly takes off from the noun faith to action: 'faithing'

**A conversion occurs** when we go from 'faith' to 'faithing' or less awkwardly: 'believing'

-The Greek **noun** for 'faith' is used 244 times, generally translated 'faith'

-The Greek **verb** for 'faith' is used 248 times nearly the same as the 'noun' for faith

-The verb form is generally, but not always translated 'Believe', 'Believed', Believing etc.

-The numbers suggest a balance life of knowing: 'faith' and doing: 'faithing'

**Faith and Faithing** are a huge subject, so let's narrow our focus to that famous faith chapter, Heb. 11

-The noun 'faith' is used 24 times in this chapter alone, always translated 'faith'

-The verb form is only used once in v. 6 where it is translated 'believe'

-BUT I would argue that faithing is taking place every time the writer says **By faith....** so and so did the following ....

-That phrase: 'by faith' is used 18 times in Hebrews 11

-We could by context just as easily use the awkward phrase: **By faithing Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, in Heb. 11:4**

-Abel's noun of faith told him what kind of sacrifice to offer

-It was time for him to offer a sacrifice and his noun 'faith' converted to 'faithing'

-And this was visible in that he offered an excellent blood sacrifice to the Lord

-So 'faithing' goes on in Hebrews 11, 18 times

## How does 'faith' to 'faithing' happen within us?

-Turn to **Romans 6:17**

**17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of *the* sin,**

**-The sin** is the sin of unbelief, and unbelief harbors many deadly sins within its borders!

**v. 17 cont. ... yet you obeyed** (*you were faithing*) **from the heart that form of doctrine** (*the content of the faith you are faithing*) **to which you were delivered.**

-You were delivered from the Doctrine of Unbelief to the Doctrine of faith

**What did they obey?** The Gospel, they received the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ as their savior

-And having done so they were delivered from the doctrine of unbelief ....

-And all the slavery that comes with it to this new doctrine that delivered them from the sin: unbelief

-There is a conversion that has happened to their **Faithless Box** (show both pictures side by side)

-v.18 of Rom. 6 completes the process:

**18 and having been freed from *the* sin, you became bond slaves to *the* righteousness.**

-Paul is looking at the Roman Christians as they are 'now' compared to their position before 'faithing' or 'believing' in Christ.

**If we go back in their time** to their conversion the wording of this verse would look like this:

**Step one:** the doctrine, the teaching, specifically the Gospel was delivered into you

-Into your mind

-Your processing this doctrine, this Gospel

-Unbeknownst to you what you took in was like a living virus called: The Word of God

-This living virus, moving about in your mind, is working in you, stirring you

-It is telling you that freedom is yours just for the 'faithing' or 'believing'

**But believing, making a decision is a matter of the heart not the mind**

-The mind feeds the heart, the heart wills, obeys or disobeys.

-The Roman Christians did so, they obeyed: faithing/believing the noun The Faith of Jesus Christ

**Then they were delivered over** to the doctrine that delivered them

-The corner-box of all of our faith-boxes in our Faith Box is: **Christ Crucified** and all that phrase entails

**Your Faith Box** has now been created

-Before their faith in the gospel there was only an '**Unbelief Box**' or '**Faithless Box**' (show it here)

**Such is our Faith Box** (show it here)

-It is a spiritual software box, no limit therefore to its size or content

-It can contain many boxes within it

-More boxes can be added

-Some boxes are 'unbelief' and can be converted to 'faithing' boxes

-They are first separate and then interrelated while remaining separate

-Our **Faith Box** itself is now Red and White striped on the outside

-We've gone from natural dirty brown

-To stripes of red, reminding us of the blood of Jesus

-And stripes of white, the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ

-Inside the Box we still see the brown lining of our sinful nature wanting to take our former life of unbelief!

## Let's look at one example of 'Faith Box' and 'Faithless Box'

### But we have a question first

- Is 'unbelief' always a sin?
- The English word 'unbelief' is used 12 times in NKJV Bible
- In all but one 'unbelief' is certainly a sin!

### Turn to: **Mark 9:14-30**

- We will supplement our story with additions from **Matthew** and **Luke's** account of the same story

**14** And when He (*Jesus*) came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them.

- He came to them from the Mount of Transfiguration
- He came to them with Peter, James, and John who were with Him on the Mount

**15** Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed,

- coming down from the Mount of Transfiguration was there an afterglow all about Him , and thus they were amazed?
- Just asking!

**v.15 cont. ....** and all the people running to Him, greeted Him.

**16** And He asked the scribes (*who were amongst the multitudes*), "What are you discussing with them (*the larger group of disciples that did not go up on the Mount with Jesus*)?"

**17** Then (*interrupting the conversation*), one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher,

- Matthew adds here: **came to Him a man kneeling down and said to Him Lord**
- Why the difference?
- He calls Him 'Teacher' in Mark because He answers the question of the dispute between the Scribes and His Disciples
- He calls Him 'Lord' and knells down to Him in Matthew in worship
- Because this dispute revolves around his tormented son who needs 'The Lord' to help him

### He answers the question as .....

**v.17 cont. ...** I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.

- In v.25 Jesus tells us more about this spirit: "**Deaf and dumb spirit**,
- Meaning that the boy not only could not speak but he could not hear as well!

**18** And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to your disciples *instead .... that they should cast him out;*

- Because you Jesus were not around
- And this father probably heard of the success the seventy disciples had that He sent out on a short missionary journey....
- They came back from it and said this to Jesus in **Luke 10:17** Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "**Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.**"

**v.18 cont. ...** they (*your disciples*) were not able.

**19** He answered him and said, "O faithless (*an adj. it describes them, the multitude, not His disciples*) and Matt. adds: '**perverse**' (*a verbal adj.*) **generation** (*this particular one*), **how long shall I be with you?**

**The answer is this:** He will be with them until He is buried, they will not see Him in Resurrection form

**v.19 cont. ... How long shall I bear with you?**

**The answer is this:** Until 70 AD, when Jerusalem and the temple are destroyed along with a million plus Jews

**-He is not speaking of His Disciples** but of the multitude which consisted of two groups:

-The Scribes from the religious leaders (John calls them collectively 'The Jews') plus the people in general

-They both comprise this specific generation, this multitude

-The both together are described as a 'faithless' and a 'perverse' generation

**v.19 cont. ... Bring him, Luke adds here your only son, to Me."**

**20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he (the demon thru the boy) saw Him, immediately the spirit (they are called three things in the NT: demons, devils, or spirits, often with 'unclean') convulsed him (put him into an epileptic like seizure), and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.**

**21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.**

**22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him.**

**But if You ....**

-the failure of His disciples has left this father in doubt about Jesus' ability

**v.22 cont. ... if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."**

**23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe (verb), all things are possible to him who believes (verb)."**

**24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe (verb); help my the unbelief (noun)!"**

-my specific unbelief

**25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"**

**26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead."**

-I wonder if all there thought Jesus had failed, considering their state of unbelief.

**27 Luke the physician adds here: Jesus healed the boy. Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose Luke adds: He gave him back to his father, and they were all astonished (amazed) at the majesty of God.**

**Why were they amazed?**

-He had cast out demons many times before this.

-The sons of the Pharisees also cast out demons

-But no one had cast out a deaf and dumb demon before Jesus did

-This specific 'amazement' is first expressed in **Matt. 12: 22-27**

-Which you can read on your own

**At this point we need go to Matthew 17:19-21... turn there**

**19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" 20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of you're the (specific) unbelief (noun); for assuredly, I say to you, if you have (or possess) faith (noun) as a mustard seed (it does not have to be a specific size, you just have to have it), you will say to this (very large) mountain or obstacle, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. 21 However, this kind of demon does not go out except by prayer and fasting."**

-meaning dumb and deaf spirits that you cannot communicate with

-our direct words to the spirit are of no avail, must be exorcised by us thru prayer and fasting to the Father

-These restrictions do not apply to the Son of God

**Is Jesus rebuking them for not exercising faith?**

Or

**Is Jesus pointing that there is something lacking in their Faith Box?**

-We will answer this question at the end

**Where is our Faith Box found?**

**-Heb. 3:12** Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

-Before faith in Christ your heart's 'Faith Box' was an 'Unbelief Box'

-It Looked like this: (show both side by side)



Faithless Box



**Let's Draw Some Lessons From Our Story**

**1-Let's answer our question first:**

**Did Jesus rebuking them for not exercising faith?**

Or

**Is Jesus pointing that there is something lacking in their Faith Box?**

-While Jesus rebuked the faithlessness and the perverseness of this Generation, did He rebuke His disciples?

-No ....

-He identified their unbelief as ignorance or not knowing how to deal with this kind of demon possession

-He had not taught them how to deal with this kind of demon..

-It is hard to 'believe' or to be 'faithing' what is not in our Faith Box

-So it was with the Disciples here

**2-Had Jesus Ever Rebuked their Unbelief? Yes**

**Mark 16:14** Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief (noun, their wrong faith) and hardness or obstinacy of heart (keeps the lid on the box where faith wants to get inside), **because** they did not believe (verb) those who had told them they had seen Him after He had risen.

-They had the faith but refused to believe or be 'faithing' that He had risen

**Often there are actual 'unbeliefs' in our Faith Box along with what is the true 'faith'**

**Rom. 4:20** He (Abraham) did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief (noun, what he did not know), but was strengthened in the faith (that he had), giving glory to God,

### 3-Does the unbelief in our box have to be permanent? No ....

- Rom. 11:23b** ... And they *the Jews* also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.
- Unbelief can change, it can be removed! Listen to Paul
- 1 Tim. 1:13** although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in, *from a box full of unbelief*.

#### 1-Our story in Mark, in often a snapshot of our story

- The only one in the story that is 'faithing' is the father ... **I believe**
- But he cries out in pure honesty as he knells before His Lord and says: **help my unbelief**

**This word 'help'** is used 8 times and every time the help has come from God

- So let us in all honesty with this father say: **'help my unbelief'**

**This Father was 'faithing'** by coming and looking for Jesus

- But the failure of Jesus' disciples nurtured unbelief in him
- But his faith was not totally overshadowed by the failure of Jesus' Disciples
- Teacher, Lord I believe, I still believe in you but help my unbelief

### 4-Reviewing our Faith Box based on the List before you

- Are we willing to know!
- Willing to have ears to hear!
- This call is for those who have the faith box
- All believers have a measure of unbelief in their faith box
- All believers have faith boxes that need correcting, clarifying
- Paul said this to Believing Timothy in **2Tim. 3:16**
  - 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,**
  - 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**
- The Scriptures bring 'profit' to the believer by teaching of doctrine, reproof, correction of what we may believe already,
- Instruction for living out what we believe righteously: 'faithing' is the word

**In Part 2 of Faith Box (show faith box)** we will Look at other areas of the Disciples Faith Box that were either incomplete or needed correcting!