

Luke 9:38

And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child.

Ed and little Eddie live in the same building in which I live. They are father and son. They are inseparable. Eddie is about nine or ten years old and unfortunately lost his mother in death. Ed, his dad, is his sole caretaker, his protector, the lover of his soul. Last year, I remember well the anguished look in this fathers face, with little Eddie standing next to him, as he related to me how he had no one to pick up his son from school and care for him till he got off work. He was distraught and appeared to be at his wits end. Thankfully, the Lord provided a solution for their dilemma. In this account recorded in God's Word, we see another father who was at his wits end, in severe anguish of soul and deepness of distress. A father who dearly loved his son more than life itself. Like little Eddie, this was his only son. In the gospel of Mark we read, *And when he came to his disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them. And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him. And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them? And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him...* How can anyone look upon this scene and not be moved. This loving father could not prevent the torture and misery that was inflicted on his son, his only son. Like the Gadarene possessed by demons in the mountainous tombs, his son, ever since a child, was a recipient of Satan's hatred and wrath. In a desperate cry for help this grieving father petitions the Son of God, *"but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us."* *Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.* May we witness to the struggling response that sprung from deep within the honest heart of this father, *And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.* Friend, are you trusting the Lord but yet still struggle with unbelief. Do not despair or be faint of heart. Why not honestly call out to the Friend of all friends, and like this father pray, Lord, *I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*

