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Where Is Your Power Source? . . . Mark 9:14-29

Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her in Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ--

HAVE YOU EVER become frustrated by power cords nowadays? Every gadget we have seems to need its own power cord. Sometimes we hear a loud pop--we tried but failed!

IN TODAY'S READING we see how different people plugged into the wrong power source. The Jews thought their power came from being Jews. In our text some of the disciples tapped into the wrong power source. They were unable to help a man who had a demon-possessed son.

TO SET THE stage of our story today, we need to realize that Jesus had just been up on the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James and John. **It was a tremendous experience for those three disciples.** They saw Jesus transfigured before them. ***The bright and clear light of God was revealed as Christ shined with glory and power.*** Here was a brief glimpse of the divinity and power of the Son of God.

WHEN THEY CAME down the mountain, they saw the other disciples surrounded by a crowd. There was arguing going on. Jesus asks what the argument is about.

A MAN IN the crowd steps forward and says, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked the disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." {Mark 9:17-18]

JESUS RESPONDS SAYING "O faithless generations, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." {Mark 9:19]

IT WASN'T THAT long before this, that the Lord had given the 12 disciples power and authority over demons. Jesus had sent them out on a special mission trip. He sent them forth into the towns and villages, and they went forth and not only proclaimed the Gospel, **but they also successfully drove out demons.** ***It was evident the disciples had received the power of Christ.***

BUT IN THIS one case, they had a power failure and they could not drive the demon from the boy. Afterwards, they asked Jesus privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" And Jesus replies, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer." {Mark 9:29}

IT SEEMS LIKE the disciples were trying to use the wrong power source.
Perhaps they had taken the power of Christ for granted.

THEY NO LONGER depended prayerfully on the LORD JESUS. *Perhaps they started to reply on their own power and strength.* Perhaps they thought that once *you receive the power of Christ,* it will always be there **for you,** no matter what.

WHAT MARTIN LUTHER means is that faith life is an ongoing process. We need to stay connected to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We can't unplug our **spiritual life** from the right power source--***his cross and resurrection.***

JESUS ASKED THE father, "How long has this been happening to him?" He replies, "From childhood. But it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." {Mark 9:21-22] And Jesus said to him, "If you can? All things are possible for one who believes." {Mark 9:23-24]

AND IMMEDIATELY THE father cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" {Mark 9:24] ***But Jesus does not have any power failure.***

"Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful." {Psalm 116:5]

A Spiritual Writing Meditation
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May Loren's love and passion for God's word, shine through his words as he encourages all of us to grow in grace. Please enjoy ***The Faith Focus****; a series featuring spiritual writings from Loren.*