

## MESSAGE NOTES

September 27, 2009

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# The Face of Love

## Part 2 First Serve

**Mark 9:14-29 (NIV)** <sup>14</sup>When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. <sup>15</sup>As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

<sup>16</sup>"What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.

<sup>17</sup>A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.

<sup>18</sup>Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

<sup>19</sup>"O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

<sup>20</sup>So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood," he answered. <sup>22</sup>"It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

<sup>23</sup>"If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

<sup>24</sup>Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

<sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

<sup>26</sup>The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead."

<sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

<sup>28</sup>After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

<sup>29</sup>He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

**A.C.T.S.** is an acronym for a model of prayer that offers to God our Adoration, Confession, [Thanksgiving](#) and Supplication. It is often difficult to pray, especially for those we find it difficult to love. Using the ACTS model for prayer can help as a model to pray.

### 1. ADORATION:

Begin the prayer by adoring God. Praise and worship HIM. This is a time for telling God what He means to you and how much you love Him. This is not the same as Thanksgiving where you thank God for all He has done, but a time to tell God how magnificent/holy/glorious He is, to focus solely on Him, to tell Him all the wondrous [beautiful](#) things about Him you love.

### 2. CONFESSION:

This is when we confess our all our sins to God. Unconfessed sin creates a barrier between you and God and can hinder your prayers. Begin by confessing your sin to Him with an apologetic and repentant heart (to repent is to stop and turn 180 degrees from). Ask God to bring to mind any sins you may not be aware of so that you may repent and confess. (Psalm 139:23-24) Pray that God would reveal to you any sin against those you identified as Difficult To Love (DTL) or any others so that you can confess and repent.

### 3. THANKSGIVING:

This is where we count our blessings, thanking and praising God for all He has given us and done for us in life. You may begin with the basics such as family, friends, food, shelter, safety, jobs, health, healing. Thank Him for hearing your prayers and for forgiving your sins, for His all-consuming love for you. Specifically thank Him for bringing this DTL person into your life. Thank Him for the difficult situations and circumstances which have allowed you to draw closer to Him and rely less on yourself.

### 4. SUPPLICATION (Intercession):

This is the phase of prayer where we come to the Father asking God to supply needs for ourselves and others. Be specific in your prayers. For example, instead of asking for God to fix this person or take them away from your life, ask Him to humble and reveal sin to all parties involved; to soften hearts; pray for Godly wisdom in how to respond. If you don't know exactly what to pray for, ask God to lead you in prayer. He will.