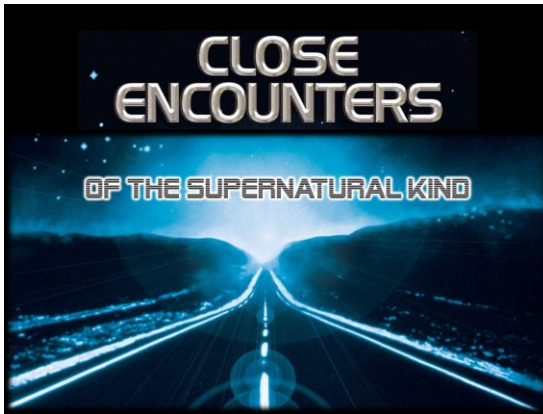


Close Encounters of the Supernatural Kind

Part 6: Casting Out the Evil Spirit



*Dr. Jeff King
Christ Lutheran Church
Southwick, Massachusetts*

Casting Out the Evil Spirit

An Eyewitness Account ...

Jesus said, "Bring the boy to me." So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth. "How long has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father.

He replied, "Since he was very small. The evil spirit often makes him fall into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us. Do something if You can."

"What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Everything is possible if a person believes."

The father instantly replied, "I do believe, but help me overcome my doubts!"

When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit ... "I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!" Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy lay there motionless, and he appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up. (Mark 9:20-27)

How Can I Have More Faith?

1. You _____ for it.

The father instantly replied, "I do have faith. Help me have even more." (Mark 9:24 CEV)

Jesus said, "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in ..." (Revelation 3:20)

2. You _____ it.

"If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (Jesus) by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

3. You _____ upon it.

"Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (James 2:17)

A Final Thought

Two-thousand years ago, after Jesus ordered the evil spirit out of the boy, the boy could only lie there feeling empty and dead.

So Jesus reached out His hand and took the hand of the boy. Then He gently helped him to his feet.

In the future, if you ever feel like your faith is dead and lifeless, remember this ... At that very moment, Jesus is going to be reaching out His hand to you.

Take His hand. You will not be alone. Pray: "Lord, I believe. Help me overcome my doubts."

As you pray, your doubts will be shrinking and your faith will be growing. Ask for it, accept it, and act upon it.

***"Everything
is possible if a person believes."
(Mark 9:23)***