

## 22Z05 May Student Update

Hello my friends. I hope everyone is doing well today.

First, order of business. The school year is either done or just about done for most of you students. Congratulations, another school completed. You survived, congratulations. I'm very proud of all of you.

Those of you that have graduated or will be shortly graduating, Congratulations. This is a great achievement. I'm very proud of each of you.

Last order of business. If you are planning to return to our program next year. Make sure all your grades, letters and other requirements are submitted. All requirements must be submitted by August 1. Assessments will be due September 1. will not be renewed for next year. These are firm deadlines. If you have a reason for missing these deadlines, you need to email me before the deadline expires. Late submission without a Late Submission Requests (LSR) will be dropped from the program. I can make not any exceptions.

Enough of business.

I want to read you a story from the Gospel of Mark today. Mark 9:14-27(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>“You 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 one 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 impure 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.*

This story has taken on a special meaning for me this past year. After I was released from the hospital after my near death experience with COVID-19, I was stricken by kidney stones. If you don't know about kidney stones they are extremely painful. You

struggle to breath, everything hurts. I was in agony. My stones were large, large enough it was impossible for my body to pass them. I suffered in this crazy pain for about twelve (12) hours, six (6) of those hours were in the emergency room.

This story was running through my head over and over again while I was suffering. I found great comfort in the father's response to Jesus. *"Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"* It makes me smile still today. When you struggle with things in life and we all have struggles. We all struggle to believe God's promises. We struggle to trust God will take care of our needs. We simply struggle to trust. I think this father's words are probably the most powerful prayer in all the Bible. I want to believe Father God, PLEASE help me overcome my unbelief. Help me to believe you Lord Jesus. Help Me.

This is an ultimate humble cry to our Father God. I know you alone Father God can do all things. Help me, I'm broken. I'm frustrated. I'm scared. I'm... you can put whatever that emotion you have here. Help me overcome my unbelief.

I pray this prayer in some form nearly every day. I trust God with everything. Everything I have. Everything I am. Every moment. Every situation. Every conflict. Every challenge. I know God has everything I need and will help me. Lord Jesus, help me overcome my unbelief.

**Let's Pray. Father God, Thank You God for everything. Every experience, every person. I am thankful for everything. And help me not to worry but instead focus on you. Put you first in everything we do. I know you are with us when we face challenges and I will trust you, Lord.**

**I pray for each student, that they trust you, Lord. I pray they pray to you Lord to help their unbelief. Help them to surrender to You and let you guide their paths and decisions. Help each of us to mold our hearts and desires to Yours Father. And I pray your will be done here on earth. I know you are at work in their lives. Help us to see you, Lord Jesus.**

**I pray this in your name, Lord Jesus Amen**

Again, Students. I am so glad we have this time together. No matter what we face, I know our God is Bigger and Stronger than anything we will face in this life. So don't fear anything in this world. I Love you and I am proud of you. God's Blessings.

Until next time. I pray for Joy, Hope, Peace and Assurance from God for each of you. God bless.

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