

2026 Word of the Year

Echo Church | Year 1 Week 1 | January 4, 2026 | Rich Saunders Jr.

“It’s Possible” | Mark 9:23-24 NKJV

14 And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them.

15 Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to *Him*, greeted Him.

16 And He asked the scribes, “What are you discussing with them?”

17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.

18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

19 He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.”

20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

21 So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?”
And he said, “From childhood.

22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

23 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes.”

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

Word of the Year: “It’s Possible”

Scripture of the Year: Mark 9:23 (NKJV) – “*If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.*”

Introduction: From the Mountaintop to the Mess

Family, let me set the scene for you as we step into 2026. Jesus has just come down from the mountaintop. He’s been transfigured in glory, His face shining like the sun, His clothes dazzling white. Peter, James, and John have just witnessed something so powerful, so divine, that they don’t even have the words to describe it. It’s a mountaintop moment—literally and spiritually.

But as soon as Jesus comes down, He’s met with chaos. There’s a commotion, a disagreement, and a whole lot of noise. Isn’t that just like life? You have a mountaintop experience—God shows you His glory, you feel His presence, you’re on fire for Him—and the moment it’s over, chaos is waiting for you at the bottom of the mountain.

Jesus asks, “*What’s going on?*” And in verse 18, we find out: a father brought his son to the disciples, hoping they could cast out a demon, but they couldn’t do it. The father is desperate, the disciples are powerless, and the crowd is confused.

Taking Our Issues to the Wrong People

Let’s pause right here, because this is where a lot of us get stuck. The father brought his issue to the disciples, but they didn’t have the power to fix it. And isn’t that what we do sometimes? We take our problems to the wrong people. We go to people who have a title but no power. We go to people who look the part but can’t play the role.

Just because someone is in the room doesn’t mean they’re the one who can bring the breakthrough.

A Faithless Generation

Then Jesus says something that cuts deep: “*O faithless generation.*” Family, this is not just a rebuke for the crowd back then—it’s a word for us today. We have become a faithless generation.

We only have faith when it’s convenient. We have faith when we want the job, the relationship, or the healing. And don’t get me wrong—there’s nothing wrong with having faith for those things. But when that becomes the ceiling of our faith, we’ve missed the point. Faith is not the hand that rubs the genie bottle. Faith moves. Faith transforms.

The Silent Struggle

Now look at the boy. The Bible says he had a mute spirit. He couldn’t communicate. And when the spirit showed up, it would throw him to the ground, cause him to foam at the mouth, and have seizures. This is a picture of the church today. We’ve got a lot of muted believers. The enemy has silenced us with fear, doubt, and insecurity. But I came to tell you: **It’s time to unmute.**

Whatever you’ve been praying for, whatever you’ve been dreaming about, whatever you’ve been waiting on—God is saying, “*I’m ready to move. Are you ready to believe?*”

Let’s dive into three life-changing truths from this text that will help us walk in the fullness of this Word for 2026.

Point 1: Faith Unlocks the Impossible

Key Verse: Mark 9:23 – “*If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.*”

Jesus makes it plain: **faith is the currency of the Kingdom.** It’s not about what you can do; it’s about what you believe God can do. The father in this story brought his son to Jesus because he had exhausted every other option. He was desperate, but desperation isn’t enough—faith is what moves the hand of God.

We see this generation struggling because they limit faith to their own understanding. But real faith defies logic. It steps out when the boat is sinking. It speaks to the mountain when the mountain looks permanent.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV):** “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith is not wishful thinking; it’s confidence in God’s ability to do what He said He would do.
- **Matthew 17:20 (NKJV):** “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” Even small faith in a big God can produce big results.

“Faith doesn’t deny the facts; it defies the finality of the facts. What looks impossible to you is just an opportunity for God to show off.”

Application: In 2026, stop measuring your faith by how you feel and start measuring it by who God is. Faith isn’t about having all the answers; it’s about trusting the One who does.

Point 2: Honest Prayers Bring Breakthroughs

Key Verse: Mark 9:24 – *“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”*

The father’s prayer is one of the most honest and vulnerable moments in Scripture. Remember, he was disappointed. He had already gone to the disciples, and they failed him. So when he says to Jesus, “*If you can do anything,*” that “if” came from a place of hurt.

But here is the beauty of this moment: he didn’t let his disappointment stop him from being real. He cried out, *“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”* And here’s the good news: **God doesn’t need perfect faith to perform a perfect miracle.** He just needs you to be real with Him.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Psalm 34:18 (NKJV):** “The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.” God is drawn to your honesty, not your perfection.
- **James 5:16 (NKJV):** “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” Honest, fervent prayers have the power to shift atmospheres and change outcomes.

“God can work with your doubts, but He can’t work with your denial. Honesty is the bridge between where you are and where God wants to take you.”

Application: In 2026, don’t fake it with God. Bring Him your fears, your doubts, and your questions. He’s not intimidated by your honesty; He’s moved by it. Don’t let disappointment silence your prayers.

Point 3: Prayer and Fasting Empower the Supernatural

Key Verse: Mark 9:29 – *“This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”*

Jesus reveals a critical truth here: **some breakthroughs require more than belief—they require spiritual discipline.** The disciples couldn’t cast it out because they were operating on past power, not present connection.

Prayer and fasting are not about manipulating God; they’re about positioning yourself to receive what He’s already promised. It’s about tuning your frequency to Heaven so that when you speak, things move. The mute spirit had to leave because Jesus was connected to the Source.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Isaiah 58:6 (NKJV):** "*Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?*" Fasting breaks chains and opens doors.
- **Matthew 6:6 (NKJV):** "*But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*" Prayer connects you to the power of God in private so you can walk in victory in public.

"Prayer and fasting don't change God's mind; they change your capacity to receive what God has already decided to do."

Application: In 2026, commit to a lifestyle of prayer and fasting. When you feel stuck, when the mountain won't move, when the answer seems delayed—press in. There's power in the secret place that will unlock the supernatural in your life.

Conclusion: Step Into the Possible

Family, as we step into 2026, I need you to grab hold of this truth: "**It's Possible.**"

Whatever you've been believing for, whatever you've been waiting on, God is saying, "*If you can believe, I can do it.*"

- Stop taking your issues to the wrong people.
- Stop being a faithless generation.
- **Faith unlocks the impossible.**
- **Honest prayers bring breakthroughs.**
- **Prayer and fasting empower the supernatural.**

This year, don't settle for what's comfortable. Don't shrink back because of what seems impossible. Stop letting the enemy mute your voice. Open your mouth and declare the Word of God.

"The impossible is not a barrier; it's an invitation. God is calling you to believe bigger, pray bolder, and live stronger in 2026. The question is: Will you step into the possible?"

Let's declare it together: "**It's Possible!**"