

HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE Filled Up and Poured Out – Part 15

Mark 9:14-29

January 6, 2013

Lies From the Past that Cripple Us Today:

- **Your life will (always) be like this.**

Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. – Mark 9:21-22

- **No one can really help you.**

"He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. So I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn't heal him." – Matthew 17:15-16 NLT

- **God doesn't (care about) you or your situation.**

In times of trouble I pray to the Lord; all night long I lift my hands in prayer, but I cannot find comfort. When I think of God, I sigh; when I meditate, I feel discouraged. – Psalm 77:2-3 GNB

- **There is no point in trying to change because you are doomed to fail.**

Can an Ethiopian change the color of his skin? Can a leopard take away its spots? Neither can you start doing good, for you have always done evil. – Jeremiah 13:23 NLT

Embracing Hope for a Brighter Future:

1. **You must (believe) that your (future) can be very different from your past.**

"Anything is possible if a person believes." – Mark 9:23b NLT

2. **You must be willing to (ask for) and (accept) help.**

"The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can." – Mark 9:22 NLT

3. **You must trust in (God's power) to change you.**

“What do you mean, ‘If I can?’” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.” The father instantly cried out, “I do believe, but help me to overcome by unbelief!” – Mark 9:23-24 NLT

- 4. You must embrace (new habits) which allow for long-term change.**

After He went into a house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” And He told them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.” – Mark 9:28-29 HCSB