

# Luke 9:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.

## Analysis

**And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.** The phrase **as he was yet a coming** (etι de proserchomenou autou, ἔτι δὲ προσερχομένου αὐτοῦ) indicates the demon attacked as the boy approached Jesus—a final violent assault. The verb *errhēxen* (ἔρρηξεν, "threw down" or "dashed down") and *synesparaxen* (συνεσπάραξεν, "tore" or "convulsed violently") describe the demon's fury. Satan rages most violently when deliverance is imminent—despairing malice.

Jesus' response was authoritative: *epetimēsen* (ἐπετίμησεν, "rebuked")—the same verb used to calm the storm (8:24), indicating sovereign command. He addressed **the unclean spirit** (τὸν pneumatι τὸν akathartὸν, τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀκαθάρτῳ)—morally impure, defiling. Jesus **healed the child** (iāsato ton paida, iάσατο τὸν παιδα)/addressing both demonic and physical damage—and **delivered him again to his father** (apedōken auton τῷ patri autou, ἀπέδωκεν αὐτὸν τῷ πατρὶ αὐτοῦ). The verb *apedōken* (gave back) echoes Elijah restoring the widow's son (1 Kings 17:23)—Jesus as greater than Elijah.

## Historical Context

The demon's violent final attack as the boy approached Jesus reflects spiritual warfare reality—Satan opposes most fiercely when deliverance nears. Ancient

exorcisms often involved prolonged rituals, but Jesus' rebuke was immediate and complete. Mark's account adds that Jesus commanded, "Come out of him, and enter no more into him" (Mark 9:25)—permanent deliverance. The phrase "delivered him again to his father" emphasizes restoration—the boy was returned to family and community, whole and free. This foreshadows Christ's greater work—delivering captives from Satan's power and restoring them to the Father (Colossians 1:13, Luke 15:24). Early Christians facing demonic opposition took courage—Jesus' authority is absolute and final.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. Why does Satan often attack most violently when deliverance is nearest, and how should this prepare Christians for spiritual warfare?
2. What does Jesus' immediate, complete exorcism teach about His authority compared to elaborate human rituals and techniques?
3. How does Jesus 'delivering him again to his father' point to the gospel's ultimate purpose of reconciling us to God the Father?

## Interlinear Text

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ἔτι δὲ προσερχομένου αὐτοῦ ἔβρηξεν αὐτοῦ τὸ  
yet And a coming him down him G3588  
G2089 G1161 G4334 G846 G4486 G846

δαιμόνιον καὶ συνεσπάραξεν· ἐπετίμησεν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς  
the devil and tare rebuked And G3588 Jesus  
G1140 G2532 G4952 G2008 G1161 G2424

τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀκαθάρτῳ καὶ ἰάσατο τὸν παῖδα καὶ  
G3588 spirit G3588 the unclean and healed G3588 the child and  
G4151 G169 G2532 G2390 G3816 G2532

ἀπέδωκεν αὐτοῦ τῷ πατρὶ αὐτοῦ  
again him G3588 father him  
G591 G846 G3962 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 7:15** (Parallel theme): And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

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