

Session #11: **Faith is Required for Life, Life, Life!**

Faith is Required For Eternal Life, Abundant Life, and Life-Giving!

Thought Questions:

- Do you demand to completely understand or be able to rationalize God's instruction (or "see" with your understanding), before you act on it?
- If you demand complete understanding and proof first, you are demanding that you refuse operate in faith!

Three Foundational Verses on Faith

- a) **John 20:29 (NLT)** ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who **believe** without seeing me."
- b) **Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)** ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—
- c) **2 Corinthians 5:7 (NLT)** ⁷ **For we live by believing (faith-NIV) and not by seeing.**

It seems that the biggest thing Jesus rebuked in His followers, was a lack of faith, and it was reptative.

Miracles of Jesus:

1. Water to Wine: Jesus turns water into wine at a wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11).
2. Official's Son: Heals a royal official's son at Capernaum from a distance (John 4:46-54).
3. Demonic Expulsion: Drives out an evil spirit from a man in the Capernaum synagogue (Mark 1:21-27, Luke 4:31-36).
4. Peter's Mother-in-Law: Heals Simon Peter's mother-in-law of a high fever (Matthew 8:14-15, Mark 1:29-31, Luke 4:38-39).
5. Evening Healings: Heals many sick and oppressed people throughout the evening (Matthew 8:16-17, Mark 1:32-34, Luke 4:40-41).
6. Miraculous Catch of Fish: Prompts a massive catch of fish on the Sea of Galilee (Luke 5:1-11).
7. Cleansing a Leper: Heals a man with leprosy (Matthew 8:1-4, Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-14).
8. Centurion's Servant: Heals a Roman centurion's paralyzed servant at Capernaum (Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10).
9. The Paralytic: Heals a paralyzed man lowered through a roof in Capernaum (Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26).
10. Withered Hand: Heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:9-13, Mark 3:1-5, Luke 6:6-10).
11. Widow's Son: Raises the widow's son from the dead in Nain (Luke 7:11-17).
12. Blind and Mute: Heals a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute (Matthew 12:22, Luke 11:14).
13. Calming the Storm: Jesus calms the raging storm on the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25).
14. Gerasene Demoniac: Casts out a legion of demons into a herd of pigs (Matthew 8:28-34, Mark 5:1-20, Luke 8:26-39).
15. Jairus's Daughter & Hemorrhaging Woman: Raises Jairus's daughter from the dead and heals a woman with a bleeding disorder (Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 5:21-43, Luke 8:40-56).
16. Two Blind Men: Restores sight to two blind men (Matthew 9:27-31).
17. Mute Demoniac: Casts a demon out of a mute man (Matthew 9:32-34).
18. The Lame Man: Heals a disabled man at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-9).
19. Feeding the 5,000: Feeds thousands with five loaves and two fish (Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-15).
20. Walking on Water: Jesus walks on the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:16-21).
21. Gennesaret Healings: Heals all who touch the edge of his cloak at Gennesaret (Matthew 14:34-36, Mark 6:53-56).
22. Syrophenician Woman's Daughter: Heals a Gentile woman's demon-possessed daughter (Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30).
23. Deaf and Mute Man: Heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment (Mark 7:31-37).
24. Feeding the 4,000: Feeds a large crowd with seven loaves and a few fish (Matthew 15:32-39, Mark 8:1-9).
25. Blind Man at Bethsaida: Restores sight to a blind man in stages (Mark 8:22-26).
26. Blind from Birth: Heals a man born blind in Jerusalem (John 9:1-12).
27. Boy with Epilepsy: Delivers a boy from a demon that caused seizures (Matthew 17:14-21, Mark 9:14-29, Luke 9:37-43).
28. Temple Tax: Causes a fish to produce a coin for the temple tax (Matthew 17:24-27).
29. Woman with a Crippling Spirit: Heals an 18-year-old crippling condition on the Sabbath (Luke 13:10-17).
30. Man with Dropsy: Heals a man suffering from severe swelling on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1-6).
31. The Ten Lepers: Heals ten lepers on the way to Jerusalem (Luke 17:11-19).
32. Raising of Lazarus: Raises Lazarus from the dead at Bethany (John 11:1-44).
33. Blind Bartimaeus: Restores sight to the blind beggar Bartimaeus (Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 10:46-52, Luke 18:35-43).

34. Cursing the Fig Tree: Commands a fruitless fig tree to wither (Matthew 21:18-22, Mark 11:12-14).
35. Healing Malchus's Ear: Heals the severed ear of the High Priest's servant during his arrest (Luke 22:50-51).
36. Resurrection of Jesus: Jesus resurrects from the dead (Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-10).
37. Second Miraculous Catch: Provides a miraculous catch of fish post-resurrection (John 21:1-11).

Six Passages Recording Jesus Rebuking The Disciples Lack of Faith:

- **Matthew 8:23–27 (NLT) *Jesus Calms the Storm* (miracle #13)**

²³ Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. ²⁴ Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” ²⁶ Jesus responded, “**Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!**” Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm. ²⁷ The disciples were amazed. “Who is this man?” they asked. “Even the winds and waves obey him!”

- **Matthew 13:54–58 (NLT)** ⁵⁴ He returned to Nazareth, his hometown. When he taught there in the synagogue, everyone was amazed and said, “Where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles?” ⁵⁵ Then they scoffed, “He’s just the carpenter’s son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. ⁵⁶ All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?” ⁵⁷ And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. Then Jesus told them, “**A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family.**” ⁵⁸ And so he did only a few miracles there because of their unbelief. (they missed the miracles they could have had by unbelief)

- **Matthew 14:22–33 (NLT) *Jesus Walks on Water* (miracle #20)**

²² Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. ²³ After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. ²⁴ Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. ²⁵ About three o’clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, “It’s a ghost!” ²⁷ But Jesus spoke to them at once. “**Don’t be afraid,**” he said. “**Take courage. I am here!**” ²⁸ Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.” ²⁹ “**Yes, come,**” Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted. ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “**You have so little faith,**” Jesus said. “**Why did you doubt me?**” ³² When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³ Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.

- **Matthew 16:5–12 (NLT) *Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees* (discussion was after miracle #24)**

⁵ Later, after they crossed to the other side of the lake, the disciples discovered they had forgotten to bring any bread. ⁶ “**Watch out!**” Jesus warned them. “**Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**” ⁷ At this they began to argue with each other because they hadn’t brought any bread. ⁸ Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, “**You have so little faith! Why are you arguing with each other about having no bread?**” ⁹ **Don’t you understand even yet? Don’t you remember the 5,000 I fed with five loaves, and the baskets of leftovers you picked up?** ¹⁰ **Or the 4,000 I fed with seven loaves, and the large baskets of leftovers you picked up?** ¹¹ **Why can’t you understand that I’m not talking about bread? So again I say, ‘Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.’ ”** ¹² Then at last they understood that he wasn’t speaking about the yeast in bread, but about the deceptive teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

- **Matthew 17:14–20 (NLT) *Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy (miracle #27)***

¹⁴At the foot of the mountain, a large crowd was waiting for them. A man came and knelt before Jesus and said, ¹⁵“Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. ¹⁶So I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn’t heal him.” ¹⁷Jesus said, “**You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.**” ¹⁸Then Jesus rebuked the demon in the boy, and it left him. From that moment the boy was well. ¹⁹Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, “Why couldn’t we cast out that demon?” ²⁰**“You don’t have enough faith,”** Jesus told them. **“I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.”**

- **Mark 16:12–14 (NLT)** ¹²Afterward he appeared in a different form to two of his followers who were walking from Jerusalem into the country. ¹³They rushed back to tell the others, but no one believed them. ¹⁴Still later he appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating together. He rebuked them for their stubborn unbelief because they refused to believe those who had seen him after he had been raised from the dead.

1. Faith is Required for **Eternal Life!**

First, Let Us Define Faith...

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) Now **faith** is confidence in what we hope for and **assurance about what we do not see**

Hebrews 11:1–2; 6 (NLT) *Great Examples of Faith* **Faith** shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the **evidence of things we cannot see.** ²Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. ...⁶And it is **impossible to please God without faith.** Anyone who wants to come to him must **believe that God exists** and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Faith—firm belief in something for which there is not all the tangible proof, its trust when all the proof is not available yet.

- **Ephesians 2:8 (NLT)** ⁸God saved you by his grace when you believed (NIV – faith). And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.
- **Genesis 15:1–6 (NLT) *The LORD’s Covenant Promise to Abram (Abram was 75-80...)***
Some time later, the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, “Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great.” ²But Abram replied, “O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don’t even have a son? Since you’ve given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. ³You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir.” ⁴Then the LORD said to him, “No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.” ⁵Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!” ⁶**And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith.**

Righteousness before God?.... Will you Trust Him? Will you have faith? It’s the test.

- **Romans 10:9–10 (NLT)** ⁹If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is by **believing in your heart** that you are **made right** with God, and it is by openly **declaring your faith** that you are saved.

- **John 3:16 (NLT)** ¹⁶ “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who **believes** in him will not perish but have eternal life.

2. Faith is Required For **Abundant Life** in This Life!

- **John 10:10 (NLT)** ¹⁰ The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.
- **John 20:29 (NIV)** ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

3. Faith is Required For You to Be a True **Life-Giver** To Others!

- **James 2:14–17 (NLT) *Faith without Good Deeds Is Dead*** ¹⁴ What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you **say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions?** **Can that kind of faith save anyone?** ¹⁵ Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶ and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? ¹⁷ **So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.**
- **John 15:5 (NLT)** ⁵ “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. **Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.** For apart from me you can do nothing.

So, Which Faith Will You Decide To Walk In?

Victorious Stable Faith!

Matthew 8:5–11 (NLT) *The Faith of a Roman Officer*

⁵ When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him, ⁶ “Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain.” ⁷ Jesus said, “**I will come and heal him.**” ⁸ But the officer said, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, ‘Go,’ and they go, or ‘Come,’ and they come. And if I say to my slaves, ‘Do this,’ they do it.” ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, “**I tell you the truth, I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel!** ¹¹ **And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven.** ¹² **But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**” ¹³ Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, “**Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened.**” And the young servant was healed that same hour.

Be determined to be full of faith!

Thought Questions:

- Have you made the mistake of the disciples? (Weak Faith even though you had plenty of proof you should have a strong faith)*
- Can you think of times your faith was weak, but it shouldn’t have been as you look back?*
- Do you think God could work through you more, if you were determined to trust Him, listen, and take action by faith?*