

GOD the SON - "How To Get A Faith-Lift!" - John 4:43–54 (pt.1)

"Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. 44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. 45 So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast. So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!" Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household. This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee."

I. The Father starts with *CRISIS* FAITH (v.43-49)

II. The Father develops *CONFIDENT* FAITH (v.50)

III. The Father possesses *CONFIRMED* FAITH (v.51-53)

IV. The Father graduates with *CONTAGIOUS* FAITH (v.54)

The *Objects* of "*FAITH*":

- People have faith in pagan gods..
- People trust in material things..
- People are assured of certain ideas..
- People have very strong faith in themselves..
- Christians have trust, confidence, assurance in their Creator, the LORD..

Everyone exercises "*FAITH*", even the Evolutionists and Atheists:

- Sitting in a Chair, you trust the legs to hold you up...
- Flying in a Plane, you have confidence in a pilot you don't even know.
- Eating at a Restaurant, you believe the cook won't poison you.
- Depositing money at a Bank, you are assured they won't steal your finances.
- Visiting the Doctor, you trust he is qualified and properly trained.

***FAITH* is a Major Topic in the Bible.**

- "*Faith*" is the Greek word "*πίστις*" or "*pistis*" and appears **244x** in the New Testament.
- "*Believe*" is the Greek verb "*πιστεύω*" or "*pisteuō*" in the New Testament and appears **248x** in the New Testament.

The Definition of "**FAITH**":

- Many people today have a **wrong** understanding of what "faith" is.
 - Michael Shermer
 - Tim Minchin
 - Richard Dawkins

• **Good Perspectives on FAITH:**

- Thomas Aquinas
- Andrew Murray
- A.W. Tozer

"FAITH is having trust, confidence, or assurance of a future performance, based upon past experience."

Christians have 3 Kinds of **FAITH**:

- #1 - **SAVING**Faith
 - **Eph2:8,9**- "*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*"
- #2 - **SPECIAL**Faith
 - 1 Cor 12:9
- #3 - **SANCTIFYING**Faith
 - 2 Cor5:7- "*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*"
 - Heb 10:38- "*Now the just shall live by faith..*"
 - Heb 11:6 - "*But without faith it is impossible to please Him..*"

I. The Father starts with **CRISIS** FAITH (v.43-49)

- **"Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. 44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. 45 So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast. So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"**
- **Was this father a Jew or a Gentile?** We do not know. Nor do we know his exact position in the government. He may have been a member of Herod's court; but whatever his national or social standing, he was clearly at his wit's end and

desperately needed the help of the Saviour. He “kept beseeching Him” to travel to Capernaum to heal his son.

- **John 4:48 was not a rebuke of this nobleman.** *Rather, it was our Lord’s lament at the spiritual condition of the people in general, both in Judea and Galilee. “Seeing is believing” has always been the “pragmatic” philosophy of the lost world, even the religious world. The nobleman believed that Jesus could heal his son, but he made two mistakes in his thinking: that Jesus had to go to Capernaum to save the lad, and that if the boy died meanwhile, it was too late.*
- **This man begins with **CRISIS FAITH**.** *He was about to lose his son and he had no other recourse but the Lord Jesus Christ. Many people came to Jesus with their crises, and He did not turn them away.*

II. The Father develops **CONFIDENT FAITH (v.50)**

- **“Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.”**
- **We must admire this father’s faith.** *Jesus simply said, “Go thy way; thy son liveth” (John 4:50). And the man believed Jesus and started to return home! Both the Samaritan woman and this anonymous nobleman must have rejoiced the heart of Jesus as they believed the word and acted on it.*
- *The first miracle at Cana came at the request of **His mother**(John 2:1–5), and this second miracle at Cana at the request of **a father**(John 4:47).*
- **It grew to become **CONFIDENT**FAITH.** *He believed the Word and had peace in his heart. He was even able to delay his trip home, knowing that the boy was out of danger.*
 - *Rom10:17- “So then **faith comes by hearing..the Word of God.**”*

III. The Father possesses **CONFIRMED FAITH (v.51-53)**

- **“And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, “Your son lives!” Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.”**
- **This is one of several miracles that Jesus performed “at a distance.”** *He healed the centurion’s servant from a distance (Matt. 8:5–13, and note that he too lived in Capernaum), and He healed the daughter of the Canaanite woman in the same manner (Matt. 15:21–28).*

- It grew more to become **CONFIRMED FAITH**. *Indeed, the boy had been completely healed! And the healing took place at the very time when Jesus spoke the Word. It was this fact that made a believer out of the nobleman and his household. He believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God; and he shared this faith with his family.*
- But we must note that both miracles were “private” rather than public. *Mary, the disciples, and the servants knew where the excellent wine had come from, but the guests did not. (Of course, it is possible that the servants told the story to others.) The nobleman’s son was healed at Capernaum, not Cana; but news traveled rapidly in those days and certainly the word got out.*

IV. The Father graduates with **CONTAGIOUS FAITH** (v.54)

- *“And he himself believed, and his whole household. This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.”*
- This was the 2nd miracle Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee (see John 2:1, 11). *He certainly gave those people special privileges.*
- Jesus’ first miracle at the wedding revealed **His power over time**. *The Father is always making water into wine, but He takes a season or two to finish the work. Jesus made the wine instantly. In this sense, our Lord’s miracles were only instantaneous copies of what the Father is always doing. “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work” (John 5:17). The Father is constantly multiplying bread, season after season, but the Son multiplied it instantly.*
- In the second recorded miracle, Jesus showed **His power over space**. *He was not limited simply because He was in Cana and the sick boy was in Capernaum. The fact that the father believed the word and did not know the results until the next day is evidence that he had confident faith. He trusted the word that Jesus spoke, and so should we.*
- It grew even more to become **CONTAGIOUS FAITH**. *He shared his experience with others.*