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EMPOWERED | WEEK 2: HEALING

BIG IDEA: The Holy Spirit is a Healer, and He is moved when we exhibit faith for healing!

When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well. | Luke 7:1-10

INTRO:

- Have you ever been surprised by your teacher with a pop quiz?
- Just like pop quizzes, life has a way of catching us off guard:
 - Unprecedented pandemic
 - Mask mandates
 - Economic instability
 - Wars and rumors of wars.
- The good thing about the "pop quizzes" of life is that they'll always have multiple choice:
 - A) You can deal with it yourself
 - B) You can call on family and friends
 - C) You can ignore it or run from it
 - D) You can give it to God.
- There's only one right answer:

~~You can deal with it yourself~~ - Because you will find that life will bring you issues that you'll realize you didn't have the capacity to deal with it.

~~You can call on family and friends~~ - Because you will find that life will bring you real enemies and some fake friends. Your family may love you, but they can't always help you with the things you are going through.

You can ignore it or run from it - Because there are some things you can run from, but you can't hide.

You can give it to God - Knowing that God is able and He can be trusted. **FAITH.**

- **What does faith look like? We see faith in the Centurion soldier of Luke 7.**
 - Centurions in the New Testament are generally seen in a positive light.
 - Cornelius: First gentile convert.
 - Centurion at the cross of Jesus: "Surely this is the Son of God."
 - The Jews come to Jesus on behalf of the Centurion in Luke 7. He was a benefactor of their Jewish synagogue. They ask Jesus to help the Centurion because of what he's done for them.
 - Jesus agrees to go, but before he is able to arrive at the home of the Centurion, messengers are sent to say, "I'm not worthy for you to enter my home. Only say the word, and my servant will be healed."
 - Jesus says, "I have never seen such *great faith* in all of Israel!"
 - What makes Jesus marvel at his faith?

How do we know when we have REAL faith in God?

1. We expect a "Yes," but are prepared for a "No."

- Most of us believe that we will get an automatic "yes" when we pray. This is not real faith. Real faith says, "I want it this way, but if He doesn't, I still have faith that He is God and he can do better than I can ask for!"
 - I still bless you, I still worship you, and I'll still serve because I can handle a "no."
- The Centurion sends his prayer request with an invitation for Jesus to come and then tells him, "You don't have to come." Essentially, he's saying, "Jesus, you handle it the way you see best."
- Ask God for what you want, and then step back.

2. We confess our unworthiness but still boldly ask for our needs.

- Your religious resume is only half of you. Most of us have Friday night things in our lives that we don't talk about on Sunday.
- The Centurion confessed that he was not worthy.

- There are two types of people who pray: those who expect God to do it because of *what they've done* and those who expect God to do it because of *who He is*.
- What we need from God will always be greater than what we deserve.
- Prayer is a privilege, but it's also a right.

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. Let us, therefore, come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. | Hebrews 4:14,16

- Even when we're unworthy, let us come boldly before His throne.
- Even when we've messed up, we can expect God to clean it up.
- Even when we're broken, we can expect God to fix it.

3. We trust in the authority of God's Word.

- The Centurion says, "Lord, you don't have to come because I have so much faith in you that all I need from you is just to say a word."

For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." | Luke 7:8

- The Centurion believes that Jesus has authority over the sickness in his house.
- We don't have to wonder if God has a word for our sickness, brokenness, or despair.
- Jesus was so impressed by the faith of the Centurion he healed the sick servant with just a word.

In just a moment, we're going to end in a time of ministry. Maybe you've been suffering from a sickness, or you've come up against a hardship that is too much to bear. Have you given it to God? Do you have faith like that of the Centurion? Faith that trusts God with your situation?

I want to invite you to come up for prayer. We have a ministry team that wants to stand with you in faith to ask the Holy Spirit to come and bring healing and restoration to your life.

PRAY: Holy Spirit, Come! EMPOWER ME with faith like the Centurion. I boldly ask for healing, but I also trust you no matter what!

