

Great Faith – The Roman Officer

(Matthew 8:5-13 nkjv)

⁵ Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶ saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

⁷ And Jesus said to him, **“I will come and heal him.”**

⁸ The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does *it*.”

¹⁰ When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, **“Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! ¹¹ And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, **“Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.”** And his servant was healed that same hour.**

- Jesus marveled and said to those who followed him. He has not found such great faith not even in Israel

- What is faith? According to **Hebrews 11:1 (nkjv)** - **Now faith is the ^[a]substance of things hoped for, the ^[b]evidence of things not seen.**

- There are 3 things I want to point out in the text

1. He was a Roman officer who knew his position

- The romans were the ones who were oppressing Israel at this time
- Yet when he approaches Jesus, he humbled himself to a Jew and called him Lord
- He never once asked for his servant to be healed instead he casted his care upon him
- He didn't tell Jesus what he needed to do in this situation. He just brought his case to the Lord
- If you know God cares for you then cast all your cares upon him
(1 Peter 5:6-7 nkjv)

⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- He allowed Jesus to make to the decision what will happen to his servant. And when Jesus said he will come and heal his servant.

- Could it be possible that He knew he wasn't worthy for him to have Jesus under his roof because he knew he was sent for the lost sheep of the house of Israel first
- That's why Jesus was willing to go heal his servant because most likely his servant was a Jew
- Because he came boldly, he obtains mercy and found grace in the time of need **(Hebrews 4:16 nkjv)**

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2. He Understood Authority

- **Authority** - is the legitimate power, right, or expertise to command, make decisions, and influence behavior.
- If Jesus was revealed as Lord to the Roman officer. Then the Roman officer understood the Authority of the Lord must come from God
- Anyone who has a position of authority was placed there by God
(Romans 13:1 nlt)

13:1- Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

- To be under authority and to have authority you must be humble and obedient. Having the same attitude that Christ Jesus Had
(Philippians 2:5-11 nlt)

⁵You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

⁶Though he was God,^[a]

**he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.**

⁷Instead, he gave up his divine privileges^[b];

**he took the humble position of a slave^[c]
and was born as a human being.**

When he appeared in human form,^[d]

**⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross.**

**⁹Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name above all other names,**

**¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

**¹¹and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

- Being obedient means being submitted

- The roman officer not only knew the authority but the power of the Word. “but only speak a word and my servant will be healed”
- Death and life are in the power of the tongue and those who love it will eat its fruits (**proverbs 18:21**)
- As a believer, praying is important and something we must do. But there must be a point in your walk where you exercise your faith and begin to speak with authority (**Mark 11:20-25 nlt**)

²⁰ The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up. ²¹ Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, “Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!”

²² Then Jesus said to the disciples, “Have faith in God. ²³ I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. ²⁴ I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours. ²⁵ But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.^[a]”

3. As you believed, so it will be done for you

- If you want God to grant you what you are believing for. You first must believe that he exists (**Hebrews 11:6 nlt**)

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.

- All things are possible if a person believes **(Mark 9:21-24 nkjv)**

²¹ So He asked his father, **“How long has this been happening to him?”** And he said, **“From childhood.** ²² And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” ²³ Jesus said to him, **“If^[a] you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”** ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, **“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”**

- If you believe you would see the glory of God
(John 11:38-40 nkjv)

³⁸ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, **“Take away the stone.”** Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, **“Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been *dead* four days.”** ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, **“Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”**