

Faith That Takes Session 4 – Faith Takes What is Available

I. Introduction/Review

A. Matthew 11:12 (NKJV) – *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.*

Matthew 11:12 (GWT) – *From the time of John the Baptizer until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful people have been seizing it.*

Matthew 11:12 (DAR) – *For from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven is taken with a great struggle, and the zealous ones lay hold on it.*

B. Faith that Takes!

1. Everything in the Kingdom of God must be received by faith.
2. Receive = Take = to seize/lay hold of/to claim for oneself/to take by force.
3. Two Works of Faith
 - a. To receive/take from the Lord that which he has freely provided.
 - b. To Take/ by force from the enemy that which he is attempting to prevent me from receiving.

C. James 2:17 (NKJV) – *Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

1. Faith Inspires Action
2. Faith without works cannot be called real faith.
3. Faith with no action = dead faith or a so-called faith that doesn't get any results.

4. The great examples of faith in the Bible are always accompanied with corresponding action.

D. Bible Examples: *Throughout scripture the great people of faith always had corresponding action/No one did anything great without ACTION!*

1. Faith that Takes is an aggressive, active faith.
2. Aggressive – pursuing one’s aims and interests FORCEFULLY.
 - Making an all-out effort to win or succeed.
 - Vigorously energetic and forceful.
 - Boldly assertive and forward – pushy
3. Previous Sessions
 - Jonathan’s aggressive faith turns the battle
 - The Battle of Jericho – Action Required
 - Jehoshaphat’s Battle

II. Faith that Takes in the New Testament Examples

A. Luke 5:17-26 (NKJV) – ¹⁷Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. **And the power of the Lord was present to heal them. ¹⁸Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. ¹⁹And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. ²⁰When He saw their faith, He said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” ²¹And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ²²But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts? ²³Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk’? ²⁴But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” — He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your**

house.”²⁵Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.²⁶And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen strange things today!”

1. The Power is Present to Heal.
 - a. A few?
 - b. Those who were found worthy?
 - c. Those who were not being taught a lesson from sickness and disease?
 - d. Those whom it was the Lord’s Will to Heal?
 - e. No, the power of the Lord was present to heal – ALL!
2. Although the presence of the Lord was present to heal all, everyone did not get healed.
3. Who Did Get Healed?

Luke 5:18-19 (NKJV) – ¹⁸Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. ¹⁹And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus

- a. Those who had *aggressive faith* – pursuing one’s aims and interests FORCEFULLY.
 - Making an all-out effort to win or succeed
 - Vigorously energetic and forceful
 - Boldly assertive and forward – pushy
- b. Would you consider it forceful to:
 - Go up on the roof? Carrying a paralyzed man?
 - Tear the roof off? Let a paralyzed man down by ropes?
- c. Jesus saw their faith – Vs 20
 - Jesus takes notice of faith
 - Faith was involved – action was involved – in the receiving of the miracle

- d. Passive faith didn't receive but aggressive *Faith to take* did.
- e. Passive faith would have said:
 - It's too crowded.
 - Let's try again when things are more convenient.
 - It must not be the Lord's will for our friend to get healed.
 - If the Lord wanted him healed, surely Jesus would have come out or it wouldn't have been so crowded.
- f. Faith that Takes must be willing to deal with inconvenience and opposition.

B. Mark 5:25-34 (NKJV) – ²⁵Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, ²⁶and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷When **she heard** about Jesus, **she came** behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. ²⁸**For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."** ²⁹**Immediately** the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. ³⁰And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" ³¹But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" ³²And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. ³³But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. ³⁴And He said to her, "**Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.**"

1. She heard!
2. She came!
3. She said!
4. Jesus response, "Daughter thy faith has made you whole!"

5. She knew that the presence of the Lord was present to heal and all she had to do was have faith and act – Faith to take – faith to receive the healing that was present.
6. Others learned from her example.

C. Gadarenes/Gennesaret Example

1. In Mark 5 – Jesus delivered the man possessed with devils and the demons entered the swine.

Although the proof of the supernatural healing/delivering power was evident to them, they ask him to depart.

Mark 5:17 (KJV) – *And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.*

2. **In Mark 6 there is a different attitude in the region.**

Mark 6:53-56 (NKJV) – ⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret and anchored there. ⁵⁴And when they came out of the boat, **immediately the people recognized Him,** ⁵⁵**ran** through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was. ⁵⁶Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well

- a. They recognized him.
- b. They immediately ran through the whole surrounding region.
- c. They began to carry the sick on beds to him – *sounds familiar.*
- d. They didn't ask him to heal them – but ASK THAT THEY MIGHT TOUCH HIS GARMENT.
- e. They had heard of the woman with the issue of blood.
- f. They didn't need him to lay hands on them or do anything else.

- g. They only needed him to be present – if He is present the power of the Lord is present to heal.
- h. They had FAITH TO TAKE of the power that was present.
- i. They were not passive.
- j. They were active.
- k. Activate your faith and receive of the power that is present.

III. Closing

A. The power is present – The Works is finished!

B. Release your faith and receive everything that God has already provided.