

FAITH THAT AMAZED JESUS

I want to ask you today who and what do you put your faith in?

Many times we can see clearly who and what we put our faith in by our response in a crisis

Mark 11:22-24 So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. ²³ For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.”

Have faith in God!

Jesus shows us the importance and power of a believing prayer and the power of faith

Luke 7:1-10 NKJV Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. ² And a certain centurion’s servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. ³ So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, ⁵ “for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.”

⁶ Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, “Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. ⁷ Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does *it*.”

⁹ When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, “I say to you, I have not found such great

faith, not even in Israel!” ¹⁰ And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well ^[a]who had been sick.

v. 9 said Jesus marveled in the NKJV, other translations say “his faith amazed Jesus”

Later in v. 9 Jesus said I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel

These verses highlight great humility and total trust in the spoken authority of Christ

What was it about this man’s extraordinary faith that amazed Jesus?

First, some context about this passage – the centurion was a commander in the Roman military of 100 men. Even with his high ranking he still had compassion for a sick servant

Second, he didn’t feel worthy to have Jesus come into his house

Third, He understood a military command he says go and people go and it’s done

This centurion recognizes that Jesus holds this same supreme authority over sickness and disease

So in other words, Jesus command for the sickness to go meant it would go and it would be done

1. THE POWER OF THE WORD V. 7

Jesus is the Word

John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not ^[a]comprehend it.

Heb 4:12-13 For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the

heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

God's Word is so powerful it leads to conviction of sin, forgiveness, salvation, freedom, power and authority over sickness and disease and every principality

This centurion understood Jesus was the healer, and because of that it wouldn't require a physical touch or being close in proximity

See, Jesus' command alone carries absolute power over any sickness, demons and strongholds and across any distance

v. 7

I read this Thursday morning and this popped – Jesus is the Word, the centurion with great faith spoke to the Word Jesus and said say the Word and my servant will be healed

He spoke to the Word and the Word spoke with total authority over everything! He asked that His Word would be spoken over time, proximity, and distance! Wow! What faith! What amazing faith!

His servant was healed upon release of the Word – this is one of the rare times Jesus spoke like this about someone's faith

I think most of the time we miss this in this passage and that's why the church doesn't see or walk in all God has for us

We put faith in faith, faith in ministers, faith in ourselves, faith in our will power – but it's only faith in God that has no distance, time, or circumstance that cannot be changed!

2. TRUE HUMILITY V. 6,7

Real faith starts with looking at our life with an honest assessment of self as we stand before a Holy God!

(No, I am not worthy!)

James 4:6-10 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

**“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”**

⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Pride causes God to turn from our prayers and to withhold His grace but true humility opens our life to His abundance

Jesus was marveled or amazed at this man's faith because he was convinced Jesus had the authority and power to do what he asked. Do we?

Are you fully submitted to God today? That means acknowledging He has the final say over your situation

His Word, His power, and His grace have no barriers it can't overcome or move out of the way

Pray with expectancy, pray like this centurion that trusts God's ability to act without and needing to dictate how, when, and where He must move

This centurion believed a single word from God carries enough power to transform any hopeless situation. Do we?

He had faith without seeing? Do we?