

HEALING IS A CHOICE

The Faith Factor

Matthew 8:5-13

6/10/2007

- ✓ Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Take heart, son! Your sins are forgiven." Matthew 9:2
- ✓ Jesus turned around and said to her, "Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you well." And the woman was healed at that moment. Matthew 9:22
- ✓ Then he touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith, it will happen." Matthew 9:29
- ✓ "Woman," Jesus said to her, "your faith is great. Your request is granted." And her daughter was instantly healed. Matthew 15:28

When Jesus arrived in Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him, "Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and racked with pain. "Jesus said, "I will come and heal him." Then the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed! I know, because I am under the authority of my superior officers and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this or that,' they do it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to the crowd, he said, "I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all the land of Israel! And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. But many Israelites-those for whom the Kingdom was prepared-will be cast into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, "Go on home. What you have believed has happened." And the young servant was healed that same hour. Matthew chapter 8, verses 5-13

1. My Faith is effective when... I am willing to take courageous steps.

"When Jesus arrived in Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him," Matthew chapter 8, verse 5 (739)

- He risked his career to come to Jesus.
- He placed his family in danger to come to Jesus.
- He faced persecution from the government.
- Sometimes God is neither safe nor comfortable.

Have you ever risked anything for God?

2. My Faith is effective when... I seek the healer more than the healing.

"Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home" Matthew chapter 8, verse 8 (739)

- The Roman officer fully trusted Jesus.
- When Jesus healed, it was for the purpose of drawing attention to himself and to advance His Kingdom.
- Only God can judge the quality and focus of our faith.
- When I truly trust God I am willing to worship him even if chooses not to heal me.

3. My Faith is effective when... I allow Jesus to have authority over all of my life.

Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed! I know, because I am under the authority of my superior officers and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this or that,' they do it.“ Matthew chapter 8, verses 8-9 (739)

Does Jesus have authority my:

- ✓ Marriage & Family?
- ✓ Money?
- ✓ Work?
- ✓ Thought life?
- ✓ My relationships?
- ✓ Sex life?
- ✓ Leisure time?
- ✓ Addictions?

- Giving God authority over all is an issue of trust.
- My faith can not be effective if I pick and choose what areas to give him authority.
- My faith is revealed through my willingness to submit to God's will.
- I experience healing by making the righteous decisions that he desires for me.

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.
James chapter 5, verses 16 (932)

4. My Faith is effective when... when it is the result of a changed heart.

I haven't seen faith like this in all the land of Israel! And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. But many Israelites-those for whom the Kingdom was prepared-will be cast into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.“

Matthew chapter 8, verses 10-13 (739)

It is possible to know a lot about God but never really know Him.

What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.

Hebrews chapter 11, verse 1 (926)

Next Week: Father's Day (Don't miss it!)