

The Character Of A Great Faith



Luke 7:2-10 → 2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. 3 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: 5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue. 6 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof: 7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. 8 For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. 9 When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. 10 And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

“Faith”

- **Hebrews 11:1,6** → Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
- **Jn. 8:24** → I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.
- **I Jn. 5:4** → For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.
- **I Pet. 1:9** → Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

A Great Faith Is Built On The Word Of God

- **Not...**

- my personal feelings or opinion. (Isa. 55:7-8)
- what my relatives think. (Gal. 2:14; Matt. 10:37)
- what some religious leader has to say. (II Tim. 4:1ff; Acts 17:11)
- any human creed. (Matt. 15:3,9)

- **But...**

- upon the word of God.
 - Rom. 10:17 → so then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. (cf. Acts 8:12; 18:8)

A Great Faith Is Made Personal

- When our teachers, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, others are not present to encourage us, a great faith stands strong and does what is right.
- When we have made the faith our faith, we can tell someone what we believe, why we believe it and make a defense of it.
- Some who had made faith their own:
 - Daniel and his friends (Dan. 1)
 - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Dan. 3)
 - Joseph (Gen. 39)

A Great Faith Overcomes The Devices Of Satan

- Disappointment (II Cor. 4:8)
- Disbelief (Heb. 3:12)
- False teaching → (I Jn. 4:1,6)
- Distraction → (Phil. 3:13)
- Money and Materialism → (Col. 3:5; Lk. 12:15)
- Popular culture → (Rom. 12:1-2)
- Indifference → (Heb. 5:11)

A Great Faith Learns From Great Examples

- **Cain and Abel** → First siblings. Acceptable worship, the danger of anger left to fester, responding to God's rebuke: repent or resent.
- **Nadab and Abihu** → A great opportunity as priest of God wasted. The necessity of obey God's commands. The necessity to sanctify and glorify God.
- **Joseph and his brothers** → Lack of brotherly love. God is with Joseph in difficult times. How to forgive.
- **Mary, Martha and Lazarus** → The importance of priorities. The power of God.
- **Moses, Aaron and Miriam** → Leadership. Choices: the blessings of obedience and the consequences of sin. (Micah 6:4)
- **The prodigal son and the sulking brother** → The vanity of material things. The forgiving father .