

LOVE INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP
SCHOOL OF TRAINING

FAITH IN GOD – Lesson 2
JESUS AND FAITH



Smith Wigglesworth said, “There is a difference between our faith and the faith of the Lord Jesus. The faith of the Lord Jesus is needed. Your faith may get to a place where it wavers. *The faith of Christ never wavers. When you have that faith, the thing is finished. When you have that faith you will never look at things as they are.* You will see the things of nature give way to the things of the Spirit; you will see the temporal swallowed up in the eternal. *As we remain steadfast and unmovable on the ground of faith, we will see in perfect manifestation what we are believing for.*”

The phrase, “FEAR NOT” is in the Word of God 365 times, one for every day of the year! We daily have a choice to strengthen our faith and resist fear!

I. JESUS OUR INTERCESSOR

Romans 8:34 (AMP)

Who is the one who condemns us? Christ Jesus is the One who died [to pay our penalty], and more *than that*, who was raised [from the dead], and *who is at the right hand of God interceding [with the Father] for us.*

Romans 8:34 (TPT)

Who then is left to condemn us? Certainly not Jesus, the Anointed One! For He gave His life for us, and even more than that, He has conquered death and is **RISEN, EXALTED and ENTRONED** by God at His right hand. So how could He possibly condemn us *since He is continually praying for our triumph?*

Jesus interceded for the Apostles that walked with Him. And He intercedes for those that walk with Him today. He knows exactly what to pray for us!

An excellent example: **JESUS INTERCEDES** for the Apostle Peter.

LUKE 22:31-34 (AMP)

“Simon, Simon (Peter), listen! satan has demanded *permission* to sift [all of] you like grain; *but I have prayed [especially] for you [Peter], that your faith [and confidence in Me] may not fail;* and you, once you have turned back again [to Me], *strengthen and support your brothers [in the faith].* And Peter said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death!” Jesus said, “I say to you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will [utterly] deny three times that you know Me.”

- Real sifting happens after the grain is beat down, ground up and pulverized between heavy grinding stones. This is what satan demanded permission to do back then, and today he tries to do the same to us. **BUT WE DON'T NEED TO FEAR... JESUS IS OUR INTERCESSOR!**

- The Lord could have prayed for a number of things for Peter. But He prayed for Peter’s **faith**. **He prayed that it would not fail** during one of the most trying times Peter would go through. The prayer was not just for him, but that Peter’s faith would eventually help the others.
- Do you realize **Jesus had already interceded** for Peter and the Apostles before He ever spoke these words? Don’t you think that when Peter eventually denies Jesus and is hiding with the others in fear – that these words about his **faith** were constantly coming to his remembrance? In the same way, let God’s Word in you - sustain you in battle!
- Because of Jesus intercession, Peter’s failures and fears turn to **fierce faith** and he preaches the first sermon that leads 3,000 to Christ! Hallelujah!

II. JESUS, THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH

HEBREWS 12:1-2 NKJV

Therefore we also, *since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses*, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto **Jesus, The Author and Finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The word “cloud” in the verse above is taken from the Greek word *nephos*. It describes clouds you see in the sky. However, *Nephos* has an additional meaning in this context.

In ancient, classical Greek times, the word “clouds” was used to describe *the highest seats in the bleachers of a stadium*. The seats at the very top of the stadium were called *the clouds* because they were so high up in the air. This is a powerful image because it shows us that once we are born-again and given the measure of faith, faith removed us from the onlooker’s section and puts us right in the middle of the “fight of faith” for all to see!

The grandstands of Heaven all the way up to the clouds, are filled with people whose faith stood the test of time as it developed through Jesus, the Author and Finisher of faith! Today, we are in the stadium of life, overcoming and having victory as we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus at ALL TIMES!

1 TIMOTHY 6:12 (NKJV)

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

III. FAITH HAS A VOICE

MARK 11:20-24

So Jesus answered and said to them, “**Have faith in God**. 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**. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you **ask** when you pray, **believe** that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.”

- Your faith has a voice. Our **words spoken in faith** starts every journey of what we are believing for.

- Believing is key but speaking in faith is necessary! Your words have power. The word “ask” appears once... once you have asked the Lord, continue to thank and praise Him for the answer. He hears us the first time we ask, so we can always be confident.
- When Moses cried out to God because of the advancing Egyptian army—the Israelites were about to be slaughtered—what does God say? **God says to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it.” (Exodus 14:15–16)** The Lord desire us to step out in faith. The rod is a symbol of AUTHORITY. God is telling Moses to use his God-given authority.
- We have the same authority to use - by saying what we desire “in faith” and believing what we ask will come to pass. Start speaking to those mountains you want moved in your life! Today, the Church has the power of Holy Spirit, who lives in us! Use your delegated authority given by Jesus Christ. Open your mouth and gives voice to faith!

IV. Two Times Jesus Marveled in the New Testament

In the Gospels, **Matthew 8:10** and **Luke 7:9** we see the Greek word *thaumazo* (thou-mad'-zo) which is translated "marveled" or "amazed". This word is used to describe Jesus' reaction to a centurion's response. The centurion's *faith in Jesus* amazed Him.

1. Jesus Marvels at a Man's Faith

MATTHEW 8:5-10

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.” 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. 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.” ***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.***

The centurion was one of the most unlikely person to “**amaze**” Jesus - because of their faith. He was a Gentile. He likely had a pagan upbringing. He was a Roman, stationed in Palestine to subject the Jews to the Emperor's rule.

He was a man of war. He likely achieved the rank of centurion by distinguishing himself above others in the brutal Roman martial arts. Yet, he understood what the Jewish leaders and elders refused to grasp. The centurion believed in Jesus and recognized the authority He carried in the spiritual realm. You now have His authority in the spiritual realm... exercise it with faith! The centurion also believed that ***Jesus only needed to speak a word*** and it would be done. This is why his faith caused Jesus to marvel!

MATTHEW 8:16

¹⁶When evening came, they brought to Him many who were under the power of demons; and He cast out the *evil spirits with a word*, and restored to health all who were sick [exhibiting His authority as Messiah].

Why would God open the eyes of this man? The centurion demonstrates the miracle of God's marvelous grace toward the Gentiles (meaning not of Jewish descent), and is a type of foreshadow of what Jesus had come to complete. Immediately after Jesus speaks of the man's faith, He speaks of salvation coming to the Gentiles in **Matthew 8:11**... ***"I say to you that many would come from the east and west and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven"***.

2. Jesus Marvels at Unbelief

The other time this word is used to describe Jesus' response is in **Mark 6:6**. But this time, Jesus marvels at the **lack of faith in Him** by the people of Nazareth.

Mark 6:1-6

Then He went out from there and *came to His own country*, and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing *Him* were astonished, saying, "Where *did* this Man *get* these things? And what wisdom *is* this which is given to Him, *that such mighty works are performed by His hands!* Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "*A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.***" Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed *them*. And He *marveled because of their unbelief*.**

This takes place in the region of Nazareth, where Jesus grew up. The Lord did perform a few miracles in the territory. **Mark 6:5** specifically says: **"He laid his hands upon a few sick people and healed them"**. Jesus' **power** was not the problem! Their "faith" in Him was the problem!

A comparison of **Mark 6:5**, with **Matthew 13:58** explains Mark's choice of words. Mark records that Jesus ***"could do no mighty work there,"*** Matthew expounds on the subject like this: ***"And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief."*** Both Matthew and Mark state the same basic fact; but the language they used was slightly different.

Let's look at Mark's expression **"He could not."** The Greek phrase is **"ouk edunato"**. This expression was used to imply or suggest the idea that for some reason one **chooses not to do something** — though technically, **he has the ability to do it**.

The Jews in this area, had a strong stubborn, purposeful disbelief in Jesus. For Him to be amazed at their "unbelief" so that **He chose** not to do many miracles, tells you how defiant they were. It was not because He didn't have the ability to do them.

How do these two events apply to our faith? These two events should always serve as an inspiration to walk in continuing and persistent faith in God. If without faith it is impossible to please God, then walking in faith and believing causes us to please Him! We want the Lord to marvel at our faith!!! We should ask ourselves, in the midst of our trials and testing, and in our walk of life - **how will the Lord see my faith?**

V. JESUS TEACHES ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF WAITING

LUKE 18:1-8 NASB

Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times ***they ought to pray and not to lose heart***, saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, Give me legal protection from my opponent.' For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" **And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, WILL HE FIND FAITH ON THE EARTH?"**

Jesus is telling a parable to give believers encouragement in the midst of warfare, especially I believe in the end times. Faith prayers are always a major resource for the believer.

- Few things cause us to lose heart in praying more than ***delays*** in answers to our request. Jesus uses this parable to teach us that, though answers often appear to take a long time in coming, **we should be persistent and persevere and not allow our faith to grow weary.**
- No matter what we see or hear as we walk on this earth, we are confident because Jesus **lives forevermore and our faith knows He hears our cries.** Of all things Jesus could have mentioned upon His return, He mentions "faith". He is speaking of the End Times. Will He find faith on the earth when He returns?

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 (AMP)

¹⁶ Rejoice always ***and*** delight in your faith; ¹⁷ be unceasing ***and*** persistent in prayer; ¹⁸ in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful ***and*** continually give thanks ***to God***; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

SYLLABUS FOR FAITH FOR LIFE – LESSON 2



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