

Faith - cont.

Many wives do not submit to their husbands' authority (1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-23,33; 1 Peter 3:1-6). They control their husbands and go against their headship.

Many employees do not obey their employers' authority (Ephesians 6:5; Tit. 2:9). They do not work and they undermine what the boss says.

Many church members do not obey their elders' authority (Hebrews 13:17). They do not follow the judgments of the elders.

Many Christians do not obey Jesus or his apostles' authority (Ephesians 5:24a; 2 Corinthians 10:8; 13:10). They do not obey the words of the NT.

Many sinners do not obey God's authority (2 Thessalonians 1:8). They will not obey the gospel to be saved.

Great Faith Is Surprising, Amazing, and Astonishing

The centurion said, "Only say the word..." Is this your approach to life? Will Jesus marvel at your great faith? He is looking! What will he find?

- Chris Reeves -

- Word of the Week -

"Gospel" (Gr. *euangelion*) means good news. In the Bible, the good news refers to the message of salvation from sin (Romans 1:16). It is good news that we can be forgiven, that we can get help with daily Christian living, and that we can go to heaven when we die. Let us all be thankful for the good news of Christ and do what we can this week to share it with others.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Faith That Caused Surprise

*“And he marvelled because of their unbelief”
- Mark 6:6 -*

*“And when Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel”
- Matthew 8:10 -*

On two occasions in the life of Christ, we are told that Jesus “marveled” (Mark 6:6; Matthew 8:10). In the Matthew account, Jesus had just finished teaching on authority, and with authority (Mt. 7:24-29). Jesus “marveled” at the great faith of this Roman centurion (Matthew 27:54; Acts 10:1; 27:1-43). So, how did this man have a “great faith” and what lessons can we learn from him?

Great Faith

First, we are told that he was earnest and humble (Matthew 8:5, 8). He came “beseeching” Jesus. He said, “I am not worthy...”

Great faith sees the greatness of its object, Jesus. He is our great savior, high priest, and shepherd of the sheep (Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14; 13:20).

Second, we are told that he was caring and generous (Luke 7:2, 5). He cared for his sick, dying servant. He also loved Jews and built them a synagogue. Great faith is built upon evidence (Lk. 7:3a).

Great faith saves (Hebrews 11:1,6), not compassion and generosity alone.



Third, we are told that he understood authority (Matthew 8:8-9). This is the greatest of all the lessons. He said, “but only say the word...”. He said, “I also am a man under authority”. He said, “Go ... come ... do”.

Great faith recognizes the need for

authority, the source of authority, and the obedience to authority (Matthew 21:23-32; 28:18; John 5:27; 17:2). Today, Jesus is still the source of authority and we need to obey him.

Lastly, we are told that he was rewarded (Matthew 8:10-13). He was commended by Jesus. He was an example of Gentile faith (Isaiah 42:12; 59:19). His servant was healed.

Great faith is rewarded (Hebrews 5:9). Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

An Authority Crisis Today

Many children do not obey their parents’ authority (Ephesians 6:1-4). They are unruly, disobedient, and rebellious.

Many students do not obey their teachers’ authority (John 13:13). They are disrespectful and do not do their work.

Many citizens do not obey their rulers’ authority (Romans 13:1-8; Titus 3:1). They break laws, riot, and hinder the proper enforcement of laws.

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