

# Hearing of Faith and Responding!

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Knowing that Faith in Christ is the key to Heaven—we should quote AV Romans 10:17 “*Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

Millions of people may never have heard of faith in God and just as many have heard but not responded. Now we can *show* by example that faith needs a response!

God is *looking* for faith in us—faith that is *real* and *seen* by our actions that we truly believe in His divine power. The Lord Jesus was *looking* for faith and *seeing* it in some, but certainly not all.

After healing two demon-possessed men, and the people of the city asking Him to leave, AV Matthew 9:1 Jesus “*entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city.*”

Teaching in that city, they brought a paralyzed man to Him to be healed, but the room was so crowded they couldn’t get in the door.

Those assembled and listening to Jesus were startled by noise as ceiling tiles were being removed above where Jesus was speaking. Those who had carried the lame man there decided to lower him down in front of where Jesus was speaking. The Lord *knows* the man had faith, and He *responds* by forgiving his sins.

The assembled were not pleased to have this interruption, but Jesus notices the *faith* of the one being carried and the *faith* of those who carried

him. AV Luke 5:20 “*And when [Jesus] saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.*”

Jesus *sees* the faith in the man; *knows* the problem; and *offers* the solution—“*Thy sins are forgiven thee.*” God wants to see faith in *our* heart—and when He knows we are sincere, He always *responds*. When we *confess*—God *forgives*—and *gives* us the healing.

We are not on this planet very long—*everyone* is just *passing through* to the other side. We need to *think* about what *awaits* us there because we will *be* there a really long time!

Jesus has compassion for the man; He sees his *faith* so He is ready to *heal*—AV Matthew 9:2 “*Be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.*”

The Lord’s response tells the man that He *cares* for him, and that the oppression is only *temporary*. The moment the man *believes* he is *delivered*.

Everyone else in that house should be asking Jesus to forgive *their* sins too! Everyone *in* that room *needed* their sins forgiven—like we all do. God in Person was there to *forgive* sins.

Some scribes thought within themselves that Jesus had no right to say what He said. AV Matthew 9:4 “*And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? 5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?*”

In whatever way the Lord would *say* the man’s sins are forgiven, would be the right way and the man be healed.

Some in the room did not believe Jesus was who He *said* He was. 6 “*But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.*”

Only *God* can forgive sins—and since *everyone* has *sinned* in some or many ways, they could not forgive anyone else’s sins. Some go to a minister or a priest to be forgiven, but since they also have sinned, they cannot forgive anyone *else’s* sins.

Others in the room are *hearing* of faith, but *responding* like the world. Jesus heals the man AV John 5:8 “*Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. 9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked.*”

Instead of *rejoicing* with the man, those in the room *opposed* the *Son of Man*—the very One who AV Matthew 9:6 “*Hath power on earth to forgive sins.*” We must always be *open* to spiritual enlightenment—and not take a wrong attitude toward anyone or anything.

Those who *heard* but *responded* in the wrong way—AV John 5:18 “*Sought the more to kill [Jesus], because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.*” But they were mistaken as Jesus is equal with God!

Some people think they have done too *many* wrongs, too *many* times, and too *intentionally* to be forgiven. They think God would not forgive them for all the mistakes they have made.

If we asked someone, *What is the worst thing you have ever done?*—the answers could be very surprising and shocking—no doubt.

But regardless of the *amount of*, or the *seriousness of*, our sins, God *forgives* them when we *confess* them in prayer from the sincerity of our heart. Sincerely confessing means being really *serious* about seeing *change* in our ways and attitudes.

Jesus was clear when He said AV Mark 3:28 “*All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men.*” God forgives our sins regardless of whether they are *many or few; big or small; serious or minor; intentional or unintentional*—but we have to *recognize* them and *repent* of them!

No one can think that their sins are not that serious, or that God would ignore minor mistakes—allowing them into Heaven anyway. God is a holy God who sees *all* sin as offensive and repulsive—He *cannot* overlook any sin.

The Scribes were so hardened in heart, that they never considered that the One who stood before them, just might *be* their Messiah—it never entered their mind. The *pride* that lay deep within them had them thinking they knew *more* than anyone else.

Jesus reveals their thoughts—giving evidence He *was* God. Forgiving the lame man’s sins and telling him to get up and walk proved to all that Jesus *has* all power in Heaven and on earth. It was the pride and stubbornness within *their* heart that prevented them from accepting the Truth.

God does not judge by *outward* appearances, but on the *inward* attitude of the heart. We should look for the *best* and *not* the worst in people. How we *view* people will affect how we *treat* them. It is time to see big changes in this area.

The reason our *thought life* matters to God is because our *thoughts* lead to our *actions*. The religious leaders thought that Jesus’ words were blasphemous, but the Lord says *their* thoughts were evil. AV Matthew 9:4 “*And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?*” Forgiving the lame man’s sins was in divine order because Jesus was God.

We should *always* pray AV Psalm 139:23 “*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*”

What we **think** is connected to what we **do**—and since God already *knows* our thoughts, then we can *ask Him* to reveal any wrong or wicked intentions.

*Faith Cometh by Hearing*—and God knows when our *spoken* faith is backed up with *acting in faith* on His power.

AV Hebrews 4:12 “*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*”

Jesus *knows* even the minutest thoughts we have—we hide nothing from Him. The Jews believed that a person had to be forgiven before they could be healed—that is why Jesus proved His *deity* by forgiving him first and then healing him.

It is God AV Psalm 103:3 “*Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.*” The pardon comes *first*, and the healing comes *second*.

Jesus asked AV Matthew 9:5 “*For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?*”

The answer to that could be: *Your sins are forgiven*, but since forgiveness of sins *cannot* be seen, I’ll say: *Arise, take up your mat, and walk*, because that *can* be seen by those in the room. Everyone could *see* the man’s *faith* and witness the *healing*.

We should always *glorify* God and *praise* His Name when He has delivered us or healed us of an oppression. When we glorify God by

submitting a note of praise, others can *hear* it and join us in giving God all the honor, glory, and praise.

Rather than get *online* to get on a *prayer list*, we should get on our *knees* and *repent* before *God*—confessing our sins to *Him* from the sincerity of our heart. He *then* promises to *hear* and *answer* that prayer. Only God can *see* our faith and *know* of the trust within us.

If we meet a financial need and have not the money to pay it—we should immediately place that request before God in prayer—telling Him *why* we need the money and including any details—then AV Philippians 4:19 “*My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*” We have *heard* about faith in God, now we must respond by actually *trusting* Him.

If a family member or a loved one has been offended, wronged, or mistreated, when we place the matter before *God* in prayer, and not resent or complain about it—He will right the wrong as only He can. God alone *knows* our heart and *sees* our faith within and brings about justice for the offended.

We ask God for the *ability* to *forgive* the person and *not resent* them. we then *repent* of any wrong intentions or *thoughts*—knowing that God looks *within the heart* and WEY Hebrews 4:12 “*Can discern the secret thoughts and purposes of the heart.*”

We have **heard** of faith in God—now we have to **prove** it is **real** by our response!



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\*Receive free Tracts email:  
[fcgchurch1@gmail.com](mailto:fcgchurch1@gmail.com)

Or write to: PO Box 24283 Philadelphia, PA 19120

#3102 0114 24A