

Faith in the One God Sent

Part 1

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How important is faith in our walk of life, in our religion? Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? If we looked up the meaning of the word faith, it would tell us it is having complete trust or confidence in someone or something.

Or a strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof. So, you can say, none of us has seen Jesus die on the cross, none of us saw Him rise from the grave, none of us saw Him ascend to the Father. But if we believe the Bible is true, believe what is written in it.

We would need faith to believe that it is the inspired word of God. If we expect to walk through that narrow gate into heaven, we will need to believe all three of them are absolutely true. That He did die to redeem our every sin, that He arose from the grave and that He is alive today, sitting at the Father's right hand.

To believe is the same as having faith, and as Jesus said, all things are possible to those that believe. So, that is what having faith is, believing in something we have not seen. But the most important part of faith is **who** we believe in, **who** we have faith in. Jesus said if we have faith the size of a mustard seed, we can move mountains and have a tree uprooted and planted in the sea. So, you can see it isn't the amount of faith, but who we have faith in.

Paul told us in Romans that we should confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead. And if we *do* that we will be saved. He said, with the heart one believes unto righteousness, God's righteousness, the only true righteousness. And with the mouth one confesses unto salvation. Spending eternity with God on high.

And if we do that we will be saved. We will have His righteousness, His salvation. Isn't that what we are all striving for? We need to believe that Jesus paid our sin debt. Believe, His blood washed away our every sin.

No matter how many sins we have committed, or how terrible a sin we have committed, it doesn't matter. But only that we repent and believe. Believe He is the One God sent, took our place on the cross, believe He shed His blood for the remission of our every sin, believe He rose again and is sitting at the Father's right hand.

What did Jesus say to Thomas when He presented Himself to him after His resurrection? He said Thomas. You have believed because you have seen. Jesus said blessed are those that have not seen yet believe. We haven't seen Him, we haven't seen those scars, we haven't seen that riven side. Do we believe? We are blessed if we believe. Blessed by Jesus Himself, if we believe and have faith in Him.

In Genesis 5:22 it says Enoch walked with God, and that he had testimony that he pleased God, and it says that without faith it is impossible to please God. So, you can see faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, in our crucified Savior is the whole basis of our religion.

Here are some examples right out of the Bible, about Jesus' healing people because they had faith in Him. Because they believed. There was a woman that had a flow of blood, a condition that she went to many doctors, spent all her money, but didn't get better, but continued to get worse.

When she heard about Jesus, and the miracles Jesus was performing, she said to herself, if only I could touch the hem of His garment, I will be healed. So, right from the beginning, this woman had complete faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. There was no doubt in her mind, she knew for a fact that Jesus had the power to heal her.

Then when she finally got the opportunity, and heard that Jesus was coming by, she was not going to let it pass. But as the devil always does, he tries to put opposition in the way. She realized that there were hundreds of people thronging about Him. But with great faith, she didn't let that stop her. She shoved her way into the crowd, to get to Jesus. She was not going to let anything stop her, she had complete faith in Jesus.

We don't really know but she was probably a middle-aged woman, and maybe weak from the oppression. She had this condition for twelve years, but she didn't let that stop her. And to think under Jewish law, this woman was considered unclean, and anyone

who touched her was considered unclean. So, no one would have anything to do with her, they wouldn't even get close to her. Probably even her own family. And to think she had that condition for twelve years.

So, her going into the crowd with so many people was also an act of faith. She didn't let that stop her either, she pushed through the throng of people to get to Jesus. And she said within herself, if I can only touch the hem of His garment, I will be healed.

Now the hem of Jesus's garment was probably almost dragging the ground. So. She would have had to get down on her knees. She approached him from the back, probably because she was considered unclean and didn't want to touch Jesus. So, when she got near Him, she reached out and touched the *hem* of Jesus's garment. She immediately felt the healing power come from Jesus. She knew instantly that she was healed. She felt in her body that the flow of blood was stopped.

Now Jesus also felt the healing power go out his body. He stopped and turned around and said *who touched me*, when so many people were thronging about him. Jesus didn't even know who had been healed. Even His apostles were perplexed, they said Master how can You say who touched Me, with so many people thronging about You.

There were probably hundreds of people, all wanting to get near him. To hear what He was saying, to ask Him questions, to even to touch Him. So, by that we can see that even Jesus Himself could not stop this woman from being healed. He didn't cast the devil out of her with a word; He didn't lay His hands on her; He didn't even know she was there.

So, you can see what faith can do, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She didn't let anything stop her from getting to Jesus. She knew in her heart that if she could touch His garment, she would be healed. She had perfect genuine faith.

Then when she saw that Jesus realized who it was that was healed, she came trembling, falling at his feet, confessing that it was me who touched You. Just think what was going through her mind. Going from having great faith, believing that Jesus had the power to heal her,

to oh my gosh, here I am, an unclean woman and I have touched a rabbi.

It says she came trembling, so she was terrified, probably expecting a stern rebuke, like you are unclean, how can you touch me. Get away from me. As the Pharisees and the Sadducees would have said. They would not have wanted to be anywhere near her.

But what was Jesus's response, when He found out who it was that received His healing power? Who it was that was perfectly healed, made whole by His divine power. Jesus said, *be of good cheer, daughter, your faith has made you well*. Your faith has made you well. He called her *daughter*. That was probably the last thing she thought she would hear from Jesus.

Just think twelve years she had that horrible affliction. Twelve years she was more or less banished from society because of her condition. What joy she must have felt, to be healed from that terrible affliction. But the greatest joy was probably to be called *daughter* by Jesus. The Messiah, the One they were all waiting for. That is what faith can do, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

As Peter told us in 1 Peter 1:6-9, He said *in this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold, gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith. The salvation of our souls.*

Let's think about what Peter is saying here. We need to rejoice. We greatly rejoice even though we are grieved by various trials. Why would we rejoice if we are going through pain and suffering? Because God is *working* in our life, *testing* the genuineness of our faith.

Is our faith genuine? Is it more genuine that gold that is refined by fire? Even if we are grieved for a time. If we all think back, don't we all get closer to God, when we are going through a trial? Don't we call out to Him, many times a day, Father have mercy on me a sinner?

Our faith has to be in Him, faith more precious than gold, even gold that is refined by fire. If we think about that, when they refine gold, they put it in the hottest fire. The fire has to be 1950 degrees Fahrenheit to melt the gold, then it can be separated from all the impurities. It says in the article, when this is done the gold that is left is 99.999% pure gold. And what is Peter telling us in this passage? Our faith has to be more genuine than that 99.999%, more genuine than gold refined in fire.

And it says though we have not seen the Christ, we should believe, and rejoice with joy inexpressible, joy that our words cannot even express the extent of our gratitude. And to think, even gold that is refined by fire tarnishes and perishes over time.

Our faith needs to be more genuine, unperishable. Why? Because Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. He showed us how to have faith in Him, He will be with us all the way through our faith, to the end, the finisher. And what did Peter say is at the end of our faith. The *salvation of our souls*. And none of us need to be told how precious that is. The salvation of our souls.

Another example was when Jesus healed the woman with the flow of blood, He was actually on His way to Jarius's house, the ruler of the synagogue in Capernaum. As it says in Mark 5:22-24 *behold one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jarius by name. And when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet and begged earnestly, saying. My little daughter lies at the point of death. Please come and lay your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.*

Can you hear the complete and genuine faith and trust in that plea? First falling at Jesus's feet, was a show of complete belief in Jesus's sovereignty, showing that he believed that Jesus was the Son of God. A belief that was much debated at that time.

Then making his plea, come and lay Your hands on her that she may be healed, and she will live. There was no doubt in his plea. He didn't ask if Jesus could heal her, he used a plea of great faith and trust, He said come and heal her. Believing without a doubt, that Jesus could heal her.

And then it says, Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged about Him. That is when the healing of the woman took place. After spending some time with the woman, someone came from Jarius's house and said do not trouble the Teacher, because you are too late, your daughter is already dead. Jesus turned to Jarius and said, *do not be afraid, only believe*.

Can you imagine the look on Jarius's face, the fear and doubt, the dark pictures that the devil was putting in his mind? Probably seeing his lifeless daughter lying on the bed, hearing in his mind the mourners wailing.

Now here was someone who was an eyewitness, which had just come from Jarius's house, saying you are too late your daughter is dead, and Jesus saying, *do not be afraid, just believe. Believe in Me*.

There at that exact moment was the testing of his faith. Was it genuine, was it more precious than gold, tested by fire? That is where real faith has to kick in. That is when we need to look to the cross, to the uplifted One, the Sinless Lamb of God. The One God sent. The One that washed away our every sin and believe what He is telling us.

Because that same Jesus is saying that same thing to you and me, do not be afraid, just believe in me. Have faith in Me. I have already redeemed your every sin, just believe. That is what each and every one of us needs to do in our trials.

And since we are not in Jesus's presence, but since He is only a prayer away, we should fall on our knee's, confess our every sin. Tell Him our every need. But most of all, do not be afraid, just believe, believe with genuine faith in Him.

Now if Jarius was the ruler of the synagogue at Capernaum, he obviously was one of the leaders at that time. The Pharisees at that time were denouncing anyone who would even talk about Jesus, let alone put their faith in Him. So, he was doing something that was going to get him kicked out of his position of being ruler of the synagogue.

It would change his life completely. His comfortable lifestyle, his social standing with important people, or those who thought

they were important. We all have tough decisions to make at times, but this one was extremely tough.

If he believed Jesus and got to his house and his daughter was dead, he would not only have a dead daughter, but he would also lose his position as ruler of the synagogue. But we all can imagine how Jesus looked at him, when He said *do not be afraid, just have faith in Me*. To look unto the face of the Messiah. Didn't Jesus say that He was gentle and lowly in heart and that if we put His yoke upon us, He would give rest for our souls.

God created everyone to have the ability to make our own choice, to go our own way or to deny ourselves and pick up our cross daily and follow Him. Thankfully Jarius chose to reject the devil's lies and put his complete trust in Jesus, to have genuine faith in *the One God sent*. And Jesus gave his daughter back to him perfectly healed.

So, when Jesus says *do not be afraid, only believe*, was the same as saying, have faith in Me, genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Genuine faith that is more precious than gold refined by fire.

So, we can see by these two examples that if our Savior is telling us *not to be afraid, just believe in Me* and someone or something else is telling you the worse is going to happen, we need to decide who we are going to put our complete faith and trust in, just as Jarius had to, just as the women with the flow of blood had to.

Most every one of our trials begin with fear, usually fear of what could happen. Or fear of, how can I ever be delivered from this. John tells us that *perfect love cast out fear*. And who is *love*? And who is *perfect*? Is that not God Himself? And we all know that Jesus is God.

So, just imagine, yourself looking into the face of Jesus, and Him telling you, *do not be afraid, just believe in Me*. So, are we putting our Faith in The One that said, *do not be afraid*, or are we going the other way? Are we going to take the narrow road or the wide and much-traveled road? Are we going by the Way, the Truth, and the Life? And just remember, what is at the *end* of our faith, *the salvation of our souls*.

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