

Faith and Miracles

Every one of us will be in circumstances that force us to choose between accepting unfavorable -or worse- circumstances, or to call upon God for a miracle.

This is the valley of decision: People are either swallowed by the dark pool of despair and resignation, or they launch out upon their troubled waters in faith.

Faith that leads to a miracle must know WHAT GOD HAS SAID. It is ALWAYS standing on a living Word.

Romans 4:20-22 ²⁰ yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. ²² Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness.

It is built upon "GOD HAS PROMISED ME THIS", not "I hope, I wish, I pray....", not optimism or positivity, but God's Word.

We also don't get to speak into existence the things we want to happen, but we CAN repeat after our Father in heaven just as Jesus did.

Faith has a growth process, and it matures and strengthens as we exercise it.

Where faith begins...

Matthew 8:1-4 When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him. ² And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." ³ Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴ And Jesus *said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

Believing that Jesus CAN is the first step taken by real faith. It comes as we set aside the doubt that HE WANTS TO. This is tied directly to what we believe about the heart of God.

We believe His willingness and our unworthiness are opposing forces. "If I were more worthy, He would be more willing."

When will we finally accept the free Gift of God?! Jesus was worthy in your place, and now all His worthiness is yours!

We were born of God by faith, we were forgiven and cleansed by faith, we are sanctified by faith, and every good and perfect gift is ours for Christ's sake BY FAITH.

When faith is full grown...

Believing that Jesus WILL is faith in its maturity. It comes as we set aside the "reasons" He can't, or shouldn't, or wouldn't, and simply trust in His Word to us!

(catatonia, fear paralysis) What was the basis of the request? Purely need and desperation.

Matthew 8:5-13 ⁵ And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, ⁶ and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented." ⁷ Jesus *said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸ But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does *it*." ¹⁰ Now when Jesus heard *this*, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline *at the table* with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; ¹² but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³ And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that *very* moment.

Faith that leads to a miracle is the faith of a child. It is simple, dependent trust that the thing promised will be delivered.

When we cannot have faith for ourselves, the faith of others can lead to a miracle for us.

Matthew 8:14-17 ¹⁴ When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. ¹⁵ He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him. ¹⁶ When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. ¹⁷ *This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases."*

Will you let someone else carry you to Jesus? Will you carry someone else to Him? He will receive all who come to Him, no matter how we get there!