

I HAVE FAITH FOR THIS!

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Building Great Faith/Expectant Faith

(Part 2 of a 8 part series)

Do you have a story or testimony to share? Email us at stories@hillsong.co.za

INTRODUCTION

In a world brimming with uncertainty and challenges, faith becomes our anchor and guide. Throughout this series, we will explore the profound impact of understanding what faith is, why it is important and how we can operate in it. Drawing inspiration from scripture and the powerful biblical stories, personal testimonies, and practical teachings, together, we will delve into what it means to possess unwavering faith, how to cultivate it in the face of adversity, and the extraordinary outcomes that faith can bring.

Join us as we embark on this spiritual journey, deepening our trust in God's promises and discovering the boundless possibilities that arise when we declare, "**I have faith for this.**"

We believe this series will:

- Equip our church to live lives of great faith.
 - Teach our church how faith is the currency of the Kingdom of God.
 - Empower people to activate faith in their lives.
 - Challenge people to live expectant for the blessing, favor and power of Jesus in every area of their lives.
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KEY VERSE

Matthew 8:10

10 "When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."

DISCOVERY

Faith is fundamental to the Christian life. It is through faith that we come to know God, and it is by faith that we live in accordance with His will. The Bible provides numerous examples of individuals who exhibited great faith, serving as inspirations for us today. One such example is the Roman centurion whose faith Jesus commended in Matthew 8:5-13.

In this study, we will explore the nature of faith and how it was exemplified by the Roman centurion in Matthew 8:5-13, whose extraordinary trust in Jesus amazed Him. We'll examine the centurion's demonstration of humility, recognition of Jesus' authority, and the broader implications of faith, including its role in transcending cultural boundaries and embracing inclusivity. Our exploration will include reflecting on how these elements of faith apply to our own lives, identifying areas where we can deepen our trust and practice being expectant, and considering how we can share this understanding with others.

We will conclude by committing to daily reflection and prayer, engaging with our community, and seeking support through accountability partners to live out our faith more fully.

DISCUSSION

Starting Question:

How often do we find ourselves struggling with doubt or uncertainty in our faith journey.

Can you recall a time when you had to rely on faith alone for a situation or decision in your life? What was that experience like?

Exploring Questions:

1a. Matthew 8:10 (NIV): "When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."

Jesus praises the faith of a Roman centurion, a remarkable event given that the centurion was a Gentile, not one of the Israelites. This praise highlights the centurion's exceptional faith and provides us with valuable lessons on the nature of faith, authority, and the inclusivity of God's kingdom. As we delve into this verse, we will explore the qualities that led to Jesus' commendation, the significance of understanding authority in relation to Jesus, and the broad reach of God's grace.

What qualities did the centurion demonstrate that made Jesus commend his faith?

1b. Matthew 8:8-9 (NIV): "The centurion replied, 'Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.' "For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

The centurion's faith was distinguished by his profound humility, unwavering trust, and deep recognition of Jesus' authority. Despite his high rank, he approached Jesus with humility, acknowledging his unworthiness to have Jesus come to his home. His trust in Jesus was evident in his belief that Jesus could heal his servant from a distance, reflecting a confident faith in Jesus' power. Additionally, the centurion's understanding of authority, informed by his military experience, allowed him to appreciate and recognize the divine authority of Jesus. To cultivate these qualities in our own lives, we should strive to approach God with humility, build our trust in His promises through prayer and reflection, and deepen our understanding of Jesus' authority and role in our lives.

How does the centurion's understanding of authority enhance our perception of Jesus' power?

1c. Matthew 8:10 (NIV): "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."

The commendation of the centurion, a Gentile, for his faith underscores the inclusivity of God's kingdom. This interaction reveals that God's grace and the invitation to His kingdom extend beyond ethnic and religious boundaries, welcoming all who demonstrate genuine faith. The centurion's inclusion in this narrative signifies that God's love and salvation are available to everyone, regardless of their background. Understanding this inclusivity should encourage us to approach faith with openness and extend grace to others, recognizing that God's kingdom is broad and inclusive. This perspective calls us to share the message of Christ widely and engage with others with compassion and acceptance.

What does this passage teach us about the inclusivity of God's kingdom?

Actions Questions:

How can you demonstrate a deeper trust in Jesus in your current life situation?

- In what areas of your life are you struggling to fully trust in God's power and promises?
- What steps can you take to surrender these areas to Him and rely on His guidance and power?

How can you build and maintain a strong and expectant faith? What practical steps can we take as a community to encourage one another?

- Identify actions or attitudes you can adopt to show humility and acknowledge Jesus' lordship.
- How can you make this a daily practice and encourage others to do the same?

DEVOTION

Spend time reflecting on your current level of faith.

Are there specific areas where you need to grow in trust and expectancy?

Write down any insights or revelations you have about your personal faith journey.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for increased faith and trust in God.
- Ask God to help you recognize His authority and power in your life, just as the centurion did.
- Pray for guidance on how to apply this lesson to your daily walk with Christ.

Make a commitment to take a step of faith this week. Identify a situation where you can exercise expectant faith, and share it with the group so that they can pray for you and hold you accountable.