

GOD #5: MATTHEW 8:5-13 AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED

Faith Is Not an Option for the Christian. It Is a Way of Life

Faith and belief interchangeable in this story

1859 Charles Blondin was first person cross Niagara Falls on tightrope, 2" diam rope, 1,300 feet long he walked across it 190 feet above the falls. Several times. dressed in a sack, walking on stilts, man on back, riding a bicycle, put a small portable stove in the wheelbarrow cooked ate an omelet ½ way across. Once pushed wheelbarrow full of potatoes, he then rolled his wheelbarrow up to the crowd asked a man in the crowd, Do you believe that I can carry a person across in this? **Yes**. Do you want to get in Emphatic **NO? IMAGINE GETTING IN. EASY ENTERTAINED. Say I believe diff than get in** **Belief can be reduced to a concept, not a reality where we expect concrete results.**

- INUNDATED IDEA BELIEVE. "Don't Stop Believin'" – Journey - Cher, Justin Bieber, Imagine Dragons. Movies/TV: Polar Express Ted Lasso – gen insp 4 success self fulfillment
- Even church wildly diff: Magical thinking. name-it. claim-it presumption MOTN: Passive resignation masquerading as trust while doing nothing. **LIKE MAN YES**

Faith is not a religious accessory or spiritual add on. True biblical faith is active, anchored, and aligned with the heart of God. **FAV STORIES - GOD DOES THRU FAITH MP: Faith is a God given gift and capacity, entrusted to each of us to be exercised in the way He has designed. FOR IT TO WORK**

Faith is how we begin our journey with Christ, how we grow in Him, how we engage His promises, and how we participate in the miraculous.

- As story illustrates, "**as you have believed**" is not a casual phrase

It is a guiding principle of Kingdom living. It reveals what kind of faith pleases God and unlocks His promises. '**As you have believed**' is a **Kingdom ethic. IS IT ROTO TILL AN UNLIKELY PERSON COMES TO JESUS**

EVERYTHING AGAINST: Roman not Jew, outside covenant. Centurion Occupier/enemy

- **FAITH:** shattered cultural, spiritual, and theological boundaries. He understood divine power was not localized but sovereign, and that Jesus' command, even from a distance, was enough to restore the broken.
- **EVERY REASON FOR NO. BUT YES!** – Go Into this Soldiers House

Jesus is more willing to work miracles in your life than you give Him credit for.

- o Not Necessary for You to COME TO MY HOUSE. I KNOW HOW IT WORKS

THAT FAITH AMAZED JESUS: Only 2X Bible we read Jesus "marveled", lack HT. HERE God wants to be moved by our faith. Not to manipulate Him but align us to His will and experience His miraculous power for the sake of our joy, fulfillment of His Kingdom.

5 QUALITIES OF FAITH THAT WORKS – 5 PRAYERS TRANSFORM FTH

ROOTED IN HUMILITY: I AM NOT WORTHY. Reverence not Entitlement.

- Could have come in pride demanding as a soldier. We pride demanding as children. **DOESN'T GO OVER WELL WHEN UR KIDS COME LIKE THAT**

Faith doesn't mean making demands of God or bossing him around.

Real faith puts us in our place. Dependent. Reliant. Confident. **ASK, SEEK, KNOCK** – because of love our heavenly father takes joy

Jesus, show me where are you calling me to bold faith, but fear, pride, or self-protection is keeping me from taking a step forward.

ALIGNED WITH GOD'S PURPOSE: Really didn't know all that was going down

- For love's sake. When you love God and others you fall into alignment w purpose
- God's kingdom coming to all ppl - demonstrated in healing. **PLAN. didn't know**

John 14:13 Whatever you ask in my name I will do that the father glorified in the Son.

God takes joy in moving miraculously in your life when your faith is in alignment with His purposes not centered on your indulgences or preferences.

Jesus, help me see where you are working in and around my life and how my faith can align with your purpose.

FOCUSED ON JESUS – Rather than consumed by problem – **confident in Christ's sufficiency.** Eyes not on the pain but the one who could heal it. **U CAN FEEL THAT**

- Rumination: People absorbed, surrounded by voices and culture center pain.

Faith doesn't deny a situation's existence. It denies it a place of influence. Christine Cain

Jesus, show me where woundedness or pain has been permitted to cloud my view of You.

CONFIDENT IN CHRIST'S AUTHORITY:

For the Centurion, Christ's authority was not symbolic or sentimental but sovereign.

- You are the one who commands creation – **Solar system map (information)**

Jesus, are there areas in my life where I rely more on my ability than Your authority?

UNAFRAID TO TRUST: He didn't need a sign, a feeling or emotion. NUFF SAID

Jesus, show me the last time my faith moved before clarity arrived? **PINWHEEL.**

THAT'S THE KIND OF FAITH THAT AMAZES JESUS AND MOVES HEAVEN

Will you choose to believe like that? Not soft, sentimental, passive. Says yes lives no.

I don't have that kind of belief. **Yes you do. All a measure. HOW YOU USE IT**

This kind of faith is the currency of heaven—the basis of your experience of God.

Hebrews 11:6 "Without faith it's impossible to please God because he who comes to God must believe that he is and that he is the rewarder of those who diligently seek him.

GOD GROWS OUR FAITH (5 QUALITIES) Seed. Stalk. Flower. Fruit. EACH

- **As you have believed, answer this week?**

CORTEZ BURNED HIS SHIPS – FOR XIAN RETREAT SELF-RELIANCE NOT OPTION

We need to choose a faith that is all in, with no retreat. **GET IN THE WHEELBARROW**