

Dear Partner,

The bible speaks of little faith, growing faith, and great faith. Jesus said there was one man who had the greatest faith of all the people he had met during his three and a half years of ministry on earth. Here is how the apostle Matthew tells what happened:

Mat 8:5-10 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, (6) And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. (7) And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. (8) The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. (9) For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this *man*, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it*. (10) When Jesus heard *it*, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

This man was a Roman by birth. He was a gentile, not a Jew. At that time in history he had no covenant with God like the Jewish nation did. Not only that, but he was a soldier in the army that was currently occupying the nation of Israel. His job was to enforce the will of Caesar upon the Jewish people. He had a minimum of one hundred soldiers under his command. Yet somehow this uncircumcised gentile came to have the greatest faith that Jesus had encountered on planet earth. By the way ... he got what he came for because the scriptures tell us that his servant was healed from that very hour:

Mat 8:13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

If Jesus says this man demonstrated the highest level of faith He had seen, then it is important for us to understand how that kind of faith works. The centurion himself explains his understanding of faith. He was a man who had authority over his soldiers and over his servants. He knew what authority meant. It meant when he issued a command, that command was to be obeyed. He would say, Go, and the man would go. He would say, Come, and the man would come. He understood that when he spoke ... it was done.

Let's think about authority for a moment. Why would his soldiers obey him when he gave a command? Was it because the centurion himself was such a big, bad man? We have no idea what he was like physically. For all we know he might have been a ninety-pound weakling with a high voice. His men didn't obey him because he, himself, was such a fierce warrior. His men obeyed because of the POWER of Rome that had delegated such authority to him. He had all the power of Rome backing up every command he spoke. In order to enforce his words, if need be, Rome would have brought in every soldier from every city in the empire. Every man knew that to disobey the centurion was to defy Rome ... and to suffer the consequences of the power of the entire Roman empire. Nobody would dare defy such power.

The centurion understood the authority he had been given. He knew that the authority was released through the words that he spoke. Somehow he knew that Jesus had been given authority from God over all sickness and disease. He knew that His authority was also released through the words that He spoke. That's why he said to Jesus, "Speak the WORD only and my servant shall be healed." In plain English

he was saying, "I know you have authority over sickness the same way I have authority over my soldiers. I know sickness will obey you when you speak the same way my soldiers obey me when I speak. Speak the WORD Jesus, and my servant shall be healed." Jesus said that was GREAT FAITH!

Where would anybody go today to find Jesus so He could speak the WORD over your situation. Jesus is not physically on the earth today. The book of Ephesians tells us plainly that He is seated at the right hand of God in heaven. But the mystery of the gospel is this ... "Christ in you!" Jesus has no physical lips on planet earth today except ... OURS! Christ is in us and He has given us power and authority over devils, sickness and disease.

Luke 9:1-2 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. (2) And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Some might say ... but that was only for the apostles. Yet Jesus said that all believers would have that same power and authority when He said:

Mark 16:17-18 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; (18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

It is time for all of us to believe the gospel. We must come to the place where we understand that when we speak in the name of Jesus, all of heaven's power is there to back up our words. We need to believe what Jesus taught us, rise up like the commanders we are in the kingdom of God, speak the WORD boldly, and watch the power of God be manifested in the world.

Sue and I love you and appreciate you. We thank God for your generous and giving heart. God bless you!

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY