BLESSED HOPE



BIBLE CHURCH

Blessed Hope Bible Church

www.bhbcstl.org

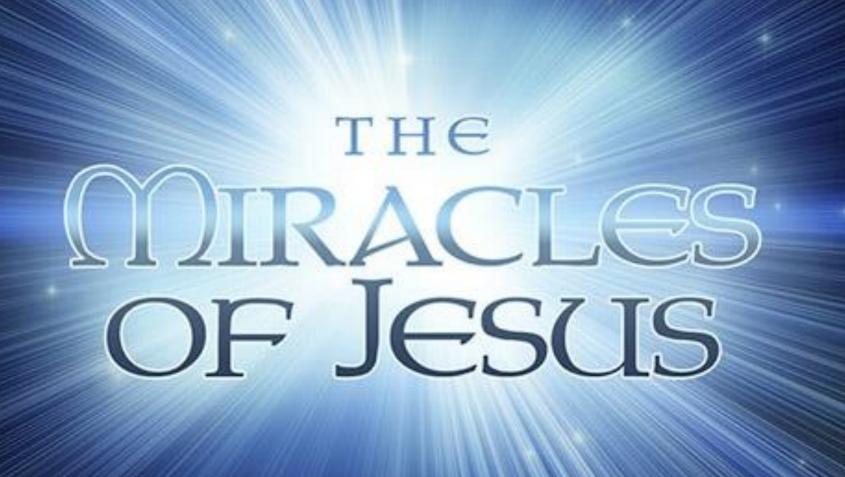




Learning ... Loving ... Leaning ... Living ... Leading ...

By the Word of God





THY FAITH HATH MADE THEE WELL



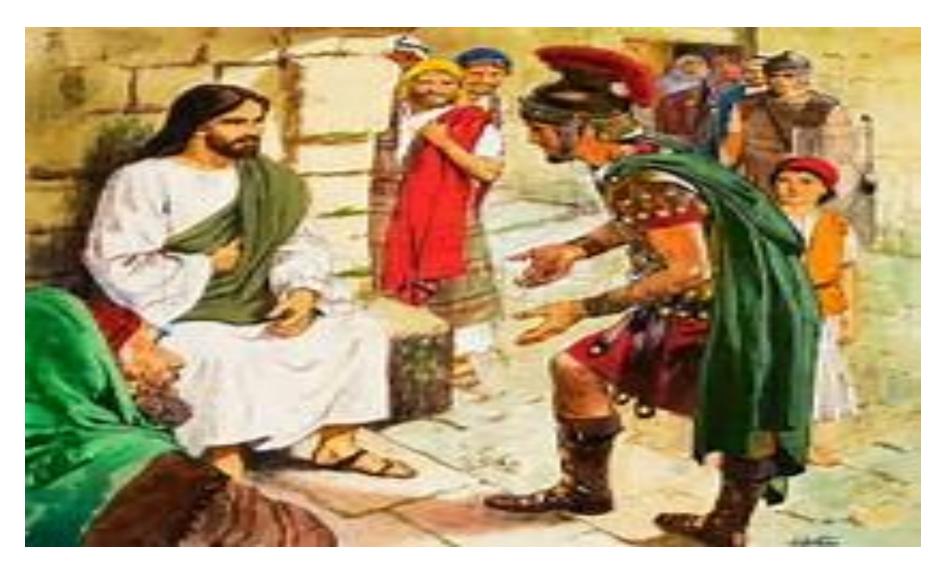
INTRODUCTION

• **Hebrew 11:1-3:** "Now faith is the **substance** (l.e., realization) of things hoped for, the evidence (I.e., confidence) of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds (I.e., ages) were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

- Faith is NOT some kind of mysterious magic, or wishful thinking--it is personal dependence in full confidence on the TRUTHFULNESS and TRUSTWORTHINESS of another (be it a person, a philosophy, a doctrine, a teaching, or just information from another).
- Faith is only as good as the OBJECT in which it is placed.
 - One can **real faith** in person, a teaching, or a belief system and be totally and completely deceived because the **object** of that faith is false, deceptive, erroneous, and even dangerous!!
 - This is why we have false religions, false cults, false sects, and false isms.
 - This is why someone can be dogmatic in their beliefs to the point of death, and yet still be deceived by that very belief!!

- Note carefully: Those who say they have no faith, really do have faith--the key is the OBJECT of their faith (e.g., their own abilities; their own intelligence; their own reasoning; their own wisdom; their own strength)!!!
- Note carefully: Many people like Jesus, they like the gospel message—they believe that Jesus and the gospel message is wonderful—but the key is the object of their faith!!
 - They give mental acknowledgement to the information about Jesus
 - Unfortunately, they do not have any real personal confidence in the truthfulness and trustworthiness of Jesus (e.g., they still trust their own reasoning, abilities and strength, in spite of the message of the gospel).
- **LESSON**: It is NOT faith that heals (or saves), it is the **OBJECT** of faith, the Lord Jesus Christ, who heals by His sovereign authoritative power.
 - We will look at three examples of Jesus' healing in the gospel of Matthew that show that it was not just arbitrary faith that heals but that it was the object of faith, the Lord Jesus Christ, that heals.

EXAMPLE #1: THE CENTURION'S FAITH Matt.8:5-13, cf., Luke 7:1-10



• LESSON #1: He was a Gentile who had put his trust in the God of Israel (e.g., he realize the emptiness in the pagan beliefs of the polytheistic religions and believed the God of Israel was the one and only true and living God).

LESSON #2: His faith in God was seen in his character and actions for God

- He had a good reputation and rapport with the Jews (the elders of the Jews would not have interceded on his behalf if they did not like him and trust him).
- He was a generous man because he financed the building of a synagogue in Capernaum.
- He was a loving man, because he loved the loved the Jewish people, and because he cared deeply for his servant who was sick (note: in those days, masters could have cared less if a slave died).

LESSON #3: His faith in God was seen in his respect for authority.

- Luke tells us that this centurion sent elders of the Jews to Jesus requesting a healing for his servant.
 - No contradiction exist between Matthew and Luke exist; both accounts are true--it was the centurion's request, but it was delivered through intermediaries, thus Matthew could correctly say that he made the request.
 - Illustration: This same common phenomenon occurred when James and John and their mother asked the Lord about sitting on His right and left hands in the kingdom (Matt.20:20 cf., Mark 10:35)
 - Illustration: This occurs in everyday speech: "I told them to cancel that order," when in reality it was the secretary who made the phone call.
- The centurion believed that Jesus had authority over illness and over life and death--he believed that Jesus could easily prolong life if He so ordered it!!
 - Giving and taking orders made up the fabric of the centurion's life
 - He knew from experience that a general does not need to carry out his own orders in person

LESSON #4: Jesus responded to the centurion's faith.

- It was NOT the centurion's character of generosity and love, it was his faith!!
- Jesus said that the centurion had "great faith;" this was because he believed that Jesus and authority over illness, and thus authority over life and death, and that He could control both by the very authoritative word of His power!!
- Point: The object of the centurion's faith was the sovereign, authoritative power of Jesus!!--this made his faith greater that even the faith of the Jews.
- Challenge: Is Jesus the object of your faith? Do you trust Jesus to do what He wants, when He wants, to whom He wants, where He wants, how He wants, for how long He wants, and for reasons He wants?

EXAMPLE #2: THE FAITH OF THE HEMORRHAGING WOMAN WHO TOUCHED THE HEM OF JESUS' GARMENT Matt.9:20-22; cf., Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48



LESSON #1: The Faith of this woman was misdirected.

- Mark tells us that this woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and that she had suffered many things from many physicians.
- Mark tells us that this woman had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse (e.g., does that sound like what we go through with our health care?).
- Point: This woman put her trust in the skills of physicians to deal with her illness.
- Note: The reason and experience of this woman told her that her illness was incurable and she might as well learn to live as best she can with her illness.

- LESSON #2: The faith of this woman was based on information she heard about Jesus.
 - Mark tells us that when this woman heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.
 - Note carefully: This woman made an assumption about Jesus based on what she heard about Jesus.
 - She heard that Jesus had the power to heal diseases and cast out demons.
 - She heard talk that Jesus, based on His healing powers, just might be the Messiah, the son of David.
 - She assumed that if Jesus had the power to heal, then all she needs to do is just touch the hem of His garment--she could do this without even asking Jesus to heal her (as others have done), without anyone knowing about it, and without pay (i.e., besides, what did she have to lose!?).
 - No one told this woman that touching Jesus' garment would bring healing, she came to that conclusion on her own!!

LESSON #3: Jesus responded to the woman's assumption!!

- Luke tells us that Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me for I perceived power going out from Me.
- When the woman realized that she was exposed, in fear and trembling she came and fell down before Jesus and confessed to Him the whole truth
 - All of the gospel accounts implied that when Jesus turned around, He was looking right at the woman.
 - The woman taught she was in trouble because she received a healing without asking for it and for "taking" it in secret (i.e., stealing a healing)
- Point: Jesus wanted to expose the woman's assumption!!

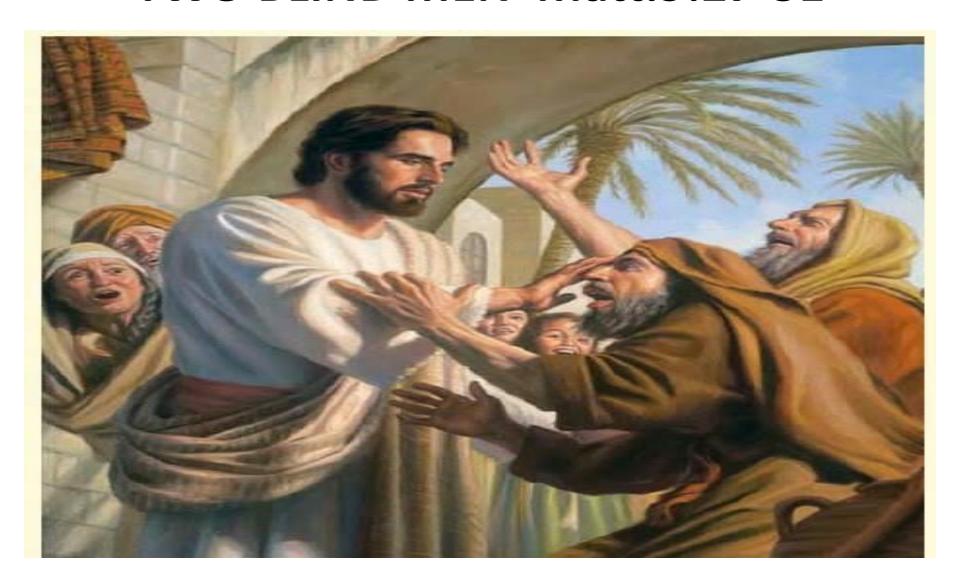
LESSON #4: The woman's healing was based on faith in Jesus, not upon an assumption about Jesus.

- The woman made the assumption in the first place because she believed that Jesus had the sovereign authoritative power over illness, life and death.
- The woman thought that she could go around the authority of Jesus in a secret way.
- Jesus shows that it was her **faith** in His authoritative power that heals, not her **assumptions**.

LESSON #5: Faith in the authoritative power of Jesus is always made public!

- Faith always has an **object**, and that faith is only as good as the object in which it is placed (i.e., if the object of faith is false, the faith in that object of faith is vain).
- Genuine faith will always be made public--sooner or later, you always reveal what you truly believe in!!
- Challenge: Is your faith in Jesus based upon an personal, private, secret, assumption, true or false, that you have about Jesus, based on what that you heard about Jesus in the streets?

EXAMPLE #3: THE HEALING OF THE TWO BLIND MEN Matt.9:27-31



LESSON #1: In order to call on Jesus for help, you must first believe in the authoritative power of Jesus to help!

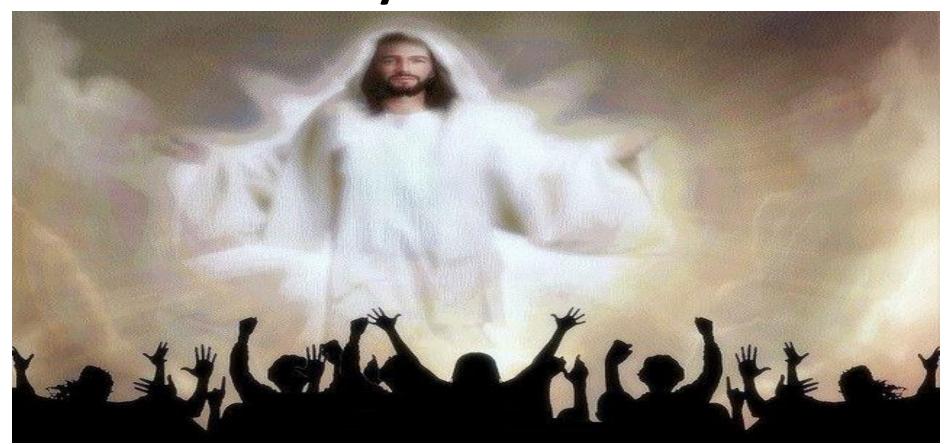
- These two blind men saw in Jesus what the scribes and the Pharisees, who were students of the Bible, could not see!!
 - They understood that Jesus was the "son of David," and they believed this from what they heard, even though they had never been able to personally witness any of Jesus' miracle.
 - This title "son of David," linked Jesus with the Messiah, the one who would fulfill the Davidic covenant.
 - Isaiah predicted that the Messiah would ultimately sit on David's Throne and rule the kingdom (Isaiah 9:7)
 - Gabriel announced to Mary that the child she would bear would be the son of David and the one to reign over Israel (Luke 1:32-33)
- These two blind men were persistent, even thought it seem as if Jesus was ignoring them (e.g., their persistent was real because their faith in the ability of Jesus was real).

- LESSON #2: Jesus responds to faith in His authoritative power.
 - The question: Do you believe that I am able to do this? (not do you think I can do this; not do you hope I can do this; not do others believe I can do this)
 - The answer: Yes (we personally believe You can do this)
 - The response: According to your faith let it be to you (i.e., based upon your faith in the authoritative sovereign power of Jesus—not upon what you think, assume, or wishfully hope)

- LESSON #3: Faith in the authoritative power of Jesus leads to obedience to the authority of Jesus.
 - The directive: See that no one knows it (this was a stern warning from Jesus)
 - The reasons why Jesus did not want the two men to the tell anyone about the healing is not important.
 - The real issue is trusting the word and wisdom of Jesus, no matter what He says and why He says it.
 - The problem: They spread the news about Him in all that country
 - Note: The two blind men had faith to be healed, but not faith to obey--their motive might have been well intended, but it was still disobedience
 - **Note**: Disobedience, for whatever reason, comes from immature faith.
 - Note carefully: Obedience is faith in action—that faith grows by learning to trust Christ in all major and minor decisions of life-that is obeying Him, without question, without objection, and without challenge, even if we do not know the full reasons for His commands and exhortations.

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

Is the Lord Jesus Christ to object of your faith?



RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOUR TODAY!!





- Acknowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, <u>died</u> on the cross for your sin, and that He <u>arose</u> again from the dead on the third day.
- 2. Admit that you are a sinner, guilty of sin and responsible and accountable to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
- **3. Affirm** that the Lord Jesus Christ is your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.