

**BLESSED HOPE**

**BHBC**



**BIBLE CHURCH**

# Blessed Hope Bible Church

[www.bhbcbstl.org](http://www.bhbcbstl.org)



13.06.2018 09:17 © www.shutterstock.com



*Learning ...*

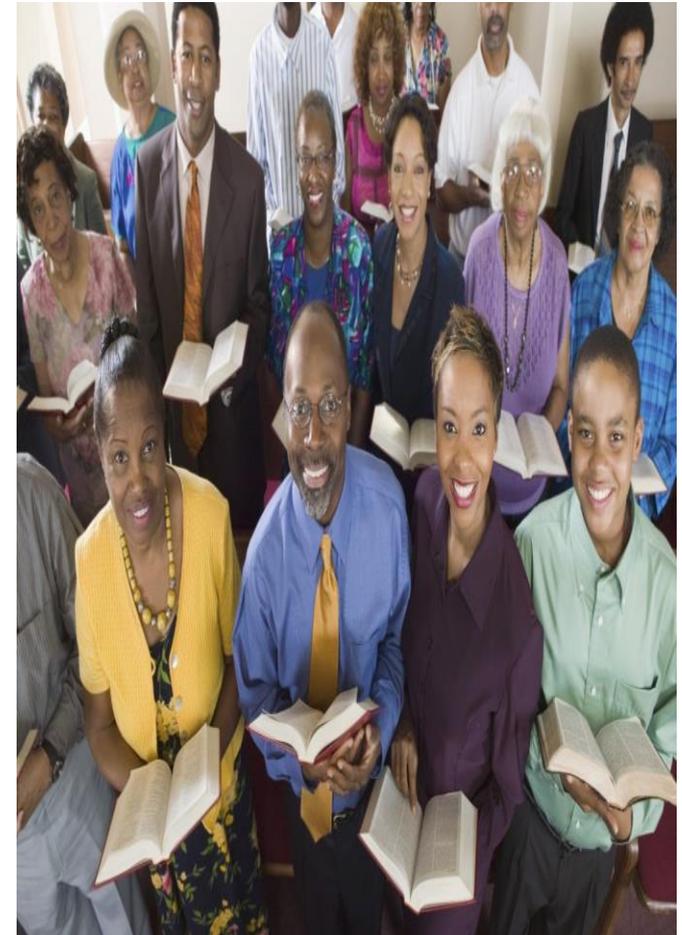
*Loving ...*

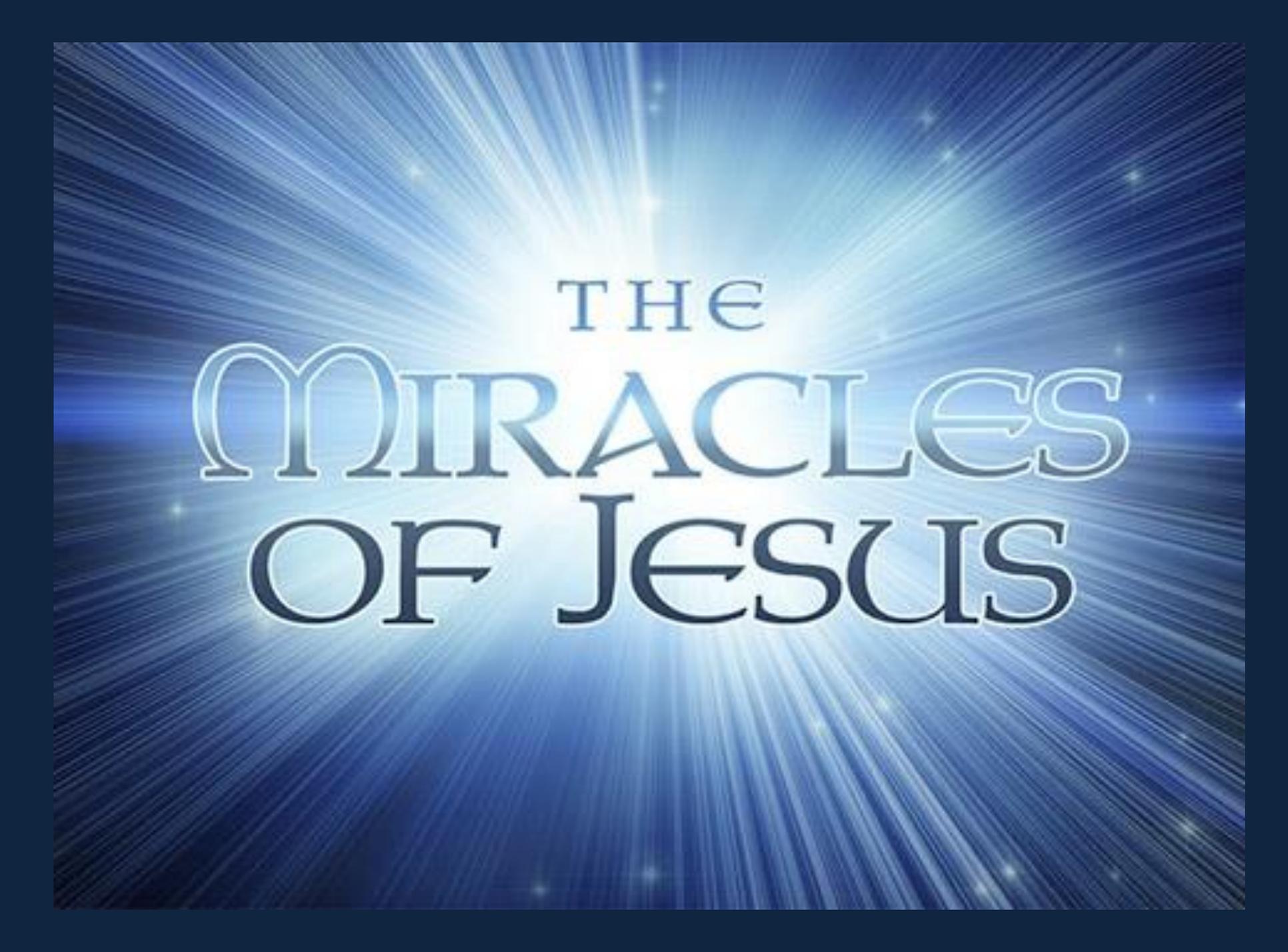
*Leaning ...*

*Living ...*

*Leading ...*

*By the Word  
of God*





THE  
MIRACLES  
OF JESUS



# HEALING THE NOBLEMAN'S SON

## John 4:43-54

# INTRODUCTION

- **QUESTION:** Is our faith in Christ a **blind leap** or **confidence** in His reliability and trustworthiness?



**BLIND FAITH IN YOUR  
LEADERS, OR IN  
ANYTHING, WILL GET  
YOU KILLED.**



[QUOTEHD.COM](http://QUOTEHD.COM)

**Bruce Springsteen**  
American Singer-songwriter  
Born 1949

Faith in Christ is not some blind  
leap into a dark chasm, but a  
faith based on established  
evidence.

Hank Hanegraaff

- However, when it comes to Christ, there is no real proof of His trustworthiness (e.g., the finite cannot prove the infinite).
  - There is no proof that His sacrificial death on the cross paid the penalty for sin—we have to take God’s word on this (e.g., some do and some don’t)
  - There is no proof that Christ rose from the dead—we have to take God’s word on this, as well as the accounts of the eyewitnesses (e.g., some do and some don’t).
  - There is no proof that Christ ascended into heaven—we have to take God’s word on this, as well as the accounts of the eyewitnesses (e.g., some do and some don’t).
  - There is no proof that Christ will come again—we have to take His word on this (e.g., some do and some don’t)
  - There is no proof that Christ is the one and only Savior—we have to take God’s word on this (e.g., some do and some don’t)
  - There is no proof that one will suffer eternal punishment in hell if one rejects Christ—we have to take God’s word on this!

- Real faith, genuine faith, saving faith is personal confidence in the reliability and trustworthiness of Christ (e.g., “I believe that God is telling me the truth)
  - It is NOT based on **feelings** because feeling change with the change of circumstances.
  - It is NOT based on the **observation** of the 5 senses (see, hear, smell, taste, touch) because they can be faulty based on insufficient information or deception.
  - It is NOT based on **reason**, because that can be biased based on ill rational feelings, faulty observation, and false assumptions.

- Faith in Christ is in a sense a leap of faith, it is a calculated risk, because you are trusting in Him, based on His words and actions, in spite of what you feel, what you think you know, and what you think you see.
- However, the faith is NOT blind, because you know who the object of your faith is!!



- The miracle of the healing of the nobleman's son shows us what it means to **believe** in Jesus.
- **Lesson:** The word of Christ is just as reliable as the presence of Christ.
  - Jesus does not want to be regarded as a worker of miracles while at the same time His message is rejected.
  - Jesus wants us to believe His word—regardless of what we think, feel, or see.
  - There are three responses in this miracle that show us the importance of taking Jesus at His word.

# THE RECEPTION OF THE CROWD

## John 4:43-45

- **THE SETTING OF THE MIRACLE:** Jesus has returned to Galilee
  - Jesus testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country (i.e., a prediction that people would reject His teachings)
  - Nevertheless, the Galileans received Jesus because of the things (i.e., miracles) they saw Jesus do in Jerusalem.
  - Their “faith” in Jesus was not that He was the Messiah sent from God, but that He was a miracle-worker.



- **APPLICATIONAL LESSON:** A faith that is dependant upon the props of signs and wonders is NOT real faith in the Lord.
  - As long as Jesus did miracles, these people would follow Jesus—when the miracles stopped, they stopped following.
  - Faith that depend on “sign” (i.e., what I can see) is not faith at all! It is selfish and twofaced because it not concerned about the truth but about thrills!!

# THE DESPERATION OF THE NOBLEMAN

## John 4:46-49

- **THE REQUEST OF THE NOBLEMAN:** He implored (i.e., begged) Jesus to come down (i.e., to Capernaum which was 24 miles north-east of Cana) and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.
  - The nobleman from Capernaum heard of Jesus' wonder working power to heal sickness and came to Jesus for help
  - The nobleman did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God



- **THE RESPONSE OF JESUS:** “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”
  - Jesus’ statement may seem to be insensitive, but it was intended to force the man to deal with who Jesus really was (e.g., is He really reliable and trustworthy?)
  - Note: You cannot really trust Jesus unless you really know who Jesus really is!!

- **THE DESPERATION OF THE NOBLEMAN:** “Sir, come down (i.e., to Capernaum) before my child dies!”
  - The nobleman, because of his particular circumstances, was not interested in who Jesus really was!!
  - The nobleman was concern only about an immediate physical need—once that need was meet, maybe he might think about who Jesus really is (e.g., many people today are like this desperate nobleman)

- **APPLICATIONAL LESSON:** A faith that depends on emotional desperation is not real faith in the Lord.
  - Many people’s mind is so fixed on their circumstances that they neither know or care about who Jesus is (e.g., they are like “foxhole” soldiers praying to get out of a bad situation).
  - Faith that is fixed upon one’s circumstances and not on the person of Jesus Christ is not faith at all.
  - **Note carefully:** Who Jesus is is just as important as what Jesus can do!!

# THE BELIEF OF THE NOBLEMAN

## John 4:50-54

- **THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MIRACLE:** “Go your way; your son lives.”
  - **Notice:** Jesus gave no proof at all that His word was trustworthy!!
  - The nobleman was forced to accept Jesus’ word or reject it—there was no middle ground.
  - Notice: The nobleman took a “calculated risk” and believed the word of Jesus
    - If Jesus lied or was mistaken, his son would be dead—that would be proof that Jesus was unreliable and untrustworthy.
    - However, if his son lived, that would still be no proof that the healing came from Jesus—he could say it was just coincidence.
  - When the noblemen received the report that his son lives, he **willingly** chose to believe in Jesus, he and his whole household

# **A CHALLENGE FOR YOU**

**What is your faith based on?**



- Faith is only as good as the object in which is placed
  - If your faith is based on signs, miracles, dreams, visions, and angelic appearances, it will fade away in the routines of life.
  - But if your faith is based upon the word of Christ, it will not only save, but stand the test of trials and time and grow as your knowledge of Christ increases.

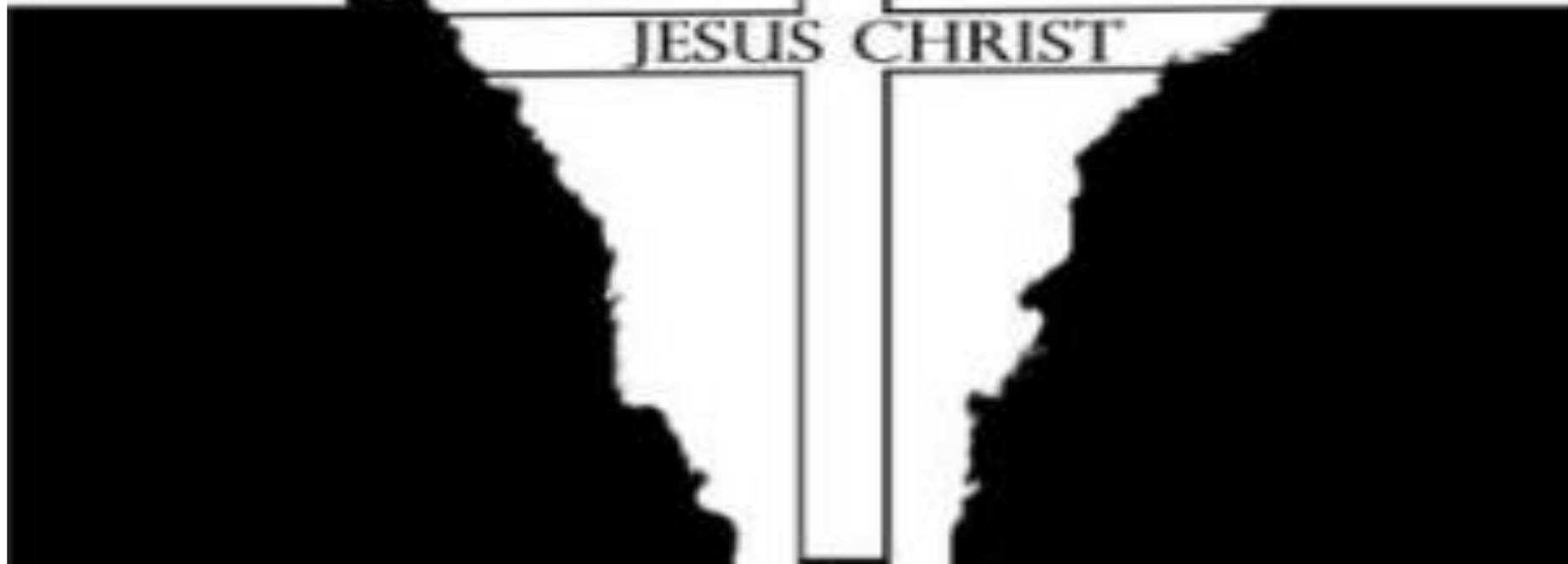
RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR  
SAVIOUR TODAY!!



GOD HAS PROVIDED THE  
ONLY WAY...WE MUST MAKE  
THE CHOICE



JESUS CHRIST



- 1. Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross for your sin, and that He arose 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.