

**Luke**  
**See Jesus**  
**Real Faith**  
**Luke 7:1-10**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / April 25, 2021*

**I. You'll Never Put Your Faith in Jesus Until You Stop Trusting in Something or Someone Else**

**A. What Is Faith?**

When the Bible talks about faith, it's not talking about the antithesis of reason or thinking as if these two things are in opposition to each other. They're not!

Faith for the Christian is a response of trust in Jesus that is based on the knowledge of who He claims to be and what the Scriptures testify that He did for us.

**B. Who Has It?**

Everybody has faith. It's just a question of where you're placing that faith.

**Luke 7:4-5** "And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with Him earnestly, saying, 'He is worthy to have You do this for him, <sup>5</sup> for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue.'"

**Luke 7:6-7** "...the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, 'Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy to have You come under my roof. <sup>7</sup> Therefore I did not presume to come to You. But say the word, and let my servant be healed.'"

The religious leaders and the centurion both have faith. The centurion has faith in Jesus, while the religious leaders still have their faith in moral goodness and performance, thinking they can earn or merit divine favor and power in their lives.

You never disbelieve in God and His Son, Jesus Christ, without also believing at that same moment just as deeply in something else – usually yourself.

**C. What Is It that Causes Us to Wrestle with Our Faith?**

**Luke 7:2** "Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued to him."

Our sin nature drives us to ignore what matters most until pain and suffering or the potential loss of something we value comes crashing into our lives.

"Over the last decade, I have been on an increasingly determined search for Truth which - as for so many lost Western people - has taken me to all quarters. For five years I studied and practiced Zen Buddhism; I'm still grateful for the insights that accorded me, but there was something missing. In search of what that something might be, I explored Daoism, mythology, Sufism, traditionalism, Alexandrian Wicca and all sorts of other bits and pieces. They all taught me something, but not enough. Then, in 2020, as the world was turned upside down, so was I. Unexpectedly, and initially against my will, I found myself being pulled determinedly towards Christianity. It's a long story, which I might tell one day. Suffice it to say that I started the year as an eclectic eco-pagan with a long-held, unformed ache in my heart, and ended it a practicing Christian, the ache gone and replaced by the thing that, all along, I turned out to have been looking for."

~ Paul Kingsnorth

Bad times don't create the desire and need for God. They just push it to the surface and put an exclamation point after it!

## II. Your Faith Can Be Mixed with Doubts

**Mark 9:23-24** "...all things are possible to him who believes." <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!'"

It's not the strength of your faith but the object of your faith that matters most. It's not about perfecting your faith; it's about directing your faith to Jesus!

"There is a gap between the probable and the proved. How was I to cross it? If I were to stake my whole life on the risen Christ, I wanted proof. I wanted certainty. I wanted to see Him eat a bit of fish. I wanted letters of fire across the sky. I got none of these. And I continued to hang about on the edge of the gap. However, there was a gap behind me as well! I realized I could not reject Jesus without a great step of faith, but then I began to realize I could not go ahead without a great step of faith...I could not reject Jesus. There was only one thing to do once I had seen the gap behind me. I turned away from it and flung myself over the gap toward Jesus...So I now choose my side...I do not affirm that I am without doubt, I do but ask for help, having chosen, to overcome it. I say: 'Lord, I believe — help Thou my unbelief.'"

~ Sheldon Vanauken, *A Severe Mercy*

There's a difference between faith mixed with doubt and a settled unbelief that refuses to examine the evidence of who Jesus is and what He did for us.

Doubt does not have to be fatal unless it leads you to be idle and disinterested in searching out the truth of who Jesus is.

When you see Jesus for who He really is – in all of His splendor – you'll also see your own true spiritual need as a sinner who could never save yourself.

Do you see your own need for a Savior? Do you see that Jesus is the only worthy One who did for us what we could never do for ourselves?

**Revelation 5:1-2, 6-9** "Then I saw in the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup>And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?'.<sup>6</sup>And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup>And He went and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup>And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup>And they sang a new song, saying,

'Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals,  
for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation'"