

An Encounter of True Faith

June 03, 2018

Scripture:

¹After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ²Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. ³When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, ⁵for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." ⁶And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. ⁷Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ⁹When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." (Lk 7:1-9, ESV)

From the Introduction:

We have prayer closets, prayer chains, and prayer warriors; all of which are good and serve a great purpose. How do we use these agents of prayer?

Outline:

- I. We are _____ by God, and dear to his _____.
- A. God has great _____ for us. (Jer. 29:11)
- B. As God's valued _____, He _____ what is of value to Him. (Jn. 5:37)
- II. Jesus' _____ has the _____ to heal. (Isa. 53:4-6)
- A. Jesus knows every thought and word we _____ or _____.
- B. Our faith, He already _____; do we need to ask the Lord, _____ help our faith.
- III. What _____ are we asking to pray with us for a _____? (Ja. 5:16)

Remember:

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1 ESV)

Reflect:

“To the one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To the one without faith, no explanation is possible” – Thomas Aquinas

Seek:

Fausset's Bible Dictionary states, “Faith accepts the truths revealed on the testimony of God (not merely on their intrinsic reasonableness), that testimony being to us given in Holy Scripture.” How has your faith grown as you have cultivated your study of God's Word?

Share:

Take a moment and reflect on how your faith has influenced your trust in the Lord in various circumstances. Can you share a time when your faith proved strong? How about a time when you struggled in your faith?

Serve:

The third part of the New Creation purpose statement is “serve all by showing His love through ministry!” To “serve all” in love requires a true faith commitment to the call of Christ. What are you doing to fulfill this purpose in the Kingdom?

Pray:

During this week’s prayer time commit to asking the Holy Spirit to draw you into a deeper faith life that places your service to “all” in Christ before “explanation” (see Aquinas quotation).