

THE BOOK OF JOHN

Deepening Your Faith

John 4:43-45, "Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee. For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country. Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galilaeans received him, having seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast."

John 4:46-47, "So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death."

John 4:48-49, "Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die."

While the man is concerned about his son and the crowd is interested in miracles, Jesus' heart is focused on deepening people's faith.

Jesus' rebuke is towards the seeing is believing philosophy of the world.

7 Levels Of Faith In These Verses

1. A Signs And Wonders Faith

Sadly, most of this crowd never gets beyond this lowest rung of faith.

2. A Crisis Faith

The only difference between the signs and wonders faith and the crisis faith is that now you want Jesus to do a miracle for you.

3. A Needing Faith

He believed that that Jesus could meet his felt need.

He believed that his son could be healed before he believed in Jesus.

His faith begins to grow when his attitude moves from demanding to depending.

John 4:50, "Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way."

4. An Acting Faith

The official is faced with life's greatest decision:

Jesus made a promise and he is forced to decide whether to believe.

He "took Jesus at His word."

We move from needing faith to acting faith when we decide to obey.

John 4:51-52, "And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth. Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."

5. A Knowing Faith

Distance is no problem to God when it comes to doing a miracle.

A Brief Theology Of Healing

Did Jesus heal everyone that needed healing? no.

Did Jesus heal everyone who asked? yes.

Does Jesus heal everyone who asks today?

Asked another way... is it always God's will to heal?

The answer for everyone who has put faith in Jesus is an absolute yes.

But He chooses when and how.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9, "For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Every time Jesus heals he downplays the healing and amplifies the reason behind the healing.

We often do the exact opposite, magnify the miracle so much that we miss the lesson behind it.

2 things to notice:

- The father's faith healed the son. Our faith can directly impact another's life.
- Jesus did more with man's faith than he even expected.

We move from acting faith to knowing faith when we decide to trust.

(Praise is often the practical way that we do this.)

John 4:53-54, "So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house. This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee."

The 2nd Miracle in Cana

The first showed Jesus' power over time ... this miracle shows His power over distance.

6. A Believing Faith

The official moved from faith in the power of Jesus (47) to faith in the promise of Jesus (50).

...from coming to God with his problems to trusting God for a solution to trusting God with His life.

We move from knowing faith to believing faith when we trust the Lord with our daily lives.

7. A Sharing Faith

We move from personal faith to professed faith when we tell someone else!