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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • This passage is located in your pew bible on pages 6 & 50 in the NT section.

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.  
- Hebrews 11:6, NASB

You can never please God without faith, without total dependence on Him. Anyone who wants to come to God must believe that He is real and that He rewards those who desperate look for him. - Hebrews 11:6, PME

## Study Section

# Healing the Centurion's Servant

Meet the three players in this story:

## 1. The Servant

**Matthew 8:5-13, NASB95** -<sup>5</sup> *And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, <sup>6</sup> and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented."*

- Most likely young • Sick to the point of death (Luke) • Paralyzed (Matt.)
- Tormented • We never see him • Jesus never meets him
- We do not know his name • We do not know the cause of his problem
- He was loved by the Centurion ("highly regarded," - Lk 7.2)

Picture this nameless slave lying motionless on a couch, his breath labored, his face bathed in sweat, his pulse racing, the only sound an occasional moan. Death tightens its grip with every hour. It is evident to all who see him that only a miracle could save him now. And that is why the centurion came to Jesus. He was looking for a miracle. - R. G. Lee, "Suspending Disbelief" (Sermon)

## 2. The Centurion

**Luke 7:4-5, NASB95** -<sup>4</sup> *When they came to Jesus, they earnestly implored Him, saying, "[This Centurion] is worthy for You to grant this to him; <sup>5</sup> for he loves our nation and it was he who built us our synagogue.*

- He lived in Capernaum • He is was captain of 100 soldiers • Gentile
- "Centurion," used 21 times in the NT—always positive (cf., Mk. 15:39)
- Here, highly regarded by the Jews (wealthy, worthy, kindhearted, etc.)
- "He built the Synagogue" in Capernaum and "He loves our Nation" – vv. 4-5
- He had such faith that Jesus "marveled" at it.

We see wrapped up in vv. 6-8 the two great traits of traits of this man: **Humility**—a true realization of how desperate his situation was ("My servant is lying paralyzed at home") and **Faith**—only the Lord, who alone, could deliver the miracle needed (Lord, just speak the word and my servant will be healed). - Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe

## 3. The Lord

**Luke 7:9-10, NASB95** -<sup>9</sup> *Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith." <sup>10</sup> When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.*

- Jesus didn't go to the servant • He didn't touch him • He didn't pray for him
- He did nothing outwardly—He just healed him.

Jesus demonstrates beyond a single doubt that He is the Son of God with all authority given to Him over sickness, disease, death—ALL THINGS! - Dr. John MacArthur

## Life Application Section

# How does God-honoring Faith work?

- Faith works when we come to God with a sense of insufficiency.** (Total Desperation)
- Faith works when our confidence in God is such that we realize ONLY HE can save.** (Unshakable, Unwavering Faith)
- Faith works when we realize the principle that the Centurion discovered.**

"Under Authority, we have authority" (Unconditional Surrender)

**Philippians 2:5-9, NLT** -<sup>5</sup> *You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. <sup>6</sup> Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...*