

Have Faith in Jesus Christ

Mark 2:1-12

There are two types of life a person could live: There is a regular life where you just go to work and come home, watch tv and wash clothes and then there is the Spirit-led life. Everyday we chose what kind of life we want to live. We can live simple ordinary lives and accept things as they come, or we can live in the will and purpose of God. Jesus called men out of that ordinary and self-serving life into a life of deep meaning and significance: Matthew, Peter, Luke, Elisha, Moses

Jesus lived in the will of His father. His steps were being ordered by the Lord. We must have that same desire: to want God ordering our steps. We must want to live a life of meaning and significance; experiencing the fullness and power of God. We were made to make a difference and to bear fruit. We are called to be profitable servants for the Lord.

If you truly want to live that kind of life or if you want to experience victory in the Lord and to overcome any problems that comes our way, we must have faith in Jesus Christ. The story of the paralysed and his four friends is a story of tremendous faith. These men believed in their heart that Jesus Christ had the power to heal their friend. There was a confidence in this man – Jesus Christ. They believed in this man. These men were more than positive thinkers – they had faith in this man. If ever there is a time in your life you need a breakthrough, you need more than positive thinking. You must have faith in this man – Jesus Christ

What is Faith:

1. Faith is refusing to accept your condition in life

The Bible says this man was paralysed. His situation was bad enough that he needed four men to move him around on a bed. A few years ago, we were riding bikes with two young ladies. One of the young ladies fell of the bike and cut their face. When her sister saw the cut, it affected her. Sometimes looking at your life and your problems could affect you. When this man looked at his paralysed condition it could have broken his spirit. When his friends looked at their pal on the bed it could have broken their spirit. The human in us will say that's it.

Although the man looked in bad shape, they refused to accept the fact that he could never be healed again. When disappoints you and you find yourself failing in some areas, you could refuse to accept it. There might be a problem with a loved one and despite how bad things are, you could refuse to accept it:

Hannah was barren and unable to have children. This was her medical condition, but she refused to accept it. She kept on praying and going before the Lord, but she didn't accept it. When Goliath attacked God's people, there were those who said we could never stop this man because he is too big. David refused to accept it. He believed in his heart that the Lord will help him kill this giant. They told him he was too small and inexperienced, but he didn't accept it. As a pastor, there will always be problems in the church. No church is perfect but when the enemy tries to sow seeds of doubt in my heart, I must refuse to accept it.

Faith is when things look bad, but you have trust in God and you refuse to accept the bad. In your heart you still believe things could change. The woman with the issue of blood was sick for many years and doctors couldn't help her, but she refused to accept that condition. She believed in her heart that things could change and whenever life isn't going your way, we must believe that things could change

2. Faith is refusing to let the walls and disappointments stop us

The story says the men brought their friend to the house, but there was a massive crowd around him. In July my family and I went to Tobago for a few days holiday. One night we went to a Heritage concert. The crowd was so thick that we couldn't get seats. We had to stand at the back of the crowd because there were so many people. We couldn't get a seat and we couldn't get to the stage.

These men had to take their friend up from wherever he lived. That would have been work. Then they lifted him to the house and after that work, they realise that they cannot reach Jesus because of the crowds. Most people would go back home and just say friend, at least we tried, but you could see for yourself, we cannot pass. Any logical person would agree, at least we tried, and you gave it a good shot...nobody cannot say we didn't try. If these men had walked away none would fault them, but these men decided they wanted to see Jesus and they climbed through the roof.

They were determined to get in that house. Going through the door was the easy, but when the easy didn't work, they did whatever they had to do to reach Jesus. When God places something in your heart, sometimes the easy way doesn't go the way you want it to go – but instead of giving up, don't be afraid to go the hard way. These men had great faith – they refused to let the walls stop them. Genesis says Jacob wrestled with an angel of the Lord for an entire night till morning. He said I will not let you go until you bless me, and he wrestled. The angel eventually broke his hip socket, but the man refused to let go.

3. To win some battles you need to surround yourself with friends who have faith

This man was paralysed. I don't know if he asked to go or if he was conscious, but he couldn't carry himself. Friends carried him. When you have friends with faith, they will help to reach places that you might not be able to reach on your own. You might feel like giving up or throwing in the towel but a friend with faith will come into your life and encourage you to keep pushing. Some of things that I experience in life I wouldn't achieve it if my wife didn't help me

Moses had Joshua and Caleb. David had his mighty men. Paul had his Barnabas. There are times when you need to find some friends who could believe God with you and who could pray with you.

Some people come into your life for a season, but when you see that you are growing, and they are not growing, you tarry with them and give them a chance but if you see no progress, you must manage that relationship differently. Iron sharpens iron – there are some people who sharpen you and help you to become better. God is using them like an instrument.

The people you listen to and who you share your dreams with could make you or break you. Surround yourself with friends who could encourage you in the Lord and who could lift you up in prayer. Get close to people who have faith and could truly believe God with you

4. Jesus likes to see faith

The Bible says when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, your sins are forgiven. There were many people in that house, but do you what caught Jesus' attention, faith. These men had so much confidence and desire to get help that they ripped open a roof to get inside that house. Could you imagine seeing four men trying to hold that bed steady? To me that would have looked like a very strange scene, but Jesus saw faith.

Faith is not something you talk alone – faith is something you live out by the decisions you make and the battles you fight. As we walk through the valleys of the shadow of death, God is watching and looking at us. Looking for what, faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God

- James 2:20 says faith without works is dead
- Most of the breakthroughs we will experience in life is by faith – Mark 10:52 Jesus told a man your faith has healed

- Mark 11:24 Jesus told someone whatever you ask for in prayer, believe you have received it and it will be yours
- John 11:40 says if you believe you will see the glory of God
- Dr Martin Luther King Jr said “Faith is taking the first step even though you don’t see the full stair case”
- The Just will live by faith. In 2 Kings 4:3 the prophet Elisha told a widow who had nothing but a jar of oil to go get empty vessels. She didn’t know what was going to happen, but she just received the word from the prophet in faith. She took a step of faith and God honoured her with full vessels
- The church’s Spanish ministry is a step of faith and God is helping us – Faith is the Victory

5. You must have faith that Jesus could meet your physical needs and your spiritual needs

A lot of people confuse faith with positive thinking. Some people are just highly optimistic. God isn’t just calling us to be optimistic, He is calling us to have faith in His Son Jesus Christ. Your faith is in a person – Jesus Christ. We don’t think we could succeed because we are optimistic, we believe we will be successful because we believe God.

We must believe that Jesus could meet your physical needs and your spiritual needs. That man expected Jesus to help him walk again, but Jesus did more than that – Jesus said, “son your sins are forgiving.” Jesus called him son because he is a loving shepherd.

The man went to Jesus that day for healing. Why Jesus didn’t just heal him? Jesus saw that this man’s greatest problem wasn’t a physical problem, it was a spiritual problem. He had sin in his soul

Many people want Jesus to get them back on their feet again, but if He helps you and leave that sin in your soul, you will not be happy. You could have all the health and money but if your heart is not right with God you have nothing. That man’s biggest problem wasn’t his back, it was his soul. He had sin in His soul and many men and women look for Jesus to help us get back on our feet again, but if your soul is not fixed, you still have a problem:

- a. We are born in sin

- b. Sin is an obstruction (When Adam and Eve sinned the relationship with God changed. Similarly, David stopped worshipping after he sinned with Bathsheba)
- c. Sin brings destruction – The wages of sin is death

That man and his friends went to Jesus to get help to walk again, but Jesus saw this man had a bigger problem. There was sin in his life and Jesus forgave it. The best thing Jesus could do for you is not help you walk again, it is to forgive you of your sin

Don't just come to church and pray for Jesus to meet your physical needs – you must have faith that Jesus Christ could heal your body and forgive your sins

Jesus Christ is the only person who has authority to forgive sin.

Verse 6 says all the religious men were sitting there when Jesus forgave the man and they started to complain and cause divisions. That is what religion does. The man is sick and in trouble, but religion doesn't help him. Jesus Christ is the one who helped him. I don't spend too much time arguing religion

A lot of people are religious. People spend a lot of time arguing religion but just being religious cannot help you – only Jesus could save you. The religious men said we know God could forgive sin, but who is this Jesus to forgive sin. Religion has no problem saying God could forgive, they all agreed. The problem was Jesus. For many people the problem is Jesus...why only Jesus? Some say different religions but it's the same God. That is not true! I have a bunch of keys but only one key could open the front door to my home. Today we have many religions but there is only one key that could forgive sins and His name is Jesus

Acts 4:12 says “Nor is there salvation in any other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Only Jesus Christ could save us from sins

There are a lot of people who will criticise and argue with the name of Jesus, but you must believe in faith that He is only one who is able to forgive your sins and who could meet your needs. Regardless of what religion says, faith in Jesus Christ is the only thing that can save you

Conclusion

Have faith in Jesus' Power

Jesus Christ was able to see inside these men hearts because He is the Son of God. He knew they didn't believe He could forgive sin, so He said what is easier, to forgive sin or to heal this man. Jesus knew it was easier to forgive man because it is

something invisible. But just to prove that the Son of Man has power on the earth to forgive sin, He told the man on the mat to pick up his bed and walk.

The Bible says immediately the man got up and walked away. That is the power of the Son of Man – He could heal sick bodies. He could help you do things you never did before. He could change your life around. He didn't touch the man. Just words changed the man's life. Jesus has the power to change your life around too.

Jesus healed the man, so they could deliberately see and believe that if I could make a paralysed man walk, then I could forgive sin.

Sometimes the key to believing the things you cannot see is to pay attention to the things Jesus is doing that you could see. You might not be able to see forgiveness, but if Jesus could heal, then for certain He could forgive.

Religion cannot help you. It doesn't make sense arguing and trying to fight religion. Have faith in Jesus because He has the power: To forgive all your sins which your greatest need. Your soul is your greatest priority. Don't just look for Jesus to get back on your feet, ask Him to forgive your sins. The sin is the reason you are not on your feet in the first place. Have faith and ask for forgiveness

Have faith in Jesus Christ to meet your needs – despite how bad it might look.