



Great Faith and Confident Prayer

Matthew 8:5-13

And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him” (Matthew 8:7—ESV).

Jesus never refused anyone who came to Him for help. It made no difference to Him if they were Jews or Gentiles, a poor peasant, a Roman soldier, or a synagogue leader. Those who came to Him for help knew that He had the power to help them and He would do so gladly without complaint. What truly amazed Jesus regarding those of great faith was how they expressed their faith in Him with supreme confidence in the presence of others. Jesus wanted all who believed in Him to grow in their faith and develop a great faith in Him, so He could truly help others through them and their prayers. For example, a Roman centurion came to Jesus believing that no matter where Jesus was or where a sick person was Jesus only needed to say the Word of God and the person would be healed. Such faith would amaze anyone, for only God can heal by directly saying the Word of God and heal someone. Only God can work mighty miracles by simply speaking. Remember, God created the universe by simply speaking. By simple speech. Jesus showed that He could quiet a mighty storm, heal the sick, and raise the dead no matter how long they had been in the tomb.

In this situation, the centurion’s servant was so ill that he could not help himself. Indeed, he was “paralyzed and in terrible distress.” He could not be moved from where he lay because of the intense pain. This centurion could only help him by going to Jesus and interceding for him. The centurion trusted that Jesus’ word alone could heal his servant and Jesus would. No wonder Jesus was amazed at the faith of the centurion.

Perhaps all of us have known or have heard of people who were beyond help; that is, beyond human help. Then they began to pray, and others joined them in prayers of intercession, and Jesus answered all their prayers. God still heals through the Word of God as those who love Jesus share their hope in Jesus, comfort others, and pray for them. Through prayer, believers in Jesus can express their great faith in God and lead others to trust in Jesus too.