

Topic: **Grow Your Faith**
Text: **Matthew 8:5-10; 13 (NIV)**
Theme: **“Grow your faith to its full potential to impress Jesus”**

Introduction

- Have you heard of a person who decided not to brush his teeth after becoming a Christian, and rather let his faith do “the brushing and the flossing”? What about someone who believed he could fearlessly jump out of the window and either the angels would catch him, or his faith would defy the law of gravity?
- These misplaced convictions are called “hyper” faith.
- Take note of the centurion’s faith. It was so pure, simple, and daring, it impressed Jesus that caused his servant’s healing. To paraphrase Jesus’ admiration to the centurion’s great faith: (Matthew 8:10) “Wow, look at this man, his faith has grown to its full potential. I am impressed! I have never met anyone in Israel with such a full grown faith.”
- Learn how to grow your faith that impresses Jesus through this sermon.

I. **A FAITH THAT GROWS TO ITS FULL POTENTIAL THAT IMPRESSES JESUS HAS HUMBLENESS**

V8a The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof..."

V9 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

A. A humble faith is meek. (v8a)

1. One characteristic of being humble is meekness. Meekness is not weakness, but rather controlled inner strength. It connotes gentleness, softness in spirit.
2. The Centurion came to Jesus for help. He was so kind-hearted (meek/modest) and asked for his servant’s (not his son or daughter, or one of his soldiers) healing. (vv5-6)

3. Jesus offered to go to his place to heal the servant. (v7)
 - a. What does this mean to us?
 - b. Jesus wants a personal relationship with us and to touch us personally.
4. If I were the Centurion, I would love Jesus to come to my house because it would be an honour to have Him as my guest, WHICH IS PRIDE.
 - Rather, the Centurion stopped Jesus from going to his place because he had a humble faith that healed the servant, even without Him coming over.

II. A HUMBLE FAITH IS SUBMISSIVE. (V9)

- A. He told Jesus that, as a centurion, he himself was a man of authority; he tried to imply to Jesus: "You are the Man, I am submitting to your authority!"
- B. A humble faith needs full submission and trust to the person you are having faith on.

III. A FAITH THAT GROWS TO ITS FULL POTENTIAL THAT IMPRESSES JESUS HAS A BASIS

V8b "... But just say the word ..."

A. ***A faith that has basis is an absolute expression of confidence.***

1. Our faith stands on the Word of God. Whatever God says, He will do it, because He is a God of truth.
 - (**Illustration**: If I know that a chair is strong enough to carry my weight, and the joints are glued and nailed together, I will, therefore, have an absolute confidence to sit on it.)
2. It was why the Centurion said to Him (paraphrased): "Jesus, you don't need to come to my place to touch

and heal my servant, your Word is more than enough,
JUST SAY THE WORD!”

- **Application:** We don't need the personal touch or presence of Jesus to get healed, we just need His Word which available 24/7 and is all written in the Bible.

B. A faith that has basis is an absolute confirmation of a personal relationship with Jesus.

1. Therefore, a faith that has basis (the Word of God) is an absolute confirmation of our personal relationship with Jesus. Faith was there when we got saved. Our salvation starts with it (Ephesians 2:8).
2. In our daily life, faith should be there (Hebrews 11:6). If we want our personal relationship with Jesus to grow, glow and go – FAITH IS THE ANSWER.
3. “Asking” is just an introductory faith. “Believing” is a continuing faith called “faith in action”. Not all who are asking are believing. (You can ask without believing.) Not all who are asking and believing are claiming.
4. “Claiming” is an absolute, highest expression of faith that gets answer to needs. (The Centurion was claiming for his servant’s healing by saying, “Just say the word.”)

IV. A FAITH THAT GROWS TO ITS FULL POTENTIAL THAT IMPRESSES JESUS HAS A TARGET

V8c “... and my servant will be healed ...”

A. A faith that has a target is bold. (Luke 11:5-8 Parable of a bold man at midnight)

1. “Bold” in Greek is “anaideia,” meaning shamelessness.
2. If a friend yields to boldness rather than out of their friendship, how much more God yields to a bold (importunate) prayer to what He has already

prepared and promised. Example of bold (importunate) prayers:

Abraham prayed for Sodom to be spared if there were 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10 righteous
Jacob wrestled with God till daybreak and his name was changed to Israel
Moses interceded for the Hebrew people on their way to the Promised Land. He offered to blot his name out of the Book of life instead.
Hannah prayed hard to the Lord for a son and named him Samuel. She made a vow that her son would serve God throughout his life.
A Canaanite woman asked Jesus to heal her daughter from being demon possessed. She was too persistent, until Jesus told her "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." She replied, "... but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted."

B. A faith that has a target is persistent. (Luke 18:2-8 Parable of the Persistent Widow)

1. A persistent prayer never gives up (Luke 18:1). Persevere when the answer to a prayer is still undelivered.
2. The woman pestered the judge beyond endurance (the secret of her success); likewise, "pester" God by claiming for the answer.
3. V5 "this widow keeps bothering me" – the word "bother" in Greek is "kopos" which means a beating, toil, trouble, suffering, pain, weariness; to cause mental pressure to the point of fatigue, exhaustion (simply put "pain in the neck").
4. The point of the parable is, if such a method as what the widow used would get results from an infidel of utter selfishness and unconcern for the needs and rights of others, how much more can the children of God get results in prayer by the same method (by BOTHERING)