

**YOUR FAITH?**

The gospel record of Jesus' healing raises lots of questions. In Luke 8:40-56, Jesus healed two desperate people: the bleeding woman and the daughter of Jairus. For twelve years, the girl had been her father's delight, and now she was dying. For twelve years, the afflicted woman had found no relief, though she spent all she had on the physicians. Jesus was their only hope.

Both despairing souls had heard of Jesus' miracles. They put their faith in Him, and sought Him out. Jairus humbly asked for Jesus' help. The woman humbly reached out to touch Him.

**DESPERATE SOULS** - The bleeding woman was untouchable because of her condition, which would have made anyone unclean who touched her. Somehow she reached through the crowd to touch just the hem of Jesus' garment, for she believed that if she could only touch Jesus, she would be healed. Jesus said, "*Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.*"

When the messenger told Jairus his daughter was dead, Jesus said, "*Do not fear, only believe, and she will be well.*" Arriving at his house, Jesus went through the crowd of mourners, took her by the hand, and said "*Child, arise*" and then "*her spirit returned, and she got up at once.*"

**DO YOU BELIEVE?** Perhaps these accounts make you think about your own faith. Perhaps you've asked God for healing and His answer hasn't been what you wanted. You may be waiting on the Lord, or you may be wanting more. Do you understand what faith is and isn't? Faith must be "in" something. What you trust, believe in, or count on, must be worthy of your trust.

Someone may tell you to "have faith" or "more faith" but the issue is the object of your faith, not the amount. What you trust in is what you're counting on. What you trust in must be trustworthy. The breathed-out written-down Word of God tells us who we can trust and why. Jesus never fails. When you put your trust in the Lord Himself and His Word, you believe in someone trustworthy.

**DIVINE DELIVERY** - God is not a heavenly genie who must do your bidding. He is the sovereign Lord who works His own will through His perfect providence. "There can never be comfort of soul until you come to Christ by faith, and cease from your own works," notes JC Ryle. "You are saved wholly and entirely by His grace." Your faith is not in faith, but in Christ.

Some say that what God does depends on your faith. Really? Is your faith more powerful than God? Of course not! Your faith must be in God and in His Word. To say that you don't get the answer you want because you don't have faith or enough faith is heresy. God is God, and if you pray for healing but are not healed, it is not faith at fault, rather it is the will of God for you.

**DEATH TO LIFE** - The word translated "*be well*" is the Greek *sozo*, which depending on context means saved, healed, or delivered. It often seems to mean all of these, as in Luke 8:40-56. And remember, the people that Jesus healed will one day die. Their restorations are pictures of the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration and in resurrection.

1Corinthians 15 speaks of regeneration and resurrection. Jesus first raises people to spiritual life from spiritual death in sins. Then, deceased believers will be raised to spiritual life in glorified bodies, as will believers who are alive when Jesus returns to raise them. Christ the firstfruit is already raised. His resurrection life is promised to all who receive life in Him by regeneration.

**DO NOT FEAR** - What do you fear today? How can it be greater than Christ? Jesus says, "*believe, and you will be well.*" Believe who? Christ Jesus the Lord. Believe what? What Jesus says in Scripture. Believe it, and live it, by His power within you! What are you believing today?

Believe Jesus' promises. Don't believe the lies of the world, the flesh, the devil. Believe Jesus. Put your faith in Him. He is Lord of the natural world, Lord of the spiritual world, Lord of all life. He will never leave you, no matter what you go through. You can be delivered from afflictions and from the fear of afflictions, from the fear of death, even from fear of the providence of God.

**DECLARE YOUR FAITH** - "There would be no sorrow and no sickness among Adam's children if there had been no sin," says Ryle. In Luke's narrative of desperate and distressed people, we see ourselves. "They apply to the one Physician who never fails to heal. Let us do likewise!"

We trust in "*Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us*" (Ephesians 3:20). To Him be glory forever and ever! ☐