

# The Gospel According to Matthew pt 22

(One Faith)

Read our text Matt.8:5-13

In these verses we are again given a lesson about faith. While the scribes and Pharisees and the people of Israel despised the Lord Jesus and His gospel, this unnamed Roman officer fully believed that the Man standing before him was the only Lord God, sovereign over all things, with whom nothing is impossible, or even difficult.

This Centurion clearly expresses his faith that the Crist is able in power to preform that which he seeks, "To heal his servant", so much so that all he needed was to speak and it shall be done!

That's the faith of all God's people, it's not a declaration of strength in faith but a declaration of the object his faith is in.

Folks we read in (Eph 4:4-6) **There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.**

This is the faith of all God's people, Faith in Him!

In Eph 4:4 we read '**There is one body,**' the church. It is called one body with respect to Jew and Gentile alike, though there are several congregations and local churches, there is only one church of which Christ is the Head and we are all brethren in Him; (Eph 5:23) **For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body;**

We also read in (Col 1:18) **And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.**

Again in (Eph. 4:4) **‘There is one spirit,’** the Holy Spirit of God, who enlightens, quickens, makes alive and incorporates us all in the body of Christ – members one of another.

And **‘There is one hope of your calling,’** that is, the glory hoped for and which is reserved for us in heaven. There are no degrees in this glory. It will be equal by all; for God’s people are all loved with the same love, chosen in the same Head, redeemed by the same Blood and secured in the same Covenant.

Then in (Eph 4:5).we see **‘One Lord,’** the Lord Jesus Christ, who is Lord by right of creation; **“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist”** (Col 1:16-17). He is Lord by the Father's decree; **“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ”** (Act 2:36). And He is Lord by right of His sacrificial death; **“For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living”** (Rom 14:9).

(Php 2:9-11) **Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Next we see **‘One faith.’** This is the meaning of our text in Matt. 8:5-13, There is but one true faith of Grace. It may be little faith, It may be much or great faith; but its author and object are the same in all, this is the faith of the Centurion –faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in His person and work.

We read in (Joh 3:36) **“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him”**.

In the last part of verse 5 of Eph. 4 we read, **‘One baptism.’** There is one baptism under the gospel, which is water baptism; to be administered in one and the same way – by immersion; with one and the same subjects – believers; and in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; **“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”** (Mat 28:19).

(Act 8:36-39) **And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.**

In (Eph 4:6) we see there is one eternal, infinite, omnipotent God of heaven and earth, who is the Father of all believers in Christ and who is sovereign over all, taking care of us all and dwelling in us all. The Apostle Paul is saying that, as believers, we have all these things in common – one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, who is our Father. Therefore, we must and will be one family, Gentile, and Jew alike, joined together in love stronger than anything this world can know.

Our Lord, praying to the Father say’s; **“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us”** (Joh 17:20-21). We are one in Faith.

Read our text again; Matt. 8:5-13

This centurion shows what a great and precious gift, the gift of faith is; **“When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel”** (Mat 8:10).

To believe Christ, is to trust him, It is a precious gift of God’s saving grace; **“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake”** (Php 1:29). Also (Eph 2:8-9);

How thankful we should be if we have this gift of grace, for few do! Few are willing to come to Christ as helpless, lost sinners, and commit their souls to Him. Few will forsake their own righteousness and trust Christ alone as the Lord our Righteousness. Few will come to Christ, trusting Him alone to save them.

Faith in Christ appears to be a small and insignificant thing in the eyes of the world. But true faith, that faith that **“worketh by love,”** is of the highest privilege, The greatest gift, and rarest jewel in the world. Many have religion. But few have faith. This centurion had faith. So great was his faith in Christ, that the Lord Jesus **“marveled”** at it.

Brother Don Fortner wrote; *“I cannot help asking, Why is that fact recorded by divine inspiration? Why did the Lord Jesus who gave this man the faith he exercised marvel at the display of it? Why has the Holy Spirit recorded it here in his Word? Was it possible to emphasize the fact that true faith in Christ is a personal thing? True, God gave the centurion faith. We rejoice in the knowledge of that fact. Yet, the faith given was the centurion’s. It was his because God gave it to him. Faith in Christ is not a notion, or a doctrine, or a principle. It is the heart confidence of every needy sinner who looks to Christ as his only Savior, that causes him to confess, **“My Lord, and my God”** (Joh 20:28). Yes, it is God’s gift and God’s operation in us. Faith is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:23). Yet, it is our faith. If God gave it to me, that makes it mine. The very air we breath is God’s gift. Yet, it is my breath and my breathing that is the evidence that God still gives me life. And the breathing of my body is as necessary to my living as God’s gift of life. The two cannot be separated”*.

We “**are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus**” (Gal 3:26). The Holy Spirit tells us plainly that the faith you have by his grace is “**your faith in Christ**” (Eph 1:15).

The Apostle Paul wrote unto the Saints in Corinth in Like manner; “**I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ**” (1Co 1:4).

Also (1Co 2:5) **That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**

It is God’s gift; and because He gave it to you, it is “your faith.”

And “your faith in Christ” is just as necessary, just as vital to your everlasting salvation, and just as precious, as we read in (2Pe 1:1), as God’s precious decree of election, As Christ’s accomplished redemption, and the Holy Spirit’s effectual call. — “**Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him**” (Heb 11:6).

Do you, like the Philippian jailer of old, ask, “**What must I do to be saved?**” I do not hesitate to answer with Paul and Silas, “**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved**” (Act 16:30-31).

Do not allow anyone to deceive you into looking to yourself and your experience. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,” and salvation is yours.

Do you ask, “*How can I know that I am saved?*” Answer this one question — “**Dost thou believe on the Son of God?**” It does not matter whether you can answer, “*What did you know when you first professed faith in Christ?*” or, “*Was the man preaching a sound gospel preacher?*” or, “*When did you believe?*” Those questions are totally irrelevant.

This is the only question to be answered — “**Dost thou believe on the Son of God?**” If you now trust the Lord Jesus Christ, then salvation is yours.

This centurion is held before us as a picture of God’s elect among the Gentiles who must be saved (Mat 8:11-12).

**"And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."**

Brother John Gill wrote; *"On occasion of the faith of the centurion, who was a Gentile, our Lord makes a short digression, concerning the call of the Gentiles; and suggests, that what was seen in that man now, would be fulfilled in great numbers of them in a little time: that many of them from the several parts of the world, from the rising of the sun to the setting of it, from the four points of the heaven, east, west, north, and south, as in Luk 13:29 and from the four corners of the earth, should come and believe in him"*.

Our Lord is declaring His people from all nations, all tongues, through out all times, including the Gentiles shall be saved, by grace through faith. I believe Paul's Sermon, given in the book of Acts, best explains this statement our lord makes here in verse 12;

Read with me if you will (Acts 13:16-52)

As a Gentile, I am so thankful our Lord **"is no respecter of persons"**, By His Grace, I can have the same gift as Abraham, the same gift as Isaac and Jacob, the gift of faith, the gift to believe, God's Word is Truth! Many, including the Jew, (the children of the kingdom as they were known) who lean on their own understanding, who trust in their own works, they will be cast out into outer darkness, and as a picture of that, Jerusalem was cast down just a few years later. There will be gnashing of teeth! I believe that the gnashing of teeth will be for their refusal to hear and believe the Word of Truth!

Lastly verse 13 of Matthew 8; **“And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour”**.

Again I quote from John Gill; *“As he had faith to believe, that Christ could cure his servant by a word speaking, it was done accordingly. Christ by his almighty "fiat" said, let him be healed, and he was healed: just as God in the creation said, "let there be light, and there was light". He does not say according to thy prayer, or according to thy righteousness, and goodness, but according to thy faith: and it is further to be observed, that this cure was wrought, not so much for the sake of the servant, as his master; and therefore Christ says, "be it done unto thee"; let him be healed for thy sake, and restored unto thee, to thy use, profit, and advantage”*.

This Gentile Centurion, this Roman soldier whose name was written in the Book of Life before a star ever twinkled, believed! What did He believe?

He believed Jesus is the Christ, the God-Man, all powerful and therefore all able! Just as the leper in our previous study, “Able if Willing”, Able to what? Able To heal the sick, heal the sins of those he chose from the foundations of the world. By His Stripes we are healed! By His Blood we are washed white a snow! **“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified”** (Heb 10:14).

(Heb 10:19-26) **Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.**

**Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,**

One Faith,

It's a gift of God!

One Faith,

All the fulness of the God-head bodily, is seen in Christ Jesus, the Lord!

One Faith,

He is The Lord God my Righteousness!

One Faith,

My Effectual, substitute, the Spotless, Sacrificed Lamb of God!

One Faith,

My High Priest, now in the Holiest of Holies, making intercession for me!