

# THE KINGDOM-DRIVEN LIFE

## “The Key to Great Faith”

### I. A Lesson on “Great Faith”

#### A. Jesus’ “Faith Meter”

1. Jesus “grades” faith:

- “O ye of ***little faith***”-Matthew 6:43
- “Why are you so fearful? How is it you have ***no faith***?”-Mark 4:40

2. In times like these, we need faith! So how would Jesus grade us on His “faith meter”?

3. We don’t want “no faith”, or “little faith”; don’t we all want “great faith”?

4. Well, there are only two people in all His ministry Jesus rates as having ***“great faith”***. Here’s one of them. I’m going to read this with ***emphasis***, to help you see what I’m after:

*And when He had entered Capernaum, a (Roman) centurion came to Him, entreating Him, and saying, Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering great pain.” And He said to him, “I will come and heal him. But the centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I, too, am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, Come! and he comes, and to my slave, Do this! and he does it. Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled, (Gk. “to be astonished or amazed”) and said to those who were following, Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. And I say to you, that many shall come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven; but the sons of the kingdom shall be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said to the centurion, Go your way; let it be done to you as you have believed. And the servant was healed that very hour.*

Matthew 8:5-13 NASB

#### B. Great Faith Comes With a Great Revelation of Authority in the Kingdom

1. The Kingdom is about authority, or “power”, and relates to the issue of “who is in charge?” Who has the “final word”?

2. Jesus taught and ministered with great authority: (Matthew 7:28-8)

3. This Roman soldier had “great faith” that found its source from his recognition of Jesus as a man under authority, a “delegate” of God!

4. Authority in the military is a way of life, and he could see that in the same way he directed his men with a word, knowing what he commanded would be done, so he knew all Jesus had to do was “speak the word only”, and the servant would be healed!

5. The Kingdom is about power and authority, rooted in the absolute Lordship of the King. This is government based on the Divine order, the Father **sending** the Son to earth as His delegate to do His (the Father’s will).

6. Great faith is about more than believing in God; it’s about believing in who God sends.

7. Just as in the Roman army, the Kingdom of God has a “chain of command” with the Father and Son as a model:

***He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.***

**Matthew 10:40-41 NASB**

### **Diagram of Kingdom Authority**

**Father>>>Son>>>Who the Son sends**

a. All power (authority) is from God>>>Who delegated power to the Son...

b. So *how we receive the Son is how we receive God!*

8. The level of our faith is directly proportionate with how we receive who God sends! How we receive the prophet determines whether or not we get the prophet’s “reward”.

9. Jesus calls this level of faith “great faith”, and He is astonished by it!

***Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled, and said to those who were following, Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.***

**Matthew 8:10 NASB**

### **C. Two Things That Amaze the Lord Jesus: Great Faith and Unbelief**

***Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown. The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles? Then they scoffed, He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us. They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. Then Jesus told them, A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own***

***hometown and among his relatives and his own family. And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any mighty miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.***

**Mark 6:1-6 NLT**

1. There are only two times people “astonished” the Lord, two times He “marveled”:

- At the Centurion’s “great ***faith***” (Matthew 8:10)
- At the ***unbelief*** in His own home town (Mark 6:6)

2. Same Jesus...same authority...same power to teach and minister...two different results.

3. What was the difference between “great faith” and “unbelief”?

***The different results were based on how they received the One God sent!***

4. This is the only time in the Bible it says Jesus “could not do” anything!

**D. Obstacles Limiting Our Ability to Receive From God**

1. They could only see His “flesh”.

a. His hometown people could not look beyond His earthly identity.

b. They did not receive Him as God’s delegate, only as “Mary’s son”.

2. Their ability to receive from Him was limited by their ***familiarity*** with Him.

a. Alas, human relationships tend to devolve in familiarity

- When we meet our future wives, we can’t do enough for her; but after a few years, we take her for granted (She gets to open all doors on her own)
- We take a great new job, but become bored with it over time ( and we criticize the Boss)
- We join a church, but after a few years of becoming familiar with the things that originally excited us, we no longer attend faithfully, stop serving or stop giving

3. Our ability to receive melts down when familiarity with God’s delegates diminishes.

4. The issue of delegated authority is not limited to the Father God and His Son...

a. Notice the authority dimension of Jesus “sending” His disciples out:

***Then Jesus said to them again, Peace to you! [Just] as the Father has sent Me forth, so I am sending you.***

**John 20:21 AMP**

b. Even with the authority of Jesus behind their ministry, the issue still remained as to whether or not they were ***received!***

**And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them *power* against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.**

**And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

**Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.**

**And when ye come into an house, salute it.**

**And *if the house be worthy*, let your peace come upon it: *but if it be not worthy*, let your peace return to you.**

**And *whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words*, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.**

**Excerpts from Matthew 10:1-14 KJV**

5. Your ability to minister in Kingdom authority is according to how they “receive” you.

6. My ability to minister to YOU is according to how you receive ***me***.

7. The issue is not usually whether we trust GOD, but whether we believe in ONE ANOTHER!

8. Kingdom issues are often not LOVE issues but TRUST issues.

**“The Kingdom of God is not built on love; it’s built on trust.”**

a. We can love our kids but we may not always trust them

b. When people leave a church, it’s almost never a “love” issue; it’s almost always a “trust” issue.

c. When those in Jesus’ hometown could not receive Him as Who He was, they were ***offended*** at Him.

d. Offences (hurt feelings, disappointed expectations, etc.) always result from trust issues!

9. If Jesus Himself “could do no mighty work” among His own people, what chance do I have to minister to you?

10. Never go to church where you don’t trust the Pastor-you won’t be able to receive all God could give you through his ministry because your unbelief in who he is as “under authority” will cut you off from whatever gift he might have to bring you.

- Pastors are not being confrontive or hurtful in saying this. Real pastors love the sheep and want to see people receive from God.

### **III. Action Items**

#### **A. Great Faith Requires Great Revelation of Authority**

1. Seeing authority figures as God’s delegate opens us up to receive all they have to bring:

- Children seeing their parents as God’s delegates
- Wives seeing their husbands as God’s delegate
- Husbands seeing themselves as sent from God to be Priest and Prophet in the home

2. Even when people love each other, they can still divorce over trust issues.

3. This is why dealing with trust issues is just as important as dealing with love issues.

**“Faith works by love...”**

**Galatians 5:6**

#### **B. So WHO Is “In Charge?”**

***Jesus came and told his disciples, I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.***

**Matthew 28:18-20 NLT**

1. God the Father has committed ALL authority in heaven and earth to the Son.
2. The Son has delegated that authority to you and me, with a command to “GO”.
3. The result of our “going” and “teaching” and baptizing, etc., will still, even as it was with Jesus, depend on how they receive us!!!
4. The results are left to God. It’s our job to “GO”!