

It's clear, in a general sense, that faith is crucial to the Christian life:

*Hebrews 11:6 - And without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

*Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live **by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

It's also clear that It plays a major role in Healing/Miracles:

*James 5:14-15 - 14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered **in faith** will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.*

*John 14:11-12 - 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. 12 I tell you the truth, anyone who **has faith in me** will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

*Matthew 9:29 - Then he touched their eyes and said, “**According to your faith** will it be done to you”*

*****Yet I find when it is turned into a hard and fast law in the realm of healing, instead of a principle to lean into, we run into issues**

- Remember as a side-note, we NEVER blame people for their lack of faith

The truth is, while faith matters and helps, God can and will supersede the faith of the pray-er or the pray-ee sometimes, violating our own understanding of the principles of faith!

- In other words, lean into faith, but don't build an unnecessary stumbling block that doesn't account for the grace of God

*****The best Definition of Faith comes from the Bible, of course, Hebrews 11. Go there first. Here's my definition that helps me view it, I believe, in proper terms:**

Faith is a trustful disposition towards God that leads to the active pursuit of appropriating and receiving everything He has promised or revealed to me by Grace



The “Ladder of Belief” we’re trying to move people on. Not through manipulation, but truth in Word and in Experience:

- There is no God, only the natural world, and healing is improbable
- There is a God, but can't/won't heal me
- God can heal others but not me
- God can heal me and others just not now
- God can heal me and others **now**

Remember, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!

Let's look at 6 Degrees of Faith, and the impact on Miracles/Healing:

1. NO Faith

Nain - Luke 7:11-17 - we'll look at this one Thursday as well

1a. **Honorable Mention** - “*Next to nothing*” Faith

- He was **amazed at their lack of faith**. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. - Mark 6:6
 - Still Healed...
- Jairus - Matt 9:18 synagogue official (Jairus) lay your hands on her and she will live

2. Borrowed Faith

The Friends and the Roof - Luke 5:20, Mark 2:5

- seeing “*their*”, He said **YOUR**

3. Weak Faith

Father with the Demonized boy - Mark 9:17-29

- “*If you can do anything...*”

4. Some Faith

Leper - Mark 1:40-42

- *I know you can do it, I'm just not sure if you'll do it for me...*





5. Great Faith

- The Bible records two instances of people that Jesus said had Great Faith
- **The Roman Centurion** (Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-9) & the **Syropheneician Woman** (Matthew 15:22-28, Mark 7:24-30)
 - Interestingly enough, neither was Jewish
 - They didn't "meet the conditions" per se, but knew nothing was impossible with Him
- *You can do it, despite who I am or what I've Done, and you can do it NOW*

6. Won't Be Denied Faith

Barty and Bloody - Mark 10:46-52 & Mark 5:25-34, Luke 8:43-48, Matthew 9:20-22

- Tangible, palpable faith that **puts it all on the line (why I put woman here)**
- Not saying you do this of your own will, effort
- I believe in both circumstances, the **gift of faith** is at work

Discipleship model = bringing people to Jesus

- Regardless of their "level" or degree - something happened
- Common thread, led to Jesus

That moves us into a few things (not everything) I feel are helpful to understand faith

Faith is not an impersonal force

- there is an object of our faith - all the miracle examples above
- Not faith for faith's sake
- Not faith in my faith
- Divine healing vs faith healing

Just as Romans 1-4 build that case by salvation through faith, then in 5, a switch is made to the object of our faith, how it is possible

- *As it is necessary in salvation, so in healing*

And hearing about Jesus...

Acts 3:16

16 And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.



We are building Faith towards the object of our Faith, Jesus, and not building “faith” as some sort of building blocks of positive thinking devoid of attachment to personality

Faith Perseveres

- Persevere: John W. spoke on healing on Sundays for nearly two years without seeing one healing.

“We value God’s power even when it is released in small measures. Do not stop praying for the sick when little seems to be happening. Stay with it” - article reflecting on the life of John Wimber

Faith Feels, but isn’t limited by Feelings

- Faith isn’t determined by feelings, but we can learn how to discern them to flow better
- We pray for people regardless of how we feel. The Spirit releases more healing when the church prays for the church. It is worth the time and effort to lay hands on the sick.
- Let it contribute to your faith without taking it away when it is absent

Abiding Faith and Situational Faith

- Can have an abiding faith and a situational, God-generated faith
 - I probably have more faith for it than someone who is hearing this for the first time
 - But there are people with more than me
- Sometimes situational moments contribute to abiding
- **Grow in the abiding faith** - It grows not by the sweat of your brow, but by relationship/partnership with Him, listening to the Word, receiving teaching

I have more now than I had 15 years ago

- But I can also have more faith in a moment when a **gift of faith** comes upon me than every experience combined
- *9 He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well- Acts 14:9* (man crippled from birth)

In a service, we want to foster both. The needle of faith is moved by - testimony, the Word of knowledge, preaching the Word, worship, communion, prayer





In Closing:

It is the power, Zoe Life, the energy of God that actually heals them, the touchpoint that **plugs it in is Faith**

Faith clearly plays a role, but doesn't limit God

By Grace, God Heals even when we're struggling to believe, overwhelmed by the symptoms or severity, or not "meeting the conditions."

Build faith, lean into it, but don't get legalistic about it. Always account for GRACE!

