

Faith That Works – Part 1 Faith That Submits

The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see.
Hebrews 11:1-2a (MSG)

*And so, dear brothers and sisters who belong to God and are partners with those called to heaven, think carefully about this Jesus whom we declare to be God's messenger and High Priest. For he was faithful to God, who appointed him, just as Moses served faithfully when he was entrusted with God's entire house. But Jesus deserves far more glory than Moses, just as a person who builds a house deserves more praise than the house itself. **For every house has a builder, but the one who built everything is God.** Moses was certainly faithful in God's house as a servant. His work was an illustration of the truths God would reveal later. **But Christ, as the Son, is in charge of God's entire house. And we are God's house, if we keep our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ.** That is why the Holy Spirit says, "Today when you hear his voice, **don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested me in the wilderness.** There your ancestors tested and tried my patience, even though they saw my miracles for forty years. So I was angry with them, and I said, 'Their hearts always turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.' So in my anger I took an oath: 'They will never enter my place of rest.'" **Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God.** You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. **For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.** Remember what it says: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled." And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn't it the people Moses led out of Egypt? And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn't it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness? And to whom was God speaking when he took an oath that they would never enter his rest? Wasn't it the people who disobeyed him? **So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest.***

Hebrews 3:1-19 (NLT)

Obey your leaders and submit to them,** for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. **Hebrews 13:17 (ESV)

Definition Of Submission: To Willingly Place Yourself Under The Authority Of Another For The Purpose Of Accomplishing The Same Mission.

- Submission to authority is ultimately about faith.

Biblical Example – The Centurion

- An act of submission is an act of faith.

Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue." Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.
Luke 7:1-10 (NKJV)

Several Things We Learn From The Centurion About Authority:

- He recognized the authority given to Jesus.

*Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "**Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof.**"*
Luke 7:6 (NKJV)

*I cannot do anything on my own. **The Father sent me, and he is the one who told me how to judge.** I judge with fairness, because I obey him, and I don't just try to please myself.*
John 5:30 (CEV)

*But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. **The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me.***
John 5:36 (NLT)

I have come with my Father's authority, and you have not welcomed me. But you will welcome people who come on their own.
John 5:43 (CEV)

So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I am he. **I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me.**
John 8:28 (NLT)

Jesus said to them, "**If God were really your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and now I am here. I did not come by my own authority; God sent me.**
John 8:42 (NCV)

No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. **For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded."**
John 10:18 (NLT)

- **He recognized his position in relation to Jesus.**

Therefore **I did not even think myself worthy to come to You.** **Luke 7:7 (NKJV)**

So when he heard about Jesus, **he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant.**
Luke 7:3 (NKJV)

- **He demonstrates his understanding of how authority works.**

For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."
Luke 7:8 (NKJV)

- **He shows that he grasps both the responsibility and benefits of authority.**

And a certain centurion's servant, **who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die.**
Luke 7:2 (NKJV)

But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."
Luke 7:7b (NKJV)

And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, "**for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.**"
Luke 7:4-5 (NKJV)

- **He also recognized that Authority does not have to be in proximity to be respected or dismissed.**

When Jesus heard these things, **He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"** **1**And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.
Luke 7:9-10(NKJV)

Our Faith's Foundation Is In Our Relationship With The Father:

All who follow the leading of God's Spirit are God's own sons. Nor are you meant to relapse into the old slavish attitude of fear—you **have been adopted into the very family circle of God and you can say with a full heart, Father, my Father".** The Spirit himself endorses our inward conviction that **we really are the children of God. Think what that means. If we are his children we share his treasures, and all that Christ claims as his will belong to all of us as well! Yes, if we share in his suffering we shall certainly share in his glory.**

Romans 8:14-17(J.B. Phillips)