



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 66

## **Jesus Marveled**

Luke 7:6-10 (ESV)

*And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I too am a man set under authority, with 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 turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.*

Do we have or exhibit the kind of faith Jesus marvels at?

The centurion made an amazing statement that left our Lord awestruck. He said to Jesus, "*But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I too am a man set under authority, with 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.*"

Something extremely important just took place here. Let's examine this together. First, we need to know who this centurion was. He was a Roman and not a Jew. This is important because Jesus was sent to His own people, the Jews first. This concept is evident throughout much of the New Testament as well as the Old. It is really no mystery that the Jews are God's chosen people. The Romans were Gentile unbelievers by birth and not Jews who were part of a covenant with God.

Next, we need to understand why Jesus marveled at this expression of faith from this Gentile. For this, we need to read this in John 1:11 (ESV),

*He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.*

This scripture is referring to Jesus coming to the Jews first to bring them the message of the Gospel along with the mighty miracles and works that accompanied the message and the general overall rejection of Him by His own people the Jews. From this, we can understand the emphasis of Jesus marveling at this centurion by what He said about him to the crowds that were present at that time around Jesus, *"I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."* (Luke 7:9b)

Israel, the Jewish people were in a covenant with God and had all the stories of God's mighty works in their lives and deeply ingrained in their history and did not have faith enough to believe in Jesus and the works He was doing in their midst. Here comes someone who is not in this covenant and does not have this rich godly heritage and history yet readily sees that Jesus has all authority and so much that all He needs to do is to speak a word and the centurion's servant would be healed. At this, it was like Jesus let out a sigh of excitement and relief to say, *"I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."* (Luke 7:9b)

Now, we know further from scripture that God has never broken covenant with His people Israel and still has, even today great plans when as Paul said in Romans 11:1 (ESV),

*I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.*

So, the main reason and purpose of this teaching was not to place a difference on Jew or Gentile, for all will be accepted by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)). Furthermore, Gentile believers are grafted into the covenants of promise through faith in Christ Jesus and what He accomplished on the cross. (Ephesians 2:11-13 (ESV))

However, to stay on point, the main premise is to realize our need to see Jesus much like this centurion did when he received and accepted through faith the ultimate authority of Jesus Christ and His ability to do the impossible.

Sometimes, it is entirely possible for those of us who have been believers for some time to grow complacent in our faith. We can actually over time lose sight of this type of faith when we grow apathetic to the many miracles that God had done in our lives. We can, like the people of God of old somehow know in our minds what God has done for us but forget them in our hearts. When this happens we lose sight of faith and migrate more towards a works-based religion much like the religious leaders of Jesus's time to which His statement read, *"I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."* (Luke 7:9b). These people had the oracles and promises of God and had the testimonies of how God repeatedly

delivered them from trouble but somehow deep in their hearts forgot what faith looked like and as such no longer experienced the mighty works of God.

Jesus was very clearly commending this centurion's faith to such a degree that He marveled at it. Again, I ask myself as well as all who read this, do we have or exhibit the kind of faith Jesus marvels at? Do we trust Him as the source of everything in our lives? Or have we become forgetful hearers of the word.

Lord, thank You so much for this story in the Gospel of Luke! It is so exciting to see how You marvel at the faith of Your people. Give us grace as we come to Your throne to make us more like this. I know that means we will surely be brought into situations and circumstances for this to be put to the test. And for that reason, give us Your strength, love, and discernment to be able to see the opportunity to exhibit this faith but also strength and love to endure to the promise, in Jesus name. Amen.

In Christ's Love,  
Chris and Jeanne  
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