

Faith That Presses In

From Little Faith to Great Faith

HEBREWS 12:2

Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus is not only the founder of our faith - He is the perfecter of it. Wherever you are today, small or shaken, He is committed to growing your faith into something great. God does not want little faith in His body. He wants great faith.

THREE MARKS OF LITTLE FAITH

Jesus never diagnosed little faith in the crowds outside the church - He diagnosed it in His own disciples. Little faith shows up in believers through three things:

1. Anxiety

Matthew 6:30-33 - "Why are you anxious? O you of little faith... seek first the kingdom of God." Worry over what we eat, drink, or wear reveals what we are truly seeking first.

2. Fear

Matthew 8:23-27 - In the storm, Jesus asked His disciples, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Fear is not the voice of God; it is the vocabulary of the enemy.

3. Doubt

Matthew 14:28-31 - As Peter sank beneath the waves, Jesus reached for him and asked, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" Doubt creeps in the moment we look at the wind instead of the Word.

THE SPIRIT OF RELIGION

MATTHEW 16:6-8

Jesus said to them, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." ... But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread?"

The disciples had just witnessed Jesus feed thousands, yet they forgot within hours and worried about a loaf of bread. This is the spirit of religion - it takes godly things and reduces them to merely good things. It keeps us busy with doctrine while we forget the miracles God has already done.

You don't have to chase signs and wonders. Chase the godly things - obedience, closeness with God, a heart that stays soft - and the miracles will follow on their own.

Great Faith Means Great Persistence

FROM LITTLE FAITH TO GREAT FAITH

The Centurion

Matthew 8:5-10

He understood authority. He didn't need Jesus to come to his house - he trusted that Jesus could "just say the word" from where He stood. Jesus said, "I have not found faith like this."

The Gentile Woman

Matthew 15:21-28

She pleaded, was met with silence, and was told to go away. She did not leave - she worshiped, humbled herself, and pressed in again. Jesus said, "Woman, your faith is great," and her daughter was instantly healed.

MATTHEW 15:27-28

She said, "Yes, Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire."

THE PATTERN OF GREAT FAITH

1. Pressed In

She did not walk away when Heaven seemed silent. Great faith presses in when the answer is delayed.

2. Worshiped

When she could have quit, she worshiped instead of complaining. Worship carried her further than begging could.

3. Humbled Herself

She agreed with her position before the King and did not let pride block her miracle.

4. Despised the Shame

Like Jesus in Hebrews 12:2, she was willing to be seen, criticized, and misunderstood for the sake of the miracle.

REFLECTION

1. Where in your life does God feel silent right now? How will you respond - retreat, or press in?
2. What would it look like to publicly display your faith this week, even if it costs you comfort or approval?
3. Is pride keeping you from humbling yourself before God the way the centurion and this woman did?
4. What is one area where you will move from little faith to great faith starting today?

MY DECLARATION

I declare that my faith is not little, but great. I will not be moved by anxiety, fear, or doubt. I will press in when Heaven seems silent, worship when I feel forgotten, and humble myself before the King. Jesus is the founder and perfecter of my faith - and today, my faith is great.