

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

12) Faith That Honours God

'Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast'

(John 4:43-45)

In contrast to the Samaritans who believed without seeing a sign, the Galileans only received Him because of the miracles

They 'received' Him as a miracle worker but did not 'honour' Him as the Son of God on the testimony of the Father and the Scriptures, etc.

Jesus said, '...that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him'
(John 5:23)

The Father bore witness to the Son. These did not believe on account of the Father's witness but received Jesus only on account of His miracles. They dishonoured the Son and the Father

'He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son'
(1 John 5:10)

- ✓ **The Christian faith is built upon miracles, and these are sufficient for us to believe in Christ and the gospel. Jesus didn't stop performing miracles, but He refused to do so on demand. *'An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah'* (Mt.12:39)**
- ✓ **But some want to continually see miracles to sustain their faith. If our faith is in these things and not in the testimony of God it will not uphold us in day-to-day life**
- ✓ **Those who do not honour the Father and the Son by faith will eventually leave Him (Jn.6:66)**
- ✓ **Blessed are those who have not seen yet believe the testimony of the Father. If you get saved through faith, you will be sustained by faith, grow through faith, go from faith to faith**

'So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe"'

(John 4:46-48)

A royal official of high standing in the court of Herod had a son who was about to die

His rank could not help him

Suffering is no respecter of persons

He 'implored' Jesus. The verb indicates a persistent or repeated action

**His merit did not move Jesus; his misery did
Our needs remind us that we were not meant to live independent lives**

'And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed"'
(Luke 4:17-18)

'The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them' **(Matt.11:5)**

'The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way'

(John 4:49-50)

- **The man said, 'Come down...' Jesus said, 'Go your way...' 'the man took Jesus at His word and departed' (NIV)**
- **In the first sign John showed that salvation is by grace. Now he shows how we receive God's grace... by faith '...we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God' (Rom.5:2)**

- ✓ **He had no evidence that his son was healed other than Jesus' word. True faith needs no evidence. It rests in the word of God. He *'believed the word that Jesus spoke to him.'* *'Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God'* (Rom.10:17).**
- ✓ **On that word he set off home. *'He that believes shall not make haste'***
- ✓ **Unlike the Galileans, this man honoured God by believing His word. Abraham, *'...did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform'* (Rom.4:20-21)**

- ✓ **Jesus has now ministered to a Jew, a Samaritan and a Gentile**

- ✓ **There are three or four different cases recorded in the Gospels, where Christ healed a Gentile, and in each instance, He healed from a distance. There was a reason for this. The Jews were in covenant relationship with God, and as such *'nigh'* to Him. But the Gentiles, being at this stage *'aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise'* were *'far off'* (Eph.2:12-13)**

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'And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!" Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household. This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee'

(John 4:51-54)

'Yesterday at the seventh hour'

This meant that the nobleman took his time to return from his meeting with Jesus in Cana back to his home in Capernaum