

Beyond our Limits, Part 3: Stronger Faith

Matt. 9: 1-8

There are levels of faith, or lack of faith. We see a glimpse of each of them in this story.

1. Outright unbelief or distrust (v. 3)
2. Genuine but undeveloped faith (v. 8)
3. Growing faith (v. 7)
4. Strong Faith (v. 2)

1. Outright Unbelief or Distrust

Heb. 3: 15 - 4:2

Being associated with God's people does not mean someone has faith. God displayed His glory to the children of Israel, through plagues in Egypt, with a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, with supernatural provision of food and water, but they still did not believe when they got to the border of the promise land at Kadesh Barnea.

Faith at every level is tested for the purpose of exposure and development. Faith that fails leads to a period of wandering and cannot obtain promises.

2. Genuine but Undeveloped Faith

Matt. 8: 23-27; 14: 25-33

Just as the multitudes in the story in Matthew 9 had genuine but undeveloped faith, so is the faith of multitudes of Christians today. What separates developed faith from the multitude is action. The majority may believe, but it is only a shallow faith. It leads to worry when trouble comes. It focuses on the wind rather than the word of the Lord.

Genuine but undeveloped faith needs the word and a chance to obey it (Matt. 6: 25-34).

3. Growing Faith

Mark 4: 20, Eph. 4: 11-16

Growth happens when we hear the word, receive it, and do it. We hear the word in our own study, from spiritual leaders, and from other saints around us that have similar or strong faith.

This growing faith, like at every level, will be tested (James 1: 2-3). When tests come, protecting the word, maintaining the joy, and staying in fellowship with God and His people will give us victory in every trial.

4. Strong Faith

Matt. 15: 21-28; Luke 7: 1-10

Strong faith believes in Jesus' authority and knows that no matter how things look right now, The Lord has the power to change it. Someone with great faith is also one that loves God's people and serves (v. 5).

Matt. 9: 18-26

Strong faith requires a belief that is beyond the norm, coupled with action that stands out. This is what pleases God and receives his blessing.