

Surprising Faith

Introduction: The Faith That Amazed Jesus

- Faith is central to the Christian life — it's more important than anything else (Hebrews 11:6, Gal 5:6, Eph 2:8-9, Rom 1:17, 2 Cor 5:7).
- Surprisingly, Jesus was only ever **amazed twice**, and both times had to do with **faith**.
- Luke 18:8 - "...When The Son Of Man Comes, Will He Really Find Faith On The Earth?"

Point 1: Jesus Was Surprised by Unbelief (Mark 6:1–6)

- Jesus visits His hometown, Nazareth, and teaches with wisdom and power.
- The people acknowledge His wisdom and miracles, **but** say: *"Is this not the carpenter?"*
- **Subpoints:**
 - Unbelief adds competing ideas (2 Corinthians 10:4–5) and refuses to receive spiritual truth.
 - Familiarity led to dishonor: *"A prophet is not without honor..."* (Mark 6:4).
 - Result: Jesus **could not** do many miracles there (Mark 6:5–6 & Matt 13:58).
- **Key insight:** Small faith is enough, but **unbelief stops** the power of God.

Point 2: Jesus Was Surprised by Great Faith (Matthew 8:5–13)

- A Roman **centurion** asks Jesus to heal his servant.
- Despite being a Gentile and a man of authority, he humbly calls Jesus *"Lord"* (v. 6, 8).
- **Subpoints:**
 - Recognized Jesus' authority and likened it to military command: *"I say to this one, go..."* (v. 9).
 - He saw Jesus as himself - a military commander from a foreign land enforcing a new kingdom.
 - Did not ask for a sign or visit — *"Only speak a word"* (v. 8).
 - Jesus *"marveled"* and said: *"I have not found such great faith in all Israel"* (v. 10).

Point 3: Why the Centurion's Faith Was So Great

- He **understood spiritual authority** — saw Jesus as a representative of another kingdom enforcing a new kingdom.
- His own life as a Roman soldier sent by Caesar to a foreign land helped him grasp Jesus' mission.
 - The centurion had left comfort, home, and culture to serve a distant king — like Jesus (Philippians 2:6–8).
 - Jesus also came on mission from another realm — to defeat sin, Satan, and death (1 John 3:8).
 - The centurion saw Jesus as **a commander with real spiritual power**.

Point 4: The Power of the Word (Hebrews 11:3; Colossians 2:15)

- Jesus' word is like a **sword** — it enforces spiritual authority and destroys the enemy's work.
- **Subpoints:**
 - The Word of God created the world (Hebrews 11:3).
 - Faith doesn't rely on feelings or visible signs — it rests on God's word alone.
 - Jesus has **disarmed** the enemy — sin, Satan, and death are **powerless**, though still present (Colossians 2:15, Romans 6, Hebrews 2).

Point 5: Faith Is a Fight (Ephesians 6:10–18)

- Faith requires effort, perseverance, and spiritual warfare.
- **Subpoints:**
 - Put on the full armor of God — truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, Word (Ephesians 6:10–17).
 - The centurion understood spiritual warfare — faith fights unbelief and opposition.
 - Faith grows under pressure — like the Thessalonians whose *faith grew exceedingly* (2 Thessalonians 1:3–4).
 - You, as a Christian, look like the Centurion did in the spiritual realm with your armour on.

Conclusion & Practical Applications

- The centurion lived as a soldier enforcing a new Kingdom in a foreign land — Christians must do the same. This is what Jesus called the greatest example of faith He'd seen.
 - Trust in **Jesus' authority** and **Word alone**.
 - See the spiritual reality of the fight of faith and what Jesus achieved.
 - Fight unbelief and distractions with truth.
 - Live daily in spiritual readiness and extend His kingdom — soldiers on mission.

List of Verses used in this talk

Gal 5:6 NIV - "...The Only Thing That Counts Is Faith Expressing Itself Through Love."

Luk 17:6 NKJV - "6 So the Lord said, 'If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.'"

Heb 11:1 NKJV - "1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Luk 18:8 NKJV - "8 'I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?'"

Mar 6:2-6 NKJV - "2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, 'Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! 3 'Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?' So they were offended at Him. 4 But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.' 5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching."

2Co 10:4-5 NKJV - "4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"

Mat 13:58 NKJV - "58 Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief."

Phl 2:6-8 - Jesus laid aside His majesty and emptied himself

Mat 8:5-10, 13 NKJV - "5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." 7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." 8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 "For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! ... 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour."

Luk 7:5 NKJV - "5 "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.""

Rom 10:17 NKJV - "17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

1Jo 3:8 NKJV - "8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."

Mat 9:35 NKJV - "35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

Mat 12:28-29 NKJV - "28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 "Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house."

Luk 10:9 NKJV - "9 "And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

Rom 6:6 NKJV - "6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."

Heb 2:14 NKJV - "14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,"

2Ti 1:10 NKJV - "10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,"

Rev 1:18 NKJV - "18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

Rev 20:10-15 & Rev 22:3 - the final destruction of satan, death and sin (see also 1 Cor 15:24-26)

Psa 110:1-3 NKJV - "1 A Psalm of David. The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." 2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! 3 Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth."

Heb 11:3 NKJV - "3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

Col 2:15 NKJV - "15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

1Co 15:26 NKJV - "26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death."

Gal 5:17 NKJV - "17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."

2Th 1:3-4 NKJV - "3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,"

1Ti 6:12 NKJV - "12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

Eph 6:10-18 NKJV - "10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--"

2Ti 4:7-8 NKJV - "7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."