

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: Unbelief Stops the Power of God (Mark 6:1–6)

- In His hometown of Nazareth, Jesus was met with skepticism despite His wisdom and miracles.
 - Familiarity bred contempt: *"Is this not the carpenter?"* (v. 3).
 - Unbelief added competing ideas that overrode truth (2 Corinthians 10:4–5).
 - Result: *"He could do no mighty work there"* — not because He didn't want to, but because **unbelief blocked it** (v. 5–6. also Matt 13:58).

Point 2: An Example of Great Faith (Matthew 8:5–13)

- A Roman centurion approached Jesus with humility and insight, asking Him to "only speak a word" to heal his servant.
 - The centurion recognized Jesus' spiritual authority — like a military commander from a foreign land enforcing a new kingdom.
 - He understood that **Jesus' word alone** carried power.
 - Jesus "marveled" at this faith and said it exceeded anything in Israel (v. 10).

Point 3: Faith Is a Fight & It Can Grow

- Faith isn't passive — it's a spiritual battle against unbelief, lies, and visible circumstances. (Eph 6:10–18; 2 Thess 1:3–4)
 - Use the **armor of God**: truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, Word, prayer (Ephesians 6).

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.

Questions

1. What are some things that might block or weaken our faith today, like the people in Nazareth?
2. How can we grow our faith when we're facing doubts or challenges?
3. What part of the armor of God stands out to you the most, and why?