

Live Your Faith and Speak It Out

We must not only live our faith, but we must speak it out. We cannot be closet Christians.

2 Corinthians 4:13

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.

Philemon 6

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

In the book of Luke there are 5 examples of Jesus saying "Your faith has made you well" or the like as He heals and delivers:

- Friends of paralytic man "when Jesus saw their faith"
- Woman with an issue of blood who touched hem of Jesus' garment "your faith has healed you"
- Centurian "I have not found such great faith even in Israel"
- One of the ten Lepers who returned to thank Jesus "your faith has made you well."
- Blind begger, probably Bartimaeus from other accounts, "your faith has healed you."

In the other gospels, these same occasions are sometimes repeated, along with these additions:

- a Canaanite woman to whom Jesus said "Woman, you have great faith. Your request is granted." (Matthew 15:27)
- regarding Lazarus, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"
- another blind man who may or may not be the same one mentioned in Luke, "According to your faith will it be done for you." (Matthew 9:29)
- the Father of a child with a demon "Everything is possible for him who believes."
- **Mark 9:23**, "I do believe, Help me overcome my unbelief."

But caution is needed here. A great disservice to believers in healing has been the assumption that if you're not healed you have too little faith. As you study the scriptures, you begin to see how complex are the issues of healing. Be very careful in this area of spoken and unspoken judgment so that we can be blameless before our Lord.

Romans 3:3-4 (context of advantages in being Jewish)

What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar.

Romans 14:1

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

Jesus remains our example and healer. When Jesus sent out the 12, the 70, and us in Mark 16, he told us to heal the sick, raise the dead, and lay hands on the sick and they would recover. He didn't limit our mission to ministering only to those who had faith. Clearly, Jesus ministered to those with little or no faith at times, even to the dead. Remember, faith may position people to receive more easily, but we also receive on the basis of what Jesus did in the atonement, the gift of God, not by our own works, even works of faith.

1 Corinthians 15:14, 17

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. It goes back to the cross.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Acts 3:16

By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. (Here Peter wasn't referring to the man's own faith. The man was expecting to get something, but it wasn't healing. It was money.)

When the Bible speaks of elementary foundational teachings, it lists faith among them.

Hebrews 6:1-2

Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.