

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35
Union Valley, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

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Message – Faith

What amazes Jesus? FAITH

In Matthew 8:5-10 we learn about Jesus healing the centurion's servant. The centurion said that when he tells his men to do something, they do it. He doesn't even have to be there, so just like he is in control of his men, he believes that Jesus is in charge of sickness and death...just say it Jesus, and it will be done.

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

This passage is one of two times Jesus was amazed, the other time was at a lack of faith.

In the book, "Faith of The Pilgrims" half of them died the first winter of 1620, but they never wavered in their confidence in God.

As a Christian, the foundation of our faith is a person, Jesus Christ.

Biblical faith is very misunderstood. If you read the Bible at all, you will read the FAITH over and over.

This passage makes God unmanageable...

We all want a God that is small enough to take around with us or that we can make sit and stay when we want it too (spring break, business trips) ... that's why there are idols in the world.

Hebrews 11 1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for

Faith and hope are not the same thing ... faith is hope taken a step further! ***And certain of what we do not see*** (being certain that something that has not happened will happen) ***2 This is what the ancients were commended for*** (if you want to know how the Old Testament and the New Testament define faith, the following are the answers)

3 *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible* (what makes you confident that the world was made out of nothing), it takes faith to believe this.

7 *By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.* (why did Noah build an ark? Did he pray to God and say God, the world is so evil I want you to kill everyone and God saw his faith and the ark he was building and said well, because of Noah's faith, I guess I have to do this?)

Who started the building of the ark? God or Noah?

8 *By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.*

13 *All these people were still living by faith when ... they died* (they were still living like God was going to do the things he promised, even though most of them did not see it) ***They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.*** (They did not have faith based on what is happening now, but on who was in control)

The bridge between hope and faith begins with the promise of God.

Faith – Confidence that God is who he says he is, and he will do everything he promises to do.

Use this definition as a backdrop for all of scripture and apply it to the experiences you have had in your life. It makes difficult scriptures make sense and explains some tough things in your life.

1. Practical Teaching – God's promises in Matthew 7...when you hear these things and do them
2. Providential Relationships
3. Personal Ministry – in Matthew 14 – Feeding the 5000, “seeing the need and doing something about it” The disciples did what they know how to do and let God do what only he could do.
4. Pivotal Circumstances John 11 God not only uses circumstances to build our faith, He creates them...story of Lazarus...

Luke 5: 12-13 ***12 While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” 13 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing.” He said, “Be clean!” And immediately the leprosy left him.***

This is all the faith God is looking for, (he recognized who Jesus was and that he had the ability to heal him, he wasn't trying to talk Jesus into something or make deals) ...all the faith he needs.

This is a picture of you and me. Our faith is not connected to the things that happen in life.

Sometimes God is willing in that moment...

Sometimes God is willing later...

Sometimes God says nothing, because he knows stuff we don't...

If God never answers another prayer and you never see him in the circumstances of your life and he never does another thing for you, you can wake up every day confident in the fact that he loves you based on the fact that Jesus Christ died for you.

You can ask God for anything and be confident he can do it ...based on WHO he is, not WHAT he does.