

Healing in His Wings
Lesson 5 “Making Jesus Marvel”

I. Introduction - Tonight we are starting a series on the healing ministry of Jesus. We are calling it “Healing in His Wings.

A. The title comes from *Malachi 4:2: But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.*

1. The Sun of Righteousness speaks of Jesus. As He arises He carries healing with Him (in His wings). Birds carry things in their wings. Jesus carried healing everywhere He went.
2. Jesus’s disciples carried healing everywhere they went. We’ve seen they preached the gospel of the kingdom and healed the sick. The two go hand in hand.

B. Last week we talked about how “Healing is the Children’s Bread.” This means its part of our inheritance/covenant.

1. Healing is our birthright as believers so this means we need to believe and receive.
2. Faith is how we receive what God’s grace (healing) has provided. Tonight we are going to talk about the key to great faith. Great faith makes Jesus marvel.

II. Making Jesus Marvel

A. Question - What is the key to make Jesus marvel? This is the key to great faith.

1. Some would say it’s hearing the word and while I agree that *Romans 10:17* says “*faith comes by hearing*” we all know people who have been reading their Bibles and sitting under the word for years and aren’t operating in great faith.
2. The story of the healing of the centurion’s servant reveals a truth about a necessary positioning of the heart that is necessary to operate in great faith.

B. **Matthew 8:5-13** and **Luke 7:1-10**

1. This is a profound story because Jesus marvels at this man’s faith. Marvel means to be filled with wonder and astonishment. Jesus said He hadn’t seen this great a faith in all of Israel.
2. What’s interesting is as far as we know this centurion never heard Jesus preach. He also wasn’t reading the Old Testament scriptures or listening to

Joseph Prince and Kenneth Copeland mp3's. So why did this man who had probably heard and knew very little about the scriptures, have such great faith?

3. He understood authority. **Matthew 8:9**. As a centurion, he knew that when he gave an order it must be followed.

4. **Example of Roman Decimation** - Decimation was a form of Roman military discipline in which every tenth man in a group was executed by members of his cohort. The discipline was used by senior commanders in the Roman army to punish units or large groups guilty of capital offences, such as cowardice, mutiny, desertion, and insubordination, and for pacification of rebellious legions.

The word *decimation* is derived from Latin meaning "removal of a tenth." The procedure was an attempt to balance the need to punish serious offences with the realities of managing a large group of offenders.

A cohort (roughly 480 soldiers) selected for punishment by decimation was divided into groups of ten. Each group drew lots (sortition), and the soldier on whom the lot of the shortest straw fell was executed by his nine comrades, often by stoning, clubbing, or stabbing.

As the punishment fell by lot, all soldiers in a group sentenced to decimation were potentially liable for execution, regardless of individual degrees of fault, rank, or distinction.

5. I'm not saying we need to introduce the principle of decimation into church, but I do want to emphasize the point that all this Roman Centurion knew was obedience to authority. He couldn't fathom another way so when he recognized Jesus as a man under authority, he knew Jesus's words had to obey Him.

6. This is a heart issue we all need to deal with. How do we view authority structures in our life. Do we submit to them or do we rebel? If we rebel, we are training ourselves to disobey authority therefore we will not have the same level of confidence in God's word.

a. **1 Timothy 3:7-13** When do deacons obtain great boldness in the faith - Before or after serving well? After. They are faithful in the authority structures they are in and faithfulness over a long period of produces boldness.

b. George and Missy example - there have been things I have asked them do at times they probably didn't agree with, but they've pulled with. This produces boldness in the faith. What if they'd have quit?

c. Steven and Phillip were appointed as deacons in **Acts 6**. Both were released in signs and wonders ministries later. Did serving well and understanding authority develop faith and cause them to operate in boldness?

7. What's interesting about preaching this to Americans is we don't understand authority well because we've grown up in a democratic republic. God's kingdom is a kingdom, not a democracy. He's the ultimate benevolent dictator, but He is a dictator. Things aren't up for a vote and He doesn't really care about our opinion.

a. **Hebrews 13:7**

b. **Hebrews 13:17**

III. Discussion Questions

1. What was your biggest takeaway or aha moment from tonight?
2. Why does hearing the word of God without a heart of submission prevent us from entering true faith? Can this eventually cause us to develop a hardened heart toward God's word?
3. How have you seen submission to God's word produce great boldness in your life?
4. The Roman centurion was trained in a culture of respect for authority. What are some things you can do to develop a culture of respect for authority in your own life?
5. Are there **legitimate authorities** in your life that the Holy Spirit is challenging you to repent and submit to? (These could be a boss, spouse, parent, or civil government official.) How will submitting to these visible authorities increase your faith in God who is the invisible authority?

IV. Conclusion

A. Offering Verse - **Galatians 6:6-9**

B. Pray Closing Prayer