

Chapter 1: Four Kinds of Faith for Healing

◆ *Lesson Goals*

- √ Identify FOUR KINDS OF FAITH for healing seen in Scripture.
- √ Study events in the ministry of Jesus Christ which illustrate the four kinds of faith for healing.
- √ See what common theme consistently undergirds Jesus' response to all four kinds of faith
- √ Consider how we take and apply what we have learned to activate and walk in an ever-increasing faith in healing ministry.

◆ *Introduction*

In this lesson we are going to examine FOUR KINDS OF FAITH for healing. We will be examining a number of events in the life of Jesus Christ as He ministers to those in need.

As we look at these texts, we want to:

- Examine characteristics of each kind of faith and notice the contexts in which each operates.
- Notice at how Jesus responds and answers the concern underlying each kind of faith.
- Consider how Jesus' response reveals the heart and will of the Father concerning healing.
- Observe the increasing nature of these four kinds of faith.
- Understand the place of "presence" in receiving healing from God.

AS ALWAYS our GOAL is NOT academic knowledge, but an ACTIVE faith, one that glorifies God by growing into greater levels of faith for ministering healing.

◆ *Key Insights*

I) "If you can...": The Father with the Demonized Son (Very Weak Faith)

Mark 9:17-29

¹⁷A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." ¹⁹"O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." ²⁰So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. ²¹Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. ²²"It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. **But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.**" ²³"**If you can??" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes.**" ²⁴Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" ²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." ²⁶The spirit shrieked, convulsed him

violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.”²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.²⁸ After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”²⁹ He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

This, the first of our four cases, illustrates the issue that many, many people must overcome in their journey in faith as it relates to healing. This is probably the first “bump in the road” of faith that many need to overcome if they are going to be able to move ahead in receiving and ministering healing.

A) The nature of the father’s “if you can” faith

1) *Reasons that might have contributed to his weak faith:*

- a) The seriousness of the condition.*
- b) It was a longstanding illness.*
- c) The disciples had failed to heal/deliver his son.*

2) *The man was honest, and did NOT pretend what was NOT true:*

- a) He wasn’t even sure Jesus COULD heal his son, let alone would.*
- b) But, he believed enough to bring his son to Jesus.*
- c) This belief was probably due to the stories he had heard.*

3) *What supported his “if you can” faith?*

- a) Persistence, he didn’t give up when the disciples failed, but...*
- b) ...he saw the opportunity to be near Jesus and drew near with his request.*
- c) It appears he sensed the compassion of Jesus, for he said, “...take pity* on us and help us.”*

*Note: “pity” can also be translated “to have, be moved with, or be filled with compassion”, as in Mark 1:42.

4) *Why did he approach Jesus?*

He had heard the testimony of what Jesus was doing!! (A deduction)

B) Jesus' response to "if you can" faith: "Everything is possible..."

Mark 9:23

"**If you can?**" said Jesus. "**Everything is possible for him who believes.**"

- 1) *Jesus immediately answered the father's primary faith issue:*
- 2) *Jesus was UNEQUIVOCAL. NOTHING was beyond His (God's) ability—NOTHING was IMPOSSIBLE to those who come in faith.*
- 3) *Jesus did NOT rebuke his weak faith, but ENCOURAGED it.*
- 4) *This is still Jesus' answer to those who are not sure whether God CAN heal them, for the condition stated was "for him who believes".*

II) "If you are willing...": The Man with Leprosy (Some Faith)

Mark 1:40-42

⁴⁰A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "**If you are willing, you can make me clean.**" ⁴¹Filled with compassion, **Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"** ⁴²Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.

This is the second type of person that we see in our meetings. This one doesn't question whether or not Jesus can heal, instead the big question is, "**Is it His will to heal me?**" Instead, these come to our meetings thinking, "**If He is willing He can make me whole.**" Is this any of YOU?

A) The nature of the leper's "if you are willing" faith

- 1) *He expressed NO doubt about Jesus ABILITY to heal.*
Notice the last part of the leper's appeal to Jesus: "...you **can** make me clean."
- 2) *But, he questioned Jesus WILLINGNESS to heal.*
- 3) *What supported his "if you are willing" faith*
 - a) *Persistence, for the man was begging Jesus! It was not a casual request!*
 - b) *...he saw the opportunity to be near Jesus and drew near with his request.*
 - c) *As the leper approached, he must have felt Jesus' compassion, for verse 41 states, "Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man."*
- 4) *He approached Jesus because he had heard the testimony of what Jesus was doing!! (A deduction)*

B) Jesus' response to "if you can" faith: "I am willing..."

Mark 1:41

⁴¹**Filled with compassion**, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. **"I am willing,"** he said. **"Be clean!"**

1) Jesus immediately and directly answered the leper's KEY question.

2) Jesus was UNEQUIVOCAL. HE WAS WILLING!

3) Jesus did NOT rebuke his faith, but REAFFIRMED it.

4) "I AM WILLING!" is still Jesus' answer to those who are not sure whether God WILL heal them.

In 2001, as I traveled to Brazil, the Holy Spirit impressed upon me, "Tell them, 'I am willing!' My CHURCH doesn't believe I AM WILLING!" His message is the same for us here today!

III) "If I can...": The Woman with the Issue of Blood (Great Faith)

Mark 5:24-34

²⁴So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷**When she heard about Jesus**, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸because she thought, **"If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."** ²⁹Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. ³⁰At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" ³¹"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" ³²But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, **"Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."**

A) Let's consider her condition:

1) It made her socially an outcast, by religious tradition.

2) It was a long standing condition - 12 years. v. 25

3) She had suffered a great deal. v. 26a

4) She had been to many doctors. v. 26b

- 5) *She had “spent all she had” v. 26c*
 - 6) *Her condition was getting worse v. 26d*
- B) The nature of the woman’s “if I can” faith**
- 1) *She approached Jesus with knowledge of who He was and what He did. v. 27a*
 - 2) *She approached Jesus with disregard for her religious tradition that required her to stay away, and out of the public, especially from holy people.*
 - 3) *She risked all to approach Jesus, including the threat of stoning.*
 - 4) *She approached Jesus with persistent, determined faith - perhaps a gift of faith.*
 - 5) *She approached Jesus because she had heard the testimony of what Jesus was doing!! v.27*
- C) What happened because of her “if I can” faith**
- 1) *She was immediately healed.*
 - 2) *She felt in her body that she was healed.*
 - 3) *Jesus was aware of power going from His body.*
 - 4) *Not need, but faith drew on the anointing.*
 - 5) *Jesus’ interpretation, “...your faith has healed you....”*

IV) “I can’t, but He can...”: Blind Bartimaeus (Reckless Faith)

Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷**When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”** ⁴⁸Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” ⁵⁰**Throwing his cloak aside**, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. ⁵¹“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” ⁵²“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

A) What was his condition?

- 1) *He was blind, we are not told how long or the reason.*
- 2) *He was reduced to being a beggar. v. 46b*
- 3) *His only possession was his cloak.*

B) The nature of the Bartimaeus' "I can't, but He can" faith

- 1) *He began to shout. v. 47a*
- 2) *His shout revealed respect and faith in Jesus as the Messiah, "Son of David" v. 47b*
- 3) *His shout was specific, "have mercy on me" v. 47c*
- 4) *Persistence, he didn't give up when rebuked and hushed! v. 48*
- 5) *He threw aside his cloak!*
- 6) *He approached Jesus presence because he had heard the testimony of what Jesus was doing!! v.47*

C) How did the people respond to the man?

- 1) *"Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet" v.48*
- 2) *The many who rebuked him were most probably believers or followers of Jesus! This is still true today.*

D) Jesus' response to "I can't, but He can" faith:

- 1) *"Call him!" Who is calling the people in need of healing to Jesus today?*
- 2) *Jesus asks him, "What do you want me to do for you?" - This is an IMPORTANT question.*
- 3) *Jesus told him to "Go" and that his faith had healed him. And, immediately the man received his sight, and followed Jesus... v. 52*

I thought the message was to be about FAITH when God gave me the inspiration and the texts, but the texts DIDN'T support the theme, because EVERYONE received a healing. Then I understood that the other thing they all had in common was they had the opportunity to be near Jesus. The message is about "PRESENCE" rather than faith. *Faith was important, but bringing*

the need to Jesus, being in His Presence with your need and requesting healing was the issue.
Whether they had little, some, great or reckless faith **they all received their healing!**

◆ **Activation**

This is an evening session, so be prepared for Words of Knowledge or Prayer Ministry calls.