

TRINITY NEWS

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to the crowd, he said, "I tell you, I haven't seen faith like this in all the land of Israel!" And when the officer's friends returned to his house, they found the slave completely healed. (Luke 7:9-10).

Early in his ministry, Jesus returned to Capernaum and was approached by a Centurion whose favorite servant was near death. Jesus agreed to go and heal the servant, but the Centurion stopped Jesus and said, "just say the word, and my servant will be healed". Jesus marveled at this profound confession of faith. The Centurion was a Gentile and a Roman officer. But he understood power and authority and knew that Jesus had both. All he needed was a word from Jesus and his servant would live!

This miracle is one of the best lessons on faith in the Bible. Healing is not the issue- faith is. It is not easy to have faith, much more a great faith like that of the Centurion. Although we are Christians and believe in God, we need faith to respond to God's plan in our lives. Jesus bore the entire curse of sin on our behalf; we can believe that but to have faith we need to ask God for help. It is only the Holy Spirit who can help us, can we trust Him?

Pentecost is the great festival that marks the birth of the Christian church by the power of the Holy Spirit. We were Gentiles (non believers of the Jewish Jehovah) before we became Christians and we use to live apart from God. Now we are His church calling Him Lord, but it will be unwise to think that we have faith solely by our own initiative.

You have not forgotten that you were Gentiles, following dumb idols just as you had been taught. Now I want you to understand, as Christians, that no one speaking by the Spirit of God could call Jesus accursed, and no one could say that he is the Lord, *except by* the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:2-3)

The more we meditate on the Word of God, and the Centurion's faith example, we too can pray and speak boldly for Christ and receive God promises. God is still waiting to be amazed.

Dcn. Melvin

TO PLAN:

June 5, Wednesday. Bible study, 10am.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Proper 5 (Sunday closest to June 8)

1 Kings 17:17-24; Psalm 30

Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17