

Great Faith: Christ's Obedience

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Great Faith: The Secret to Instant Miracles

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.” — Romans 1:16

Highlight key: = the load-bearing truth · = the precious outcome · **bold** = key terms

First, Remember: Our God Is *Able*

Before anything else, settle this in your heart — God doesn't just **want** to change your life, He is **able** to.

If you came with...	He is able to give you...
Sickness	Healing and strength
Poverty	Prosperity
Peacelessness	Perfect peace
Everything falling apart	Things brought back together
Darkness	Light

“I am the way, the life, and the resurrection.” He raised Lazarus — and wherever there is a need, He meets it **mightily**.

We often want to help our friends and family but **fall short** — because we're *not* almighty. But we serve the **Almighty God**, who has both the *desire* and the *ability* to change your life.

The Secret of Instant Miracles

Faith comes in **levels**. Imagine two people with a headache — one prays for *an hour* and may not get healed, while another with bigger faith is healed in *one second*. The question isn't *whether* God heals, but *what level your faith is on*.

Jesus is the highest example: the blind received sight **instantly**, the crippled were healed **immediately**. God doesn't delay miracles by years or decades.

So which do you want — your healing in an hour, or in an instant? Today we learn the *secret* of those who received it **immediately**.

The Foundation: It Was Never About Your Works

We've been walking through **Romans 1-5**, and it all stands on one earth-shaking truth:

*"But God demonstrates **His own love** toward us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us."* — **Romans 5:8 (NKJV)**

He didn't wait for you to transform, confess everything, or earn it. Miracles flow not from *your* obedience but from the **abandoned love** of Christ. And if He gave the greatest gift while you were a sinner, how would He withhold the smaller ones?

*"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also **freely give us all things**?"* — **Romans 8:32 (NKJV)**

Healing, joy, peace — all of it comes **free** along with Christ. This is exactly how **Abraham** was blessed:

*"For the promise that he would be the **heir of the world** was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the **righteousness of faith**."* — **Romans 4:13 (NKJV)**

The whole Bible points this way — *the Law and the Prophets gave evidence about Christ* (Romans 3). Even at the **Mount of Transfiguration**, Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about the blessing that would come *through the cross* — not through anyone's obedience.

And that's why Paul opens Romans declaring the gospel is **the power of God** (Romans 1:16) — followed by the great summary:

*"For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the **gift of righteousness** will **reign in life** through the One, Jesus Christ."* — **Romans 5:17 (NKJV)**

*"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by **one Man's obedience** many will be **made righteous**."* — **Romans 5:19 (NKJV)**

We became sinners through **Adam's** disobedience; we're made righteous through **Christ's**.

Two Honest Questions About Grace

When people hear "your obedience has nothing to do with your blessings," two questions pop up:

- 1□ *"So... can I just do whatever I want?"*
- 2□ *"Then how will God bless me anyway?"*

We feel like our **checklist** should count — *I've confessed, prayed, fasted, come to church, read the Bible*. So why can't that earn the blessing? Here's why it can't.

The Exam Analogy

Think of an exam where you only write the answers you **know** — could you pass? Now apply it to sin.

- **1 John 1:9** — if you confess your sins, you're forgiven.
- **Galatians 3** — but no one in this world can confess them *all*.

Why not? The list runs past **600 commandments**, and sin goes deeper than we think:

Fear is a sin. **Anxiety**, **restlessness**, and **worry** are sins too — because they're all *rooted in a lack of faith*.

So can you honestly say you’ve confessed every one? *“There is none righteous, no, not one”* (**Romans 3:10**).

Heaven’s Passing Mark

“Whoever... stumbles in one point is guilty of all.” — **James 2:10**

Where?	Passing mark
School / college	35-50%
Heaven	100%

In heaven, **99% = zero**. One sin of fear puts you level with a murderer. That’s why our best obedience is called a **filthy rag**.

Old Covenant vs New Covenant

Linking your obedience to your blessings is the **old covenant** (Moses) — and those who lived by it were *cursed*. But under the **new covenant**, Christ says: *“I will not punish you according to what you deserve.”* The only doorway into blessing is believing it rests on **Christ’s** obedience, not yours.

The Whitewashed-Tomb Trap

So if blessings came from obedience, watch what it does to the heart: good deeds become **transactional** — done *only* to get blessed, not from love. The Bible’s name for clean-outside, filthy-inside people is **whitewashed tombs**.

Thought experiment: Imagine a law passed that for **24 hours** you could hurt anyone with no consequences. Many would rush at midnight to take revenge. Why? The sin was *contained*, not *gone*.

Paul’s answer: **do good from the heart, no matter what you receive**. And to the question *“can I just sin then?”* —

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!” — **Romans 6:1-2**

When you truly see the **abandoned love** of Christ, you won't even *want* to sin.

The Biryani Test (Why the Law Backfires)

*"Moreover the **law entered** that the **offense might abound**."* — Romans 5:20 (NKJV)

The more you tell people "*don't do it*," the more they want to. Quick test: **don't think about biriyani right now**. ...and now it's all you can think about. That's the law — it actually *increases* sin. What truly changes us is different:

"The goodness of God leads you to repentance." — Romans 2:4

Level 1 Faith: "Blessed Because *He* Is Good"

This is the **first level of faith** — the foundation everything stands on. **Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness**. So:

*I am made righteous through Christ's obedience — and I'll be blessed not because I'm good, but because the **Lord is good**.*

- You'll be **healed** — not because of who you are, but because the Lord is good.
- Your **needs** met — because the Lord is good.
- Your **crooked path** made straight — because the Lord is good.

*"Seek first the kingdom of God and **His** righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."* — Matthew 6:33

Now we step up to the **second level**.

Level 2 Faith: *Great Faith*

Only **two people** in the Gospels were told they had *great faith* — and both were **Gentiles** who never read the Scriptures or prayed the prayers.

The Centurion

When Jesus was walking the road, the centurion came pleading for his sick servant. Jesus said *"I will come and heal him"* — but the centurion wouldn't wait.

*"When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such **great faith**, not even in Israel!'" — Matthew 8:5-10 (NKJV)*

*"Then Jesus said to the centurion, 'Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.' And his servant was **healed that same hour**." — Matthew 8:13 (NKJV)*

The Canaanite Woman

*"And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, **Son of David!** My daughter is severely demon-possessed.'" — Matthew 15:22 (NKJV)*

*"But He answered her not a word... Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, '**Lord**, help me!'" — Matthew 15:23-25 (NKJV)*

*"...'It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.' And she said, 'Yes, **Lord**, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered and said to her, 'O woman, **great is your faith!** Let it be to you as you desire.' And her daughter was **healed from that very hour**." — Matthew 15:26-28 (NKJV)*

The Surprising Connection

Both were Gentiles — they didn't know the law, never read the word, probably never prayed. We pray and read daily, so **how did they have greater faith?** The answer: they simply **heard about Jesus** — and they had **four characteristics**.

Once you know how to *measure* faith, you can *increase* it. Let's learn how.

The 4 Characteristics of Great Faith

1□ They Did Not Wait for God

Real waiting isn't sitting still — it's being **active in the Spirit**. It's *not* faith to think “if it's God's will, He'll heal me, so I'll just sit at home.”

“When she **heard about Jesus, she came behind Him** in the crowd and touched His garment... Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up.” — **Mark 5:27-29 (NKJV)**

“And Jesus said to him, ‘**I will come and heal him.**’” — **Matthew 8:7 (NKJV)**

The centurion wouldn't wait the journey from Capernaum — *just speak the word now*. The Canaanite woman wouldn't wait until the Gentiles' “time” came after the cross — *I'll take the crumbs now* (Matthew 15:22). And the bleeding woman didn't stay home hoping; she pushed through the crowd.

Like **Joshua and Caleb**, they had *a different spirit* — they expected the blessing **right now**, not someday. Jesus has **already** healed, anointed, and empowered you. Go and **claim** it.

2□ They Knew the Power of God

None of the three were “qualified” — the centurion *unworthy*, the Canaanite woman a Gentile, the bleeding woman *untouchable* by law. If blessing depended on qualifications, none would have been blessed. But they knew **His power was greater than their unworthiness**.

“The centurion answered and said, ‘Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But **only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.**’” — **Matthew 8:8 (NKJV)**

- “One word is enough.”
- “Even the crumbs are enough.”
- “If only I touch the hem of His garment...”

Highlight: If you think a small sin can stop your blessing, you're saying *your sin is more powerful than Christ*. But if His power is that magnanimous, **it covers every sin you've ever committed**.

3□ They Knew the *Heart* of God

They approached in confidence because they knew His heart is **fatherly**.

When your father is a **king**, no matter how vast his empire, the moment his child calls, he stops everything to attend to them — his child is the *first priority*.

They didn't box God into rules about *how* He must bless. His desire is simply to bless His child.

The **Israelites** could have reached the Promised Land quickly — they wandered **40 years** only because they *lacked faith*, not because God wanted them to suffer. His plan is to walk *before* you and make your path straight.

*"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father** who is in heaven **give good things** to those who ask Him!"*
— **Matthew 7:11 (NKJV)**

Would your own father say, *"Just stay sick another week"*? Of course not. How much **more** your heavenly Father.

4□ They Knew the *Gospel* (The Most Important One)

This is **the measurement of faith**. We can quote dozens of verses yet not know the **Author** — His heart, His power, His longing. These three knew **one Person**: they **heard about Jesus**, not about good and evil.

*"When she **heard about Jesus**, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment."* — **Mark 5:27 (NKJV)**

*"So when **he heard about Jesus**, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant."* — **Luke 7:3 (NKJV)**

*“For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit **heard about Him**, and she came and fell at His feet.” — Mark 7:25 (NKJV)*

In the gospel, *the righteousness of God is revealed* — and *the law is not of faith* (Galatians 3:12). They tasted the **tree of life** (Jesus), not the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. *Know the Author.*

The Heartbeat Behind It All: The Love of God

All four characteristics flow from **one source** — the love of God poured into us.

*“Now hope does not disappoint, because the **love of God** has been poured out in our hearts by the **Holy Spirit** who was given to us.” — Romans 5:5 (NKJV)*

*“But God demonstrates **His own love** toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” — Romans 5:8 (NKJV)*

*“**This is love**: not that we loved God, but that **he loved us** and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” — 1 John 4:10 (NKJV)*

It’s **not** about how much we love Him — it’s about how much **He loves us**. Every person of great faith believed: *“My Lord loves me.”*

The more you **hear about Jesus** → the more the Holy Spirit **pours His love** into you → the more your **faith increases**.

The Takeaway

The four marks of **great faith**:

1. **They didn’t wait** — active, Spirit-led, expecting it *now*
2. **They knew His power** — greater than any unworthiness or sin
3. **They knew His heart** — a good Father, not a harsh one
4. **They knew the gospel** — they heard about *Jesus*, not rules

It all comes back to this: **you are loved.** Not because of what you've done, but because of what **Christ has done.** Keep hearing about Him, and watch your faith grow from one level to the next — until you're praying not for an hour, but for **one second.**

Have great faith.

Based on a Sunday message from Romans 1:16. If it encouraged you, share it with someone whose faith needs to grow today.

Bible Revelation · <https://biblerevelation.org/2026/06/great-faith-christs-obedience/>