

Power of the Kingdom ~ 2Leader's Notes

What is the important key we see in the verses below to **receiving** God's healing power?
(Do this together as one group, rather than in smaller groups. There is not time to read all the stories, just the verses given in the right hand column.)

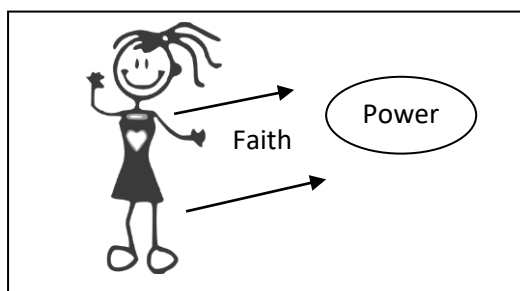
Answers for the chart

Who did Jesus touch?	Reference	Why were they healed? (The key)
1. The man with leprosy	8:1-4	8:2 Faith is the key. The leper demonstrated faith in the way he spoke to Jesus, "Yes, you can make me well."
2. Centurion's servant	8:5-13	8:10 Faith is the key. Here we see that it was not the person who was sick who had faith, but his master! It was the centurion's faith that released the power of God.
3. A paralyzed man	9:1-8	9:2 Faith is the key. Here we see that it was 'their' faith. This probably referred to the men who brought the paralyzed man to Jesus, and perhaps the sick man as well.
4. Woman subject to bleeding	9:20-22	9:20, 22 Faith is the key. The woman demonstrated faith by her actions – she reached out to Jesus.
8. A dead girl	9:18-19 9:23-26	9:18 Faith is the key. Again we see it was not the person in need who showed faith. She could not, as she had already died! It was the father who exercised faith. "Come ... and she will live."
9. Two blind men	9:27-31	9:28-29 Faith is the key. The blind men asked Jesus for mercy (v27), but He wanted them to declare their faith. As soon as they did they were healed.

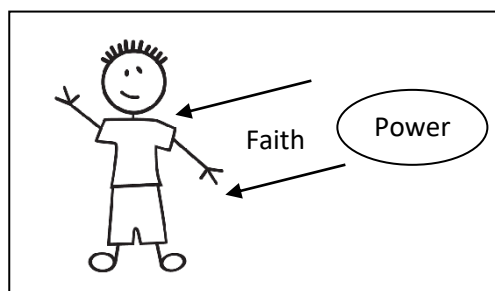
Answers to the blanks:- Faith Faith Faith

We have discovered a spiritual principle. The power of God operates when faith is present. As we have seen in these miracles, it was not always the person in need who exercised faith. The little girl who had died was not able to exercise faith, but her father did. However when faith is present, God's power can be released.

An illustration of faith



Releasing the power of God to another person.



Receiving the power of God to meet a need in your own life.

(You could use this simple illustration to help explain the spiritual principle you have taught. Use a ball or some object you could throw like a ball.)

Imagine that this ball is the power of God. Who would like to receive the power of God now? Get ready to catch his ball. As I throw this ball I am using energy and this is like faith. I release the power of God to others by faith. (Now throw the ball to that person.) Now he is receiving the power of God. Just as you have to reach out to catch a ball, so you have to reach out in faith to receive the power of God. The power of God is released by faith and it is also received by faith.

Discuss

What do you think faith is?

Look back at the story of the centurion in Matthew 8:5-13, and the woman in Matthew 9:20-22 to see what they teach us about faith.

Faith is not hope. Hope is believing for the future. We have the blessed hope of the return of Christ. Faith is believing that we already have it now! Hebrews 11:1. Let's learn more about faith:-

1. Faith is believing God's Word

E.g. the centurion in Matthew 8:8. The centurion didn't need to see Jesus go and lay hands on his servant, he could believe the word alone. Faith is believing the word or scripture Jesus has spoken to us by His Spirit.

2. Faith is seen in our words and actions

E.g. the woman in Matthew 9:20-22. She did not even speak to Jesus, but showed her faith by reaching out and touching Him.

E.g. the blind men in Matthew 9:28-29. They cried out "Have mercy on us." Jesus did, but He wanted them to declare their faith first. AS soon as they said they believed they were healed.

3. Faith is obeying God's Word

E.g. the paralytic in Matthew 9:6-7. Jesus told the man to get up. He could have said, "I can't! I have been here for many years", and he would ever have been healed. However he obeyed the word of Jesus and as soon as he did, he was healed.

Discuss

What are the things that hinder faith in your life?

(Ask the group to share their answers first.)

There are many things that can hinder faith in our lives. But there are two things that we see in these stories in Matthew 8 and 9.

1. Fear

E.g. Story of the storm in Matthew 8:23-27. Jesus rebuked their lack of faith. Why did they lack faith? It was because of fear. The disciples had the authority to still the storm but they allowed fear to control them. Often we are like that. When storms or difficulties come into our lives, we allow fear to control us and rush to someone who we think can help, just as the disciples did. Jesus wants us to learn to overcome by faith.

2. Unbelief

E.g. Story of raising the girl from the dead in Matthew 9:23-24. When Jesus arrived at the house it was crowded with professional mourners. He told them to leave. Why? They were filled with unbelief and even laughed at Jesus. When they left, faith filled the room and the power of God could be released. It is important that we come to our gatherings with faith and expectancy so God can work among us.

Discuss

How can we develop faith in our lives? Discuss.

(Ask the group to share their answers first.)

Here are some suggestions as to how we can develop faith in our lives:-

- i. If there is fear and unbelief in our hearts we need to confess it to God. It is sin.
- ii. We need to feed on God's Word. "Faith comes by hearing the word of God." Romans 10:17
- iii. Always speak words that agree with God's Word. Negative, critical and fearful words will destroy our own faith.
- iv. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. We believe all God's Word, but faith comes when the Holy Spirit stirs our spirit and gives us faith to believe a specific word, truth or verse.
- v. When we receive faith don't allow the devil to rob it from you. He will try and bring fear and unbelief into your heart. Hold onto that word that God has spoken to you and He will do what He has said.

We belong to the Kingdom of God. The power of that Kingdom is available to us. Let's reach out and receive what we need from the King right now. Reach out in faith and the power of God will be released into your life.