

Basic Misunderstandings

Nothing To Brag About (Wk.2)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Faith in Jesus alone is what saves us. Faith is the name we call and the door we walk through.

Key Scriptures

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise." Luke 23:39-43

All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him, "Lord, my young servant lied in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain." Jesus said, "I will come and heal him." But the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, "I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel! ... Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, "Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened." And the servant was healed that same hour. Matthew 8:5-10, 13

Key Points

Faith is a door. But a door is just a wall unless you open it. — Joel Thomas

Faith is acting like God is telling the truth. — Priscilla Shirer

Faith is acting like it is so, even when it's not so, so that it might be so, simply because God said so. — Dr. Tony Evans

Start talking.

- What are some basic misunderstandings people have about faith?
- What are some ways churches have miscommunicated the basic requirements of faith?
- Why does a transactional faith make more sense?

Start thinking.

- Read Luke 23:39-43. Why do the two criminals have such different responses? What did the penitent criminal see in Jesus?
- If this passage was all you knew about salvation, what principles of faith can you extrapolate?
- Read Romans 10:13 and Ephesians 2:8-9. What is the unifying faith principle of both?
- Read Matthew 8:5-10, 13. Joel said, "Faith is the name we call and the door we walk through." How are both present in this passage?
- What specifically was it that "amazed" Jesus?

Start sharing.

- What does it look like for you to cry out in faith to Jesus?
- What are common obstacles in the way?

Start doing.

- List the transactional elements of your faith you continue to be drawn to. Ask Jesus to free you from them.
- Call out to Jesus daily: in your car, at your desk, on a walk, around the dinner table, laying in bed, etc. Ask Him specifically for the faith to face and overcome your everyday obstacles.

Closing prayer.

Jesus, I believe you alone are LORD. That you alone gave your life for me. That you alone make it possible for me to have a relationship with God, to be free from my sins, and to live by faith the life you designed for me. Help me to walk in the freedom you offer and not get sucked back into the emptiness of a transactional faith.