

Matthew 9

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Matthew 9

Our faith

Faith is an indispensable force in life's journey, supporting us in the face of challenges, overcoming difficulties, and guiding us towards hope and the future. However, when we ponder the question "Where is our faith," we find that it is not just a spiritual reflection, but also the core of our attitudes and values in life.

The foundation of faith lies in the object on which we depend. In Christianity, the object of faith is God. The Bible teaches us, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." This quote reminds us that faith is not based on what we see, but on complete faith in God's promises and faithfulness. When we base ourselves on God's Word, faith has a solid foundation.

Faith is not static, but is strengthened through trials. When we choose to trust God in the midst of adversity, we can experience His faithfulness and power.

In Matthew 9, Jesus shows His signs and wonders and helps people find true rest through faith and forgiveness of sins.

The confidence of the paralyzed

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; Your sins are forgiven." And he said, "Take up thy mat and go home." The paralytic man seemed to do nothing, but he received the grace of forgiveness and healing. When we come to Jesus with faith, our sins are forgiven. Home is the resting place of man, and only when we receive the forgiveness of sins can we have true rest. Peace of mind is peace of mind, and we need to be reassured of God's presence. The forgiveness of sins is the most peaceful and joyful word of all.

Those who have no sense of sin, "Arise, take up your mat and go home." It's harder. For those who are not guilty, understanding and accepting this spiritual transformation may require a deeper understanding and a change of heart. They need to really feel their mistakes and take their mattresses and be willing to change their behavior.

Matthew, the tax collector, had never seen Jesus before, and here he followed the Lord's call. The Lord said, "Follow me," and the Christian life is to follow the Lord. Christ wanted more than just faith, but also to follow, to do God's will on the way of the cross.

Patients must admit that they are sick before they can go to the doctor for help; When we confess our sins, we can accept the salvation of the Lord Jesus. The church is a "unworthy" membership group, and in fact there are no righteous people in this world who are worthy to enter the kingdom of God (Romans 3:10).

The "new cloth" in verse 16 refers to the life outside, and the "new wine" refers to the life inside. The garments are exposed on the outside, and the wine is fermented on the inside; One is life, the other is life. The life that the gospel gives to man is new wine; It is a new cloth to give people the act of living outside.

On the way, a weak woman came to touch Jesus' garment. Jesus stopped, turned to her, and said, "Daughter, be of good cheer! Your faith has saved you." Jesus has compassion for the needs of others. We need to have the compassionate heart of Christ. Those who were possessed by mute demons could not even ask Jesus, but Jesus took pity on him and cast out demons for him. Because of mercy, miracles take place; Without mercy, miracles would not have happened.

There are many passages in the Bible that speak of faith,

Romans 10:17

"So faith comes by hearing, and hearing is through the word of Christ."

Psalms 62:8

"And ye people trusted in him, and poured out thy heart before him; God is our refuge."

John 14:1

"Let not your hearts be troubled; If you believe in God, believe in me."

Ephesians 2:8-9

"For by grace ye have been saved, and through faith; It is not of oneself, but of God; nor by works, lest any man boast."

James 1:2-3

"Great joy shall ye be in the midst of all kinds of trials, my brethren; for you know that your faith is tested, and endurance."

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and not in your own understanding; Acknowledge Him in all your ways, and he will direct your paths."

Let us respond with prayer: "Lord, it was not us who loved you first, but you who loved us first; It was not us who chose you first, but you chose us first. Pray that the Lord will give us mercy and that we may walk with the heart of Christ. Help us receive God's vision and do what God commands. Lord, we thank You for this new life for us. We know that "the new wine must be put into new skinskins," and we pray that the Holy Spirit will always renew us and help us live in the new creation to receive and follow all Your will for us. Thank you Lord for hearing our prayers and in the name of the Lord Christ, amen."

Matthew 9

A Paralytic Healed

9 And Jesus, getting into a boat, crossed over *the Sea of Galilee* and came to [Capernaum] His own city.

² They brought to Him a man who was paralyzed, lying on a stretcher. Seeing their [active] faith [springing from confidence in Him], Jesus said to the paralytic, "Do not be afraid, son; your sins are forgiven [the penalty is paid, the guilt removed, and you are declared to be in right standing with God]." ³ And some of the scribes said to themselves, "This *man* blasphemes [by claiming the rights and prerogatives of God]!" ⁴ But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven *and* the penalty paid,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? [Both are possible for God; both are impossible for man.] ⁶ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority *and* the power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your stretcher and go home." ⁷ And he got up and went home [healed and forgiven]. ⁸ When the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, and glorified God *and* praised Him, who had given such authority *and* power to men.

Matthew Called

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew (Levi) sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me [as My disciple, accepting Me as your Master and Teacher and walking the same path of life that I walk]." And Matthew got up and followed Him.

¹⁰ Then as Jesus was reclining *at the table* in *Matthew's* house, many tax collectors and ^[a]sinners [including non-observant Jews] came and ate with Him and His disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, "Why does your Master eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but [only] those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this [Scripture] means: 'I desire compassion [for those in distress], and not [animal] sacrifice,' for I did not come to call [to repentance] the [self-proclaimed] righteous [who see no need to change], but sinners [those who recognize their sin and actively seek forgiveness]."

The Question about Fasting

¹⁴ Then the disciples of John [the Baptist] came to Jesus, asking, "Why do we and the Pharisees often fast [as a religious exercise], but Your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁵ And Jesus replied to them, "Can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶ But no one puts a piece of unshrunk (new) cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and a worse tear results. ¹⁷ Nor is new wine put into old ^[b]wineskins [that have lost their elasticity]; otherwise the wineskins burst, and the [fermenting] wine spills and the wineskins are ruined. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, so both are preserved."

Miracles of Healing

¹⁸ While He was saying these things to them, a ruler (synagogue official) entered [the house] and kneeled down *and* worshiped Him, saying, “My daughter has just now died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live.” ¹⁹ Jesus got up and *began* to accompany the ruler, with His disciples.

²⁰ Then a woman who had suffered from a hemorrhage for twelve years came up behind Him and touched the [tassel] fringe of His outer robe; ²¹ for she had been saying to herself, “If I only touch His outer robe, I will be healed.” ²² But Jesus turning and seeing her said, “Take courage, daughter; your [personal trust and confident] faith [in Me] has made you well.” And at once the woman was [completely] healed.

²³ When Jesus came to the ruler’s house, and saw the flute players [who were professional, hired mourners] and the [grieving] crowd making an uproar, ²⁴ He said, “Go away; for the girl is not dead, but is sleeping.” And they laughed *and* jeered at Him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been sent outside, Jesus went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ And the news about this spread throughout all that district.

²⁷ As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, screaming loudly, “Have mercy *and* compassion on us, [c]Son of David (Messiah)!” ²⁸ When He went into the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe [with a deep, abiding trust] that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” ²⁹ Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith [your trust and confidence in My power and My ability to heal] it will be done to you.” ³⁰ And their eyes were opened. And Jesus [d]sternly warned them: “See that no one knows this!” ³¹ But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout that whole district.

³² While they were going away, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Jesus. ³³ And when the demon was driven out [by Jesus], the mute man spoke; and the crowds wondered in amazement, saying, “Never before has anything like this [miracle] been seen in Israel.” ³⁴ But the Pharisees were saying, “He casts out the demons by [the power of] the ruler of demons.”

³⁵ Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages [in Galilee], teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news (gospel) of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness [His words and His works reflecting His Messiahship].

³⁶ When He saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion *and* pity for them, because they were dispirited and distressed, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is [indeed] plentiful, but the workers are few.” ³⁸ So pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

Matthew 9: Full Description, Important Verses, Theological Thought, and Spiritual Influence

1. Full Description of Matthew 9

Matthew 9 is a chapter rich in miracles, teachings, and revelations about Jesus’ identity and mission. It highlights Jesus’ authority over sin, sickness, death, and spiritual forces, as well as His compassion for the lost. Below is a breakdown of its key events:

1. Healing the Paralyzed Man (9:1–8)

- Jesus forgives the sins of a paralyzed man, which prompts accusations of blasphemy from the scribes. To prove His authority to forgive sins, Jesus heals the man, who then walks away, glorifying God.
2. **The Calling of Matthew (9:9–13)**
 - Jesus calls Matthew, a tax collector, to follow Him. Later, Jesus dines with tax collectors and sinners, leading to criticism from the Pharisees. Jesus responds, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice," emphasizing His mission to save sinners.
 3. **The Question About Fasting (9:14–17)**
 - When questioned about fasting, Jesus explains that His presence is like a wedding feast. He uses the metaphors of new cloth and new wineskins to illustrate the incompatibility of His message with old religious traditions.
 4. **Healing the Bleeding Woman and Raising Jairus' Daughter (9:18–26)**
 - On His way to raise Jairus' daughter, a woman suffering from a bleeding disorder touches Jesus' garment in faith and is healed. Jesus then raises Jairus' daughter from the dead, demonstrating His power over life and death.
 5. **Healing the Blind and the Mute (9:27–34)**
 - Two blind men cry out to Jesus, acknowledging Him as the "Son of David." Their faith leads to their healing. Jesus also casts out a demon from a mute man, enabling him to speak. The Pharisees accuse Jesus of working by the power of demons.
 6. **Jesus' Compassion and the Call for Workers (9:35–38)**
 - Jesus travels through towns and villages, teaching, healing, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom. Seeing the crowds as "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd," He urges His disciples to pray for more workers for the harvest.
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2. Important Verses

1. Matthew 9:2

"Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

- Highlights Jesus' authority to forgive sins, a divine prerogative.

2. Matthew 9:6

"But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

- Declares Jesus as the one with divine authority.

3. Matthew 9:12–13

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

- Reveals Jesus' mission to extend grace and mercy to the marginalized.

4. Matthew 9:22

"Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you."

- Emphasizes the role of faith in receiving Jesus' healing and blessings.

5. Matthew 9:37–38

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

- Calls for active participation in God's mission.
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3. Theological Thought

1. Jesus' Authority as the Son of Man

- Throughout the chapter, Jesus demonstrates His authority over sin, sickness, death, and spiritual forces. His use of the title "Son of Man" connects Him to Daniel 7:13–14, affirming His divine role in God's kingdom.

2. Faith as the Key to Experiencing God's Power

- Whether it is the bleeding woman, the blind men, or Jairus, faith is the consistent factor that unlocks Jesus' miraculous power. This underscores the importance of trust in God.

3. The Kingdom of God as New and Transformative

- The metaphors of new cloth and new wineskins illustrate that Jesus' teachings and mission cannot be contained within the old structures of Judaism. His kingdom is dynamic and transformative.

4. Compassion as Central to God's Mission

- Jesus' compassion for the lost and suffering reflects the heart of God. His ministry is a call to care for others, especially the marginalized and spiritually needy.
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4. Spiritual Influence

1. Encouragement in God's Authority

- Matthew 9 reassures believers of Jesus' authority over every aspect of life, from sin to sickness and even death. This provides hope and confidence in His power to save and restore.

2. A Call to Faith

- The healing stories emphasize that faith, even when it seems small or desperate, is powerful and transformative. Believers are inspired to trust Jesus in all circumstances.

3. Motivation for Mission

- **Jesus' compassion for the crowds and His call for workers remind Christians of their responsibility to share the gospel and serve others in love.**

4. Living Out Mercy

- **Jesus' statement, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice," challenges believers to prioritize genuine love and care over empty religious rituals.**

Conclusion

Matthew 9 is a chapter that vividly portrays Jesus' divine authority, compassion, and the transformative power of faith. It invites readers to reflect on their own faith, embrace the new life Jesus offers, and participate in His mission to bring hope and healing to the world.