**Building Core Strength**

**by Practicing Astonishing Faith[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Luke 7:1-17**

3 principles to help us follow the Lord in a way that honors Him and impacts others

**I. Astonishing Faith is Built on the Foundation of a Proper View of Self**

A. A central point in the Sermon on the Mount

**Matthew 5:48** - *Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

B. A major difference between the Gentile centurion and the Jewish elders

1. The elders

**Luke 7:4** - *When they came to Jesus, they earnestly implored Him, saying, “He is worthy for You to grant this to him;”*

**Romans 3:23** - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

2. The Centurion

**Luke 7:6-7** - *Now Jesus started on His way with them; and when He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, “Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, for I am not worthy for You to come under my roof; for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.”*

C. Implications to those who do not yet know the Lord

**Isaiah 53:6** - *All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.*

D. Implications to those who have trusted Him

**Isaiah 42:8** - *“I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.”*

**Romans 7:19** - *For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.*

**Romans 7:24** - *Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?*

**Romans 7:25** - *Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.*

**II. Astonishing Faith Understands the Power and Authority of Christ**

A. Note the Centurion’s confidence in Jesus’ words

**Luke 7:7** - *for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.*

B. The central issue was Christ’s authority

**Luke 7:8** - *“For I also am a man placed under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.”*

**John 5:30** - *I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

C. For people like you and me

1. In times of crisis

**Proverbs 3:5-6** - *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

2. In times of waiting

**Isaiah 40:31** - *Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.*

3. In times of service

**Psalm 100:2** - *Serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing.*

**III. Astonishing Faith can Greatly Honor the Lord**

**Luke 7:9** - *Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, “I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith.”*

1. Steve Viars [↑](#footnote-ref-1)