

## Faith with a capital “F”

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Read Rev. 5: song worthy is the Lamb because He has...

Text: Mt. 8:1-3

British: Life with cap L; Youth with cap Why and Faith with cap IF

IF is one of most often used words in our vocabulary.

Biggest little word. Powerful. Destructive in reverse way.

Weak word- not bold faith, positive faith, dynamic expectancy

Speak with uncertainty, hesitancy is doubt. In relation to faith in Bible it is significant.

I: Mk 9:14-29 V22: if you can do anything...

A: IF YOU CAN Doubts Jesus' ability. Reason why? Disciples had failed him. Man's failures cause others to doubt.

One reason public skeptical because of TV preachers. Great claims, flouting their riches and prosperity, unsubstantiated miracle claims etc. Not the caring, loving, accepting nature of Christ.

When we fail in our faith life we cause more failures than all atheists, humanists who ever lived. “Arm of flesh will fail you. Too fickle and self centered.”

Ps. 116:11 In my haste I said all men are liars.

Today in our leisure and still be right.

Ps 116:10 I believed therefore I spoke.

B: Not our problem so we say He is able; He can.” Can what?

If God created universe, light furnace of blazing suns, screw stars in their sockets, spin planets in nonconflicting orbits, give the earth a revolving push, He can!

God can do anything but fail.

1) We don't say, “If you're able.” But like Leper in Mk. 1:40 If you are willing.”

He didn't doubt Jesus' ability; He wasn't sure if He cared or would.

GRK: If you willed it you could do it

Ans: I do will it, be cleansed

2) 1st man, leper, doubted His willingness

2<sup>nd</sup> man, father of son, doubted His ability, his want to.

## II: 2<sup>nd</sup> F with a capital IF. (victims faith)

Say: "Lord if you're willing." You're saying, you are great enough but am I good enough? Does He want to?

1) Devil gives doubt about Lord's goodness, willingness, His want to help us.

He says: God is malicious (You'll be like God), unmindful, forgetful, a hard task

Master.

ILL: Some think more trials, troubles and tribulations means Lord loves you. A doctrine of devils. Does trouble conforming you to the image of Jesus? By overcoming or accepting defeat?

ILL: Lady said, "Lord moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform."

Wrong on 4 counts. 1) Line from old hymn, not scripture; 2) Inserted wrong word- mysterious; 3) Mispronounced word; 4) Theology is erroneous.

God doesn't move in mischievous, mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

God doesn't play with us like a cat with a mouse.

2) We say: Lord, the Word says I am saved, healed, delivered and my needs are met

No right way to say: If it be thy will when He categorically said, I am willing. I am able, I want to.

No right way to put a question mark the Word puts an exclamation !

## III When did this game of questioning and doubting God begin?

A: Gen. 3...Yea, has God said?

*First question in Bible is here. Has had serpentine coil about it since, PC Nelson.*

1) Does devil doubt God's word? He knows God's integrity and Word. No doubt in his evil mind so he put doubt and question in Eve's heart.

a) His insinuation, suggestion, so effective she did 3 things to God's word:

1) Omitted part of it; 2) Added to it and 3) Twisted or wrested it.

b) Devil saw its effectiveness so told outright lie” You will not die but your eyes shall be opened...you’ll be like Elohim. You won’t need him anymore. Choose for yourself. Be independent of God.”

He said: Keep your innocence and get rid of ignorance: A HALF TRUTH.

Her eyes were opened, her conscience awakened but cost was SPIRITUAL DEATH. They lost God’s presence.

It all began with a question mark.

B: Mt. 4:3; 6; 9 In wilderness Satan questions Jesus. His answer is *It is written*.

Not faith with a capital IF, but *it is written*. God said it, that settles it whether I believe it nor not.

Satan departed (V.11). He is a hard loser. Defeated at Calvary but he comes again and again.

We have same answer: *IT is written*.

1) Settle this question: Are scriptures the word of God? Traditions? Stories?

Compiled fables? *It is written*. Jesus believed the Scriptures as Word of God.

He put His stamp on them. How about you?

C: Search the scriptures; in them you think you have life.

Word will not pass away.

Religionists the source of doubt.

ILL: Billy Bray, Cornish miner, told the devil, “What a fool you are. For 28 years I have battled thee. I have beaten thee every time and I always shall.”

That’s hard on devil’s ego.

He is defeated. We know how he was defeated. Still enemy comes with his “ifs” and question marks.

IV Consequences of unbelief. Bible has many pointed illustrations of what happens when people doubt the Word or question it. When say “if”

2 K 7:1 9 (tell the rest of the story)

V17 skeptics saw but did not partake

Many today say and hear word, but question, and never partake.

Don’t spell faith with a capital IF.