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## Rice Memorial MBC

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## Healing Faith

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance  
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or Roget's Thesaurus – **April 3, 2016**

## Luke 7:1-10

**Introduction:** Luke brought the **LOVE of Christ** into sharp focus in this chapter, along with the ethic derived from it, namely, that it is in the **LOVE** of God and the **LOVE** of man that a soul may hope to commend itself to the Lord. First, there is the **centurion** who **LOVED** his servant (Luke 7:1-10); then, Jesus showed his **LOVE** for the bereaved by raising the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17)

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/luke-7.html>)

**Luke 7:1-2**, Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

And a certain **centurion's servant**, who was **dear** unto him, was **sick**, and **ready** to DIE.

**NOTE:** Though a **pagan** by **birth** and early training, he had become acquainted with the Jewish religion probably either while quartered at Capernaum or in some other Galilee town; although there were so many **proselytes** (converts) to the **Jewish religion** in all the principal Greek and Roman cities that he might have embraced the **TRUE FAITH** even before his arrival in the Holy Land. The same may be said of **Cornelius** (Acts 10:1). His **character** appears here in the most beautiful light. The **value** which he set upon this dying servant and his anxiety for his recovery-as if he had been his **own son** is the first feature...  
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/luke-7.html>)

**Matthew 8:5**, And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, **there came** unto him a centurion, beseeching him...

**NOTE:** ...**Jesus was entered into Capernaum**,.... Was returned from his journey through Galilee, to the place where he before dwelt, and is called his own city, Matt. 9:1 **there came unto him a centurion**, a Roman officer, "a **commander** of an **hundred men**", as the Hebrew Gospel by Munster reads it: though the number of men under a "centurion" was more, according to some accounts. "A band (it is said<sup>F7</sup>Alex. ab Alex. Genial. Dier. 1. 6. c. 13. ) made **two centuries**, each of which consisted of an **hundred and twenty eight** soldiers; for a doubled century made a band, whose **governor** was called an ordinary "**centurion**." Such an one was Cornelius, a centurion of a band, Acts 10:1. The other person that was healed was a Jew. The next instance of Christ's power and goodness is the servant of a Gentile; he came to do good **BOTH** to Jews and Gentiles; **beseeching him**, **NOT in PERSON**, but by his messengers; see Luke 7:3 and the Jews<sup>F8</sup>T. Bab. Beracot, fol. 34. 2. say, "that a **man's messenger** is **AS himself**".  
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries2/geb/matthew-8.html>)

**Luke 7:3**, And when he **HEARD of (ABOUT) Jesus**, he **SENT** unto him the **elders** of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and **HEAL** his servant.

**Thought 1.** The **TESTIMONY** he **HEARD** about Jesus gave him the **UNDERSTANDING** that produced the **FAITH** to know Jesus could heal his servant. This is a spiritual principle.

**Romans 10:17**, So then **faith** cometh by **HEARING**, and **hearing** by the word **OF** God.

**Hearing defined 189, hearing (the sense (discernment: UNDERSTANDING) or the thing heard): FAME (report of great actions).**

Of, 1. **FROM** 2. denoting reference to a thing; **ABOUT**.

**Thought 2.** Now, let's look at Romans 10:17 along with the definitions. "So then **FAITH** comes by **report** of great actions and by understanding, and understanding (comes) by the **WORD FROM** or **ABOUT** God."

**Psalms 119:99**, I have more **UNDERSTANDING** than all my teachers: for thy **testimonies** (witness; evidence) are my meditation.

**Psalms 119:130**, The **entrance (opening (EXPLAINING))** of thy **words** giveth **LIGHT** (illumination of mind); it giveth **UNDERSTANDING** unto to the **simple** (seducible: capable of being drawn aside from the path of rectitude).

**Thought 3.** Knowledge of this principle is **WHY** Philip **explained** the scriptures.

**Acts 8:30-31, 35-38**, And Philip ran thither to him, and **heard him** read the prophet Esaias, and said, **Understandest** thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should **guide me**? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

... Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and **preached (declare [show to the understanding, make known])** unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou **believest** with all thine **heart (MIND)**, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I **BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ **IS** the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he **baptized him**.

**1 Chronicles 16:24**, **DECLARE** his glory among the heathen; his **marvellous WORKS** among ALL nations.

**Hebrews 11:31**, By **faith** the harlot Rahab perished **not** with them that **believed not**, when she had received the spies with peace.

**Joshua 2:8-11**, And before they were laid down, SHE came up unto them upon the **ROOF**; And said unto the men, **I KNOW** that the Lord **hath given you** the land, and that your **terror** is fallen upon us, and that **ALL** the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have **HEARD** how **the Lord (the self-Existent or Eternal)** dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; *(40 years ago)* and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. (Num. 21:21-35) *(1 year ago)* And as soon as we had **HEARD** these things, our **hearts** did melt, neither did there remain any more **courage** in any man, because of you: for **the Lord your God, he is GOD (the supreme (Highest) God [deity])** in heaven above, and in earth beneath. *(Source: Reese Chronological Bible, pgs. 345, 139, 253, 268, 270)*

**Thought 4.** John spoke by the Holy Spirit and said that the **"PERSON"**, who is now named **Jesus**, is **"the Word"**, and was in the beginning. He sat **beside**,

and was WITH the Highest God, Yahweh, his Father, before he came to the earth. This means they're two separate persons. They're EQUAL, but only in form, being Gods (Deities)! God the Father is the ONE that's supreme (Highest) in rank.

**John 1:1-2**, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was WITH God, and the Word was **God (a deity)**. The same was in the beginning with God.

**1 Corinthians 8:4-6** ...we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but ONE. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) **But to us there is but ONE God, the Father**, of whom are all things, and we in him; and **ONE Lord** Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

**Ephesians 4:4, 6**, There is... **One God** and Father of all, who is above (higher in place, greater, exceeding) ALL, and through all, and IN you all.

**Thought 5.** Now, let's see what Matthew 8 says about the condition of his servant.

**Matthew 8:6**, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home **sick** of the **palsy (paralytic)** [paralysis, complete or partial], **grievously tormented**.

**Luke 7:4-5**, And when **THEY CAME** to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: For he **loveth** our nation, and he hath **built us a synagogue**.

**NOTE:** The Jewish nation, which was Christ's nation, as well as theirs, he being a Jew; see John 18:35. This they mention as an argument to induce him to have a regard to the **centurion**, though he was a **Gentile**; since he was a **friend** of the **Jews**, and well affected and disposed to them, which was very rare: it was not common for the **Gentiles to LOVE** the **Jews**, any more than the Jews the Gentiles; there was an **hatred**, yea, an **enmity** between them; but this man, very likely, was a proselyte to their religion, as the following instance seems to show: **and he hath built us a synagogue**; at his own private charge, and by the assistance of his soldiers under him, whom he might employ in this work: sometimes a **single person** built a synagogue at his own expense, and gave it to the citizens; of which the Jews say,<sup>F15</sup>Piske Harosh Megilia, c. 4. art. 1. .  
"if a man builds an house, and afterwards devotes it to a synagogue, it is as a synagogue."  
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/luke-7.html>)

**Luke 7:6**, Then **Jesus went with them**. And when he was **now NOT FAR** from the house, the centurion **SENT FRIENDS** to him, saying unto him, Lord, **trouble not thyself**: for I am **not worthy** that thou shouldst **enter under my roof**...

**NOTE: Then Jesus went with them**,.... The elders of the Jews, towards the centurion's house, after hearing their request, and their reasons for it; and that without any reluctance, he at once complied, made no hesitation, or difficulty about it, but went with them very freely: **and when he was now not far from the house**; of the centurion, where his servant lay sick; he having **some notice** of his coming, and of his being NEAR his house, in his great humility, and being conscious to himself of his unworthiness to have such a person under his roof, sent messengers to prevent him: **the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself**; or do not fatigue thyself by coming to the house, stop, go no further; **for I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof**: he might know full well the law of the Jews, that it was not lawful for a Jew to go into the house of an uncircumcised Gentile; and though he might be a **proselyte** (convert) of righteousness, and so his house was free of entrance; yet considering his own meanness, and the greatness of Christ, who was become **so famous** for his **doctrines** and **miracles**, he thought it too great a **stoop** for Christ to come into his house, and too high a favour for him to enjoy. (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/luke-7.html>)

**Matthew 8:7**, And Jesus **saith** unto him, **I will come** and heal him.

**NOTE:** This, according to Luke 7:6 was said **BY his friends in his name...**  
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/matthew-8.html>)

**Luke 7:7**, Wherefore neither thought I myself **worthy to come unto thee:** but **SAY in a word,** and my servant **shall be healed.**

**NOTE:** ...neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee,.... In person; therefore he SENT the elders of the Jews to him first, and now some of his friends, who delivered these words **in his name** (authority): **but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed;** speak but the word only, REBUKE the distemper, COMMAND it off, and it will be gone; so great was his **FAITH** in the power (AUTHORITY) of Christ.  
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/luke-7.html>)

**Matthew 8:8**, The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but **speak the word only**, and my servant shall be healed.

**Luke 7:8**, For I **ALSO** am a man **SET under authority**, having **under me soldiers**, and I SAY unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

**NOTE:** ...am a man set under authority,.... Of the **Roman senate**; " or belonging to the emperor", as the Arabic version renders it; and under the command of a **tribune**, as a centurion was: so that this is not an amplification, but a diminution of his office; and his sense is, that even he who was but an **INFERIOR** officer, yet had such power (authority) as after related: **having UNDER me soldiers**; an hundred, or more: **and I say unto one, go, and he goeth, and to another, come, and he cometh, and to my servant, do this, and he doeth it;** as this his servant used to do, and whom he may intend, who now lay sick, and therefore was dear unto him. His meaning is, that Christ could **as easily COMMAND**, and **call off** a distemper, and it would **obey him**, as he could command obedience from his soldiers and servant, and have it, and more so.  
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/luke-7.html>)

**Matthew 8:9**, For I am a man **under authority**, having soldiers under me: and **I say** to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

**Thought 1.** Here, we find that he's discovered the MOST IMPORTANT spiritual principle that humans need to LEARN! He was a military man, under the highest authority in the country. Since he had decided to be faithful, he had a "good understanding" of proper reverence for those IN authority and knew it should be shown by those UNDER authority. Daily, he lived in obedience to the commands of those ABOVE him, and gave commands to those UNDER him. Obedience to a person in authority isn't according to what that person is doing, not doing, how they felt about them, or what they thought about them. The only thing that matters IS WHERE that person IS SITTING, and is the command a lawful command that should be obeyed. If it's lawful, they should obey the person, regardless.

**Matthew 23:1-4**, Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees **SIT in Moses' seat:** All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they SAY, and DO NOT. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves **will not move them** with one of their fingers.

**Thought 2.** The Centurion knew the soldiers under him had to obey, or suffer the wrath of

the “highest authority” in the country. In his house, the servants knew that the Centurion was the “highest authority.” So, they obeyed him rather than suffer the consequences.

Now, when the centurion HEARD of Jesus, he recognized that Jesus was working JUST like he was! He understood that Jesus was working as a servant, UNDER God Almighty, the Highest Authority, the Creator! He understood that since everything was UNDER the authority of God, his servant, who was also his Son, HAD authority FROM God to give COMMANDS to sickness, diseases, and demons, in order to help the people who had faith.

Scripture tells us that “WISDOM is the principle (most important) thing; therefore, get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.” (Pro. 4:7) Scripture goes on to tell us the FEAR (reverence) of the Lord (Yahweh) is the BEGINNING of wisdom. So, it’s the FIRST of all things, about which, God wants ALL humans to get a “good understanding.”

**Psalms 111:10**, The fear (reverence) of the Lord (Yahweh) is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have ALL they that DO his commandments...

**Luke 7:9**, When Jesus HEARD these things, he marveled (wonder [affected with surprise or admiration; be amazed]) at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have NOT found so GREAT FAITH, NO, NOT in ISRAEL.

**Thought 1.** Here is another important spiritual principle that needs to be explained. The Centurion had GREAT faith because he had “proper REVERENCE” for God, and he had a “good understanding” of that reverence!

**Proverbs 14:26**, In the FEAR (reverence) of the Lord is strong confidence (assurance [utmost certainty, FAITH].)...

**Thought 2.** This truth explains why God delights in revealing/demonstrating his Power, Authority, Sacredness, and Sublimeness (that which goes beyond the ordinary). When something is described as “sublime”, it’s the awakening or expressing the emotion of AWE (reverential fear, profound [deep] reverence), adoration, veneration... As a matter of fact, God uses all FOUR of those things that are underlined to PRODUCE deep reverence for himself in the minds of those that SEE and HEAR of his works.. An acronym for these FOUR things is “PASS”, Power, Authority, Sacredness, and Sublimeness.

**Exodus 20:18-20**, And all the people SAW the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the MOUNTAIN smoking: and when the people SAW it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to PROVE you, and that his FEAR may be BEFORE your faces, that ye SIN not.

**Fear defined 3374, reverence** (1. deep RESPECT and esteem (HIGH VALUE) mingled with FEAR and affection (LOVE). 2. The FEAR acceptable to God, is a filial [CHILD in relation to his parents] fear, an awful reverence of the divine nature, proceeding FROM a just esteem [high value] of his PERFECTIONS [infinite POWER, holiness, justice, benevolence and wisdom], which produces IN us an inclination (leaning of the MIND or WILL) TO his service and an unwillingness to offend him.).

**Prove defined 5254, to test; by implication, to attempt** [to subdue: to render submissive [HUMBLE]; to bring under command; to reduce to MILDNESS or OBEDIENCE; to tame; as, to subdue a stubborn child].

**Thought 3.** This principle of “PASS” also works to “EARN reverence” for people that we see with these qualities. This is why God worked through Moses to work miracles, and used him to deliver Israel. And when Moses died, God helped Joshua earn reverence.

**Joshua 3:17; 4:14**, And the **priests** that bare the **ark** of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on DRY ground in the midst of **Jordan**, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.  
...On THAT DAY the Lord **magnified** (augment the esteem or respect in which one is held) Joshua in the **SIGHT** of ALL Israel; and **they FEARED (reverence)** him, AS (*just like*) they **feared** Moses, ALL the days of his life.

**Thought 4.** The Centurion “HEARD” about how God worked through Jesus, delivering the people from sicknesses and the oppression of the devil. And as scripture points out, it produced reverence for God, which in turn produced “strong (GREAT) FAITH” in his mind. This was exactly what happened in the MIND of Rahab the prostitute. This same principle is what God took advantage of in the life of Elijah, Elisha, Peter, Paul, and other ministers who did his work. Today, he’s still making use of this principle to “EARN reverence.”

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**, And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of SPEECH or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I **determined** not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in **WEAKNESS**, and in **fear** (reverence), and in much **trembling**. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in **demonstration (manifestation)** of the SPIRIT and of **POWER**: That your **faith** should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the **power** of God.

**Weakness 769, weakness** (feebleness; as the weakness of a CHILD; RELAXATION [cessation { STOP } of restraint { act of HOLDING BACK }]).  
Feeble, destitute of much physical strength; as, infants are feeble at their birth.

**Thought 5.** So, Paul was saying, like a new born child he was YIELDING to the Spirit. He didn’t hold back, nor QUENCH the Spirit at all! He let God move!

**Acts 3:6-9, 12-19**, Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the **name (AUTHORITY)** of **Jesus Christ of Nazareth** rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and **praising God**. And all the people **SAW HIM** walking and praising God...

... And when **Peter saw it**, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why **marvel** ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The **God of Abraham**, and of **Isaac**, and of **Jacob**, the God of our fathers, hath glorified HIS SON Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *him* go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And **killed the Prince of life**, whom God hath **raised from the dead**; whereof we are WITNESSES. And his **name (authority)** through **FAITH** in his **name (authority)** hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the **faith** which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. And now, brethren, I **wot (know)** that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that **Christ should suffer**, he hath so fulfilled. Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...

**Acts 4:4**, Howbeit many of them which **heard** the word **BELIEVED**; and the number of the men was about **FIVE THOUSAND**.

**Luke 7:10**, And **they** that were **SENT**, **returning** to the house, **found the servant WHOLE** that had been **SICK**.