

A Dog's Faith

Matthew 15:21-28

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1. Great Faith Is Found In Unexpected Places
2. Great Faith Is Found In Unexpected Pain
3. Great Faith Is Found In Unexpected Persistence
4. Great Faith Is Unexpectedly Precious

1. Great Faith Is Found In Unexpected Places

Such a prayer would have showed great faith had she lived in Bethany or Jerusalem; but when we find that she came from the "region of Tyre and Sidon", such a prayer may well fill us with surprise. It ought to teach us that it is grace, not place, which makes people believers.

- J.C. Ryle

1. Great Faith Is Found In Unexpected Places
2. Great Faith Is Found In Unexpected Pain

Psalm 119:71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.

Romans 5:3-5 we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

James 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

There is nothing that shows our ignorance so much as our impatience under trouble. We forget that every cross is a message from God, and intended to do us good in the end. Trials are intended to make us think – to wean us from the world – to send us to the Bible – to drive us to our knees.

- J.C. Ryle

The safest part of a Christian's life is during a trial. How we pray in adversity! We cannot live without prayer. We carry our burden to the mercy seat again and again. When we are depressed, we read our Bibles; we do not care for the deceiving light literature. We want the solid promise, the strong meat, of God's kingdom. In adversity, we listen; we do not care for flowers and fine bits of rhetoric. We want the Word. We want the naked doctrine. We want Christ.

We cannot be fed on whims and fancies now. We care less about theological speculation and ecclesiastical authority. We want to know something about eternal love, everlasting faithfulness, and the dealings of the Lord of hosts with the souls of His people. We walk lightly in the world and hold it with a loose grip. We expect to be often in the way, and we hope to be out of the way, because the world has lost its attraction.

I greatly question if we ever grow in grace unless we are in the furnace. This is the way it should be: the joys and blessings that God gives in this life should make us increase in grace and gratitude. These joys should be sufficient motivation for the highest form of consecration. As a rule, however, most of us are only driven closer to Christ in a storm. There are blessed and favored exceptions, but most of us need the rod. We do not seem to learn obedience except through the Lord's chastening.

- Charles Spurgeon

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Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Luke 18 – unjust judge and persistent widow

James 4:2 You do not have, because you do not ask.

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As gold is the most precious among the metals, so is faith among the graces. Faith cuts us off from the wild olive of nature, and grafts us into Christ.

- Thomas Watson

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. - **Hebrews 10:19-23**