

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

HOW TO OBTAIN FAITH

Text: "When Jesus heard these things, He marveled 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." Luke 7:9

How does a person obtain faith? In our text we have the story of a man who had such complete faith that even Christ marveled at it and proclaimed it the greatest faith he had found in all Israel. We have many instances recorded when Christ was surprised at the unbelief and lack of faith in people, but this is the only time when he found an even greater faith than he expected. The man and his faith are worth our study.



Rev. D.M. Clark

He was a centurion, an officer in the Roman army. His beloved servant was so sick he was about to die. This officer heard that Jesus was in the community, so he sent his friends to him asking that he heal the servant. Immediately Jesus turned aside to go to the servant. No doubt Christ was very busy but he was never too busy to hear and respond to a call of human need. He is not too busy to hear those today who need and want him.

As Christ came near to the man's house, the centurion sent word to him asking him not to go to the trouble actually to come into his house. First, he felt himself unworthy. He said, "I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof." Second, he felt it unnecessary for Christ to come in person. He said, "Say a word, and my servant shall be healed." Those are two basic conditions upon which we receive the power of Christ. No person is worthy of the goodness of God. The most hopeless person is the one who feels he can buy the favor of God through good works. The Bible tells us: "By grace are ye saved through faith; and not of yourselves: It is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast." None of us is deserving for all are in the position of the son who said, "I am no more worthy to be called thy son." We all need to stand by the side of the penitent publican in the temple and pray with him, "God, be merciful to me a sinner."

Being a trained officer in the army, the centurion recognized the meaning of power and authority, and he realized that Christ was a man of authority in the realm of the spirit. The centurion could issue a command and thereby set in motion the operation of certain laws of the government. So Christ could speak and there would be set into operation certain spiritual laws of the universe. Recognizing Christ's authority, the centurion knew that his word would suffice. Do we recognize the sufficiency of Christ's word on our behalf?

How did the centurion obtain such faith that even Christ marveled? He was not born into a home of faith and he was not trained in his early childhood as some of us have been. This man's faith came in other ways. As I read the story, it appears to me that there were four main steps to his faith.

He became acquainted with Christ. We are not actually told that in the story, but if that had not been true then he would not have sought Christ's help. Maybe he met Christ personally. Maybe he heard about him and went to hear him preach and then watched him perform miracles. This soldier was not trained in theology, but somewhere, somehow, he came to know Christ. The whole story is premised on this.

This centurion supported the church. The Jews said, "He hath built us a synagogue". When a person gets interested in the church and works to build it, eventually he comes to believe in Him who is the foundation of the Church.

This centurion was a man of humility. He said, "I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof." Conceited persons never find Christ. And what is worse, they never even desire to find him. As long as we feel that we can

GO to the CHURCH of YOUR CHOICE



AT OUR CHURCHES

DEADline for church news and photographs is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Mr. Clark's home, 1676 N. 'E' St., telephone 642-1560. All items submitted must be accompanied by the sender's name, address and telephone number.

BAPTIST

GRACE EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. C.L. Alexander, 384-7413
815 Bartlett, Vegas Hts.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. I. W. Wilson, 382-2632
400 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

Pleasant Valley Baptist Missionary District Association is now in session through July 24 with Rev. I.W. Wilson serving as moderator.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. M. Carroll
712 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Simmons, 382-2748
311 Madison Ave., Las Vegas

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. V. C. L. Coleman, 384-3131
1209 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. B. Carr, 382-5682
1113 N. "H" St., Las Vegas

NEW JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. F. N. Addison
"D" & Jefferson Sts., Las Vegas

GREATER FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. P. S. Walker, 384-1248
Balzar St., Vegas Hts.

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Kemp, 642-5708
1189 Hassell St., Vegas Hts.

PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. E. C. Kline, 382-7263
101 N. "A" St., Las Vegas

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. J. Thompson, 642-4001
1305 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

Rev. W.T. Nelson will conduct services during the absence of Rev. Thompson, who will be on vacation until Aug. 1.

ST. PETER BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Leo A. Johnson, 642-2559
"C" and Washington, Las Vegas

First communion service will be conducted July 26 at 7:30 p.m.

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WORLD FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Lily Grey
429 Van Buren St., Las Vegas

get along by ourselves, we don't need faith in Christ. Faith is developed out of our realization of our own weakness.

This man believed in other people. We see his concern for the servant who was sick. We know he was interested in people or else he would not have built them a church. And the very fact that he was seeking to help others, indicates that he believed they were worth helping. We read that God made man "in his own image." So, if we learn to believe in people, we naturally believe in God. On the other hand, if we are critical of others and hold spirits of envy or ill-will in our hearts, then naturally we feel the same way toward God.

CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST

UPPER ROOM C. of G. in C.
Bishop C. C. Cox, 385-1541
1117 N. "F" St., Las Vegas

Bishop C.A. James of Los Angeles, National Chorus Director of the Churches of God in Christ, is conducting an old time revival.

POWERHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Supt. J. W. Logan, 382-6187
1216 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

MOST HIGH C. of G. in C.
Eld. J. Washington, 642-5675
Henderson

PROGRESSIVE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Jos. Prudhomme, 642-5556
1155 Lawry Ave., Vegas Hts.

LIGHTHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Willie Rawls, 384-5539
E. Sahara Ave., Fourmyle

PRAYER HOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. W. M. Shaw, 382-1743
Blankenship St., Vegas Hts.

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Tuesday 8 pm - - - - - Bible Band
Wednesday 8 pm - - - - - *Young People
Friday 8 pm - - - - - Consecration
Sunday 10 am - - - - - Sunday School
Sunday 12 m - - - - - Morning Service
Sunday 6:30 pm - - - - - YPW
Sunday 8 pm - - - - - Evening Worship
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*Progressive - - - - - Inspirational

METHODIST

ZION METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. M. D. Bennett, 382-9900
911 N. "G" St., Las Vegas

Daily Vacation Bible School will be held July 27-31. Registration fee is 25 cents and refreshments will be provided at 15 cents per day. All children in the community are invited.

CATHOLIC

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Msgr. W. J. Devlin, 382-9953
"H" & Morgan Sts., Las Vegas

Sunday Mass--11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Week Day Mass--7:30 p.m. each evening
Confession--Saturday 4 and 7:30 p.m.

IMPROVED DATA SOUGHT

"Statistics on Apprenticeship and Their Limitations", third in a series of articles on Assessment of Apprenticeship in the Monthly Labor Review, concludes that a better job of evaluating training programs could be done if data can be improved.

On the matter of Negro Opportunity the article states: "Campaigns by government, civil rights groups, and others to open up apprenticeship to Negroes must be viewed in relation to the total number of new apprentices each year. In 1962, there were 55,465 registered new apprentices. The number has fluctuated between 50,000 and 60,000 since 1957. Of the 85,282 male apprentices in the experienced civilian labor force in the 1960 census, 3.1 percent were nonwhite. Almost 5 percent of the journeymen were nonwhite.

There is no classification by trade for Negro apprentices, but nonwhites comprised from less than 1 percent to almost a fourth of the journeymen. As observers have pointed out, in some of the trades, alternative systems of craft training offer Negroes greater opportunity. (See IMPROVED, page 19)