

Word on Wednesday Bible Study

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Believing is Seeing - John 4:46-54

Introduction: There's a stanza in the hymn "Rock of Ages," Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling...helpless look to Thee for grace. Grace is God's unmerited (not adequately earned or deserved) favor toward us. The royal official's position, power, nor prosperity could do nothing about his plight - his son was sick to the point of death. He had become so desperate that when he heard that Jesus was in Cana, he traveled some twenty miles from Capernaum, knowing that his position could not influence Jesus, his power could not compel Jesus, his prosperity could not pay Jesus, the only recourse he had was to plead for Jesus to heal his son. There will come a time in our lives when who we are, and what we have, cannot do a thing about our circumstances, nor the challenges we face. However, Jesus can. He is both willing and able if we would only come to Him and believe. The author of Hebrews encourages us, "Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need" (Heb. 4:16).

I. _____ **BECAUSE HE'S GRACIOUS (4:46-47)**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John. 3:16

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" - Rom 10:17.

II. _____ **BECAUSE HE'S GRACIOUS (4:48-50)**

Jesus: "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe." -vs. 47

The official: "Sir, come down before my child dies. – vs. 48

Persistence - to go on resolutely or stubbornly in spite of opposition, importunity, or warning.

"...will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?" - Luke 18:7

"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not: nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not: the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent." - Calvin Coolidge

III. _____ BECAUSE HE'S GRACIOUS (4:51-54)

God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? (Num. 23:19).

The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. - Vs. 53

"What is impossible with man is possible with God" - (Luke 18:27)

"Everything is possible for the one who believes" (Mark 9:23).

Conclusion: This story teaches us about the passion of prayer (4:47), the persistence of prayer (4:49), and the practicality of prayer (4:50). When God answers prayer, He will often give us practical steps to follow. But more importantly, it shows us the person who ought to be the object of our prayer, Jesus Christ. The world's prayers often go unanswered because they believe that prayer has inherent power. We believe in the God who has the power to answer our prayers. Prayer is only as good as the object you pray to. Who is the object of your prayers? If it is Jesus, do you believe that He has the power to answer your prayers? Are you passionate and persistent about your requests? Are you expecting God to answer with practical steps? If you have become discouraged because you believe delay is denial, then this story should encourage you to stir up your faith! Get back to being passionate and persistent in prayer. God has a practical plan for your problem and promises for your life.

"For every one of God's promises is "Yes" in Christ Jesus" (2 Cor. 1:20).