

## **Miracle Growing Faith Mark 2:1-12**

**John 14:12** Do you want to see more of God's divine power at work with miracles happening? Through the Holy Spirit, the same power that was in Jesus is available to us today. That's reason to rejoice. Sometimes we complicate things so much! We just need a simple faith, accept God's word as it is.

We talk about faith so lightly that it has come down to wishful or positive thinking. There is no substance to it. Could that be a reason we are not experiencing more of a move of God in our lives?

We need to get into God's word more **Romans 10:17**. We need to have a basis for our faith, a foundation. If our beliefs and convictions are not anchored on something secure and trustworthy, when troubles come we will fall apart. Every time we read something in God's word our faith should be renewed, strengthened and fired up. **James 2:14-19** faith and action cannot be separated. They go hand in hand.

**Compassion-** is a feeling that leads one to help a person who is suffering. Passion refers to a deep desire that moves us into action. We can't say that we have compassion for someone and not do anything about it. We are called to action **I John 3:18**. Do we have compassion on the lost? Do we have a passion for souls? Then we need to be sharing Christ with them, not sitting back and asking God to send someone else.

**Co-operation-** When it comes to our faith we need each other. We need the body of Christ! It's not an option! In order to grow in our faith we need people who will encourage us when we are going through a rough spot, and who will challenge us when we need it. Those in the world don't like to be challenged, when things get hard, the standard eventually gets lowered. We all have different personalities and different ideas and sometimes we use them as excuses to walk away when what we need is to work together to accomplish our common goal; to praise God and bring forth His Kingdom. It's not about us. We need to lose our narrow-minded selfish points of view and start looking at the big picture. Our commonality is our faith in Jesus; it needs to be our driving force. We are His witnesses, to friends, strangers and enemies alike. If we had the cure for cancer, would we keep it to ourselves or share it with those who needed it? We all know people who are sick with something infinitely worse than cancer, it's sin and we have the cure- Jesus. We need to give Him to them.

**Perseverance-** We need to go beyond the easy breezy convenient Christianity. Faith takes perseverance. There will always be obstacles and that shouldn't surprise us because this is a spiritual battle we are engaged in. We need to be flexible and willing to change our game plan at a moment's notice. We need to be willing to take risks and to get our hands dirty for Jesus. Perseverance will cause you to stand out. It's not popular and it can bring persecution.

**Hebrews 10: 36**

**Anticipation & Expectation-** Do you come expecting Jesus to do something? We need to expect the unexpected. What kind of faith and hope do you come with? If we come defeated and not expecting chances we will probably leave without receiving. We need

to approach Jesus with faith. **Heb.11:1** The four friends knew Jesus was going to do something. Your faith can produce a miracle in someone else's life Jesus saw **their** faith and healed their friend. The power to heal is always present in Jesus but the circumstances are not always favourable. **Matt. 13:58** Is my faith or lack of preventing God from doing a miracle in or through me? Salvation is the greatest miracle. There is a party in heaven every time someone gets saved.

Jesus healed the man's body but dealt with the underlying problem as well; paralysis was only the symptom, sin was the illness. There was potential for more miracles. **Luke 5:17-26** the Pharisees and teachers of the law could have been healed as well but they chose to be offended. How many of us refuse to sit under the word? How many of us get offended because the Holy Spirit convicts us? When Christ forgives it always comes with the capacity to break from sin and walk in this new life.

What has Jesus done for you? When you think of it you should be filled with hope. Do you have hope in Jesus? Do you have faith or is it just a word? If you have hope and faith in Jesus you can expect miracles.