

Great Faith

Scripture Reference:

[Matthew 15:21-28](#)

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession."

Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."

"Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

What is Faith: Taking God at His Word. Faith accepts God's Word as fact and acts accordingly.

It comes from:

- Knowledge of God's Word. *Rom 10:17 (NIV) Faith comes by hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*
- Being fully convinced (belief) that it is true. (Faith comes with evidence.)
- Act accordingly, fully trusting. (What you actually do shows where your heart is.)

It is perfected through:

- Faith is fueled by love, something you care deeply about.
- The strength of your faith is seen through adversity.
- Desperation creates an environment where your faith can be built up.

Group Work:

I want you to partner with someone, and I want you to do 3 things:

1. Think of something in your life that is a demonstration of your faith – What are you hoping for? (The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen)
2. Describe the "love" behind that substance.
3. Describe what you "believe" and how you have acted on this belief?
4. The other person prays and stands with you in faith. Next week, want you to check in with each other around that item.