

Matthew 8:5-10

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! "

When you have a problem and need prayer, who is usually the first person that you think to go to for prayer? In most cases it's the pastor, and second would be probably an assistant pastor or elder in the church. I'm not sure why, I suppose people think that they have an "in" with God, or that God will answer if the pastor approaches God with the request.

Many reading today's devotional verses may think that's the case here in today's devotional verses, but I don't really see that as much. What I see is a **centurion** (*a commander of a hundred men, in the Roman armies.*) who is used to ordering people around and getting what he wants. But he was NOT using his authority to make Jesus do what he wanted, which was to heal his servant. If you will notice Jesus was willing to come to his house, but the man felt that he was not worthy for Jesus to come to his house, even though he had authority over others.

Yet we want the finest seats in just the right spot in church.
We want a word from God for us and us alone.
We want others to like us and flock to church and to Jesus because we tell them that they should.
And we must have the pastor pray for us, and no one else.

Have we become so haughty in our Christian walk that we now feel that we are deserving of so much more beyond salvation?
How many name it and claim it, or misquote and twist scripture to try to turn God into their own personal Santa Claus or Jeannie?
Are believers thinking that "God is now my God and I know He want's what's best for me and only the best, so God HAS to answer my prayer, if not, I'll sick the pastor on Him, then He'll be forced to say yes to my request."

I know that sounds pretty harsh, and you think that you would never say that. Yet, do our actions say that without us even having to speak a word?

Once again have we become so haughty in our walk with the Lord that we forget that God Himself said, *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD.”* Isaiah 55:8

It’s time to wake up and stop thinking that we deserve the finest of everything and humble ourselves like Jesus told the rich young ruler to do.

† **Mark 10:21** *Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."*

That doesn’t sound like Jesus is saying to him that if he asks, he can have whatever he wants. Sounds more like the opposite of give up those things you want and have.

Also remember that the bible says: *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.* James 4:10

Instead of asking God for what you want, ask who you can give to instead.

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† **Proverbs 11:2** *When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.*