



**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Our greatest comfort in sorrow is to know that God is in control

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
What our faith rests on is the belief that God is in ultimate control and will indeed keep His promises—whether that happens in this life or the next.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
(Heb 11:6 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", July 30, 2016)

Series: Faith in Action

UNIT: The Early Church Proclaims Faith in Christ

NEXT WEEK

Faith to Discern
(Acts 13:1-12)

Faith in Jesus Acts 3:11-21

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reveals that Jesus is the Messiah spoken of by the prophets and why we should have **Faith in Jesus**. The study's aim is to know that salvation requires faith in the Messiah Jesus Christ. The study's application is to realize that a positive response to the gospel requires its clear presentation and explanation.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Who do you rely on? Before you answer, consider the question on a deeper level. Every day, we rely on certain things. Whether we are conscious of it or not, it is true. For example, a child relies on parents to provide care. We go into work, trusting we still have a job. We rely on our homes and our spouses. There are numerous constants. We expect these things to remain. So what if this suddenly changes? What do we do when we lose that job, a spouse is unfaithful, or a disaster takes our homes? We find ourselves walking in a completely different landscape, trying to make sense of it all. We realize that we cannot depend on the things we thought would always be there. The temporary nature of this existence becomes painfully clear. Hope and life drain out of us, leaving us fearful and in despair. It does not have to be this way, as our lesson text this week illustrates. We read about three men. For one, faith changed his existence. For the other two, faith was a powerful motivator that saved others. Place yourself in the lesson text. The temple court is crowded with worshippers, merchants, priests, and beggars. Perhaps people are jostling one another, impatient to go about their day. In the midst of this, Peter and John work a miracle. Word spreads like ripples on the water. When Peter addresses the crowd, many come to faith in Christ. That is the way of the gospel. When we come into contact with Christ, we find ourselves astonished by His love. We are captivated by Him, changed through His Spirit working in us. Like the beggar, we come to Him with our defects and shortcomings, destitute and helpless. Even as the beggar was healed, so He heals us, transforming us into new beings. The means by which God works is the gift of faith. Scripture tells us that without faith we cannot please God (Heb. 11:6). There is no other way. Faith is essential. We cannot please God by our stumbling efforts at good deeds and a righteous life (Isa. 64:6). But who are we supposed to have faith in? We have to have faith in God's Son and His work on the Cross. It is that simple. God calls us to rely on the redemption secured by Him. Without Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection, there is no redemption. Most people like to have a backup plan for when things go wrong. Besides salvation, there is no secondary way—no backup plan that can save. We either trust Christ, or we are not saved. It is all or nothing with Him. The good news is that when we place all our faith in Jesus, it is not misguided. He will not fail us. Unlike earthly things, His work cannot be swept away and destroyed. What He accomplished is eternal, and what He does for our lives is just as lasting. So where is your faith today? Deep inside, are you falling back on a secondary plan? Set that aside; it will not help you. Place your faith wholly in Jesus. He is the only one who will not let you down. While everything else is temporary, His promises are eternal (cf. Isa. 40:8) and good (cf. Jer. 29:11). Put your trust entirely in Christ.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Faith in Jesus' Power (Acts 3:11-16)

Power to heal (11-12)

- Healing physically (Matt 14:14)
- Healing spiritually (Isa 53:5)
- Healing that proves His Divinity (Matt 11:2-5)
- Healing based on obedience (2 Chron 7:14)
- Healing through other people (Acts 9:10-11)

Power of resurrection (13-15)

- Resurrection witnessed by many (Acts 2:32)
- Resurrection that saints will be united with (Rom 6:5)
- Resurrection by the power of God (Acts 2:23-24)
- Resurrection of the saints to meet Jesus in the air (1 Thess 4:17)
- Resurrection that will result in change (1 Cor 15:52)

Power in His Name (16)

- Power in His Name because it is one of the signs of those who believe (Mark 16:17-18)
- Power in His Name because it is the only power that heals (Acts 4:7-10)
- Power in His Name but it cannot be used by human will (Acts 19:13-16)
- Power in His Name provides security (John 17:11-12)

Faith in Jesus' Salvation (Acts 3:17-21)

Salvation through suffering (17-18)

- Jesus had to suffer so that He could be lifted up and honored (Luke 17:24-25)
- Jesus learned obedience from His suffering (Heb 5:8)
- Jesus suffered so that we could be holy through His blood (Heb 13:12)
- Jesus suffered to leave us an example (1 Peter 2:21)

Salvation through forgiveness of sins (19-20)

- It is a blessing to be forgiven (Rom 4:7-8)
- We are to forgive others as God has forgiven us (Col 3:13)
- Forgiveness through the grace of God (Eph 1:7)
- Forgiveness through the shedding of Jesus' blood (Heb 9:22)

Salvation through restoration (21)

- Restoration of the soul (Ps 23:3)
- Restoration of faith (Luke 22:32)
- Restoration from suffering (1 Peter 5:10)
- Restoration into righteousness (Job 33:26)
- Restoration of the joy of His salvation (Psalm 51:12)
- Restoration from backsliding (Jeremiah 3:22)