

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 8:5-13

And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. (KJV)

Great faith in the Lord is a true blessing. Great faith reveals to the believer the continuous depth of God's love. Exercising great faith reveals God's healing power and immeasurable goodness.

The centurion in the present Gospel was blessed with great faith. The Lord Jesus Christ recognized the depth and strength of the centurion's faith. Jesus Christ responded to the centurion's faith and healed his afflicted servant.

The centurion's deep interest in the wellness of his servant was an important element in the healing. The centurion was not looking for glory for himself. The centurion was clearly focused on Jesus and the power of Jesus to heal the servant.

For great faith to develop in the believer, the believer must be firmly focused. Purity of heart, mind and soul have a place in seeking healing. Those aspects of life which prevent love of Christ are to be rejected and repelled.

Jesus' love for each person is well-documented through the centuries. Jesus' healing power has filled volumes of books. Accounts and testimonies of healing by Jesus Christ are readily available.

Believers around the world turn to the Lord Jesus Christ in prayer and strong faith seeking healing. Believers in search of healing are never disappointed. Healing takes different forms and is not always outwardly physical.

Healing includes changing the heart, mind and soul in relationship to the current illness, injury or affliction. The believer does well to look to the Lord for understanding and perspective when seeking healing.

Illnesses, injuries and afflictions can become sources of ultimate joy to a believer. They may result in a new and beneficial relationship with the Lord. The heart, mind and soul can be purified as a result of an illness, affliction or an injury.

Believer's having a strong and deep relationship with the Lord come to ultimately realize the value of the words of the Holy Apostle Paul in his Epistle to the Romans.

The Holy Apostle Paul wrote: “all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.” (Rom.8:28) The believer benefits from being patient and understanding in the desire for healing.

The Lord God knows what each believer needs. Searching deep within the heart, mind and soul the believer will ultimately discover the Lord’s purpose and reasoned response to prayers for healing.

God’s Holy Church educates and nourishes the faithful about Jesus Christ’s healing powers. The Mother of God, the saints and martyrs serve as valued intercessors before the Lord when healing is needed and desired.

The present Gospel speaks clearly about healing. The Church wants believers around the world to know about the centurion, his strong faith and Jesus Christ healing his servant.

Readers of the Gospel know that reading the Gospel faithfully in the context of God’s Holy Church brings constant healing in life. Every day believers are afflicted with sin and ailments to the soul that need healed.

Reading and listening to the Holy Gospel regularly will bring healing to the believer. The Lord Jesus Christ works miracles through the reading and hearing of the Gospel.

Life is to be lived fully and completely in God’s Holy Church. The Church teaches about Jesus Christ. The Church offers direct experience with Jesus Christ in the Holy Mysteries. Healing is only one aspect of the life in Christ.

The believer’s response to healing is always to be kept in mind. Being grateful to Jesus Christ for healing will shape the remaining time of life. When healing occurs, the opportunity to witness for Jesus Christ arises.

Persons healed by Christ do well to tell others. Persons who are healed benefit by learning more about Christ. Having been healed, believers benefit by devoting the remaining time of life to loving Christ and demonstrating gratitude.

When illness or injuries arise, praying for healing often comes to mind. When recovery occurs, giving thanks to the Lord is absolutely proper and merits first place. Healing brings joy to the believer.

Sharing the joy of being healed will enrich others needing to learn more about Jesus Christ and the value of strong faith. Believers through the centuries have benefitted from the strong faith of the centurion.

Today let us give thanks to God’s Holy Church for the Gospel lesson on healing. May our faith in the Lord be enriched and strengthened. Let love and gratitude for the Lord be first in our hearts, minds and souls.

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. Venerable Sampson the Hospitable. June 27/July 10, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic