

Wow Faith

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C. Elijah Bronner: Are you living a lie that will make someone say wow?

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And now for 7581, "Wow Faith."

Thank you for joining Brothers of The Word, because brother, you need the word.

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us in brothersoftheword.com. Thank you so much for tuning in to today's broadcast.

Well, I would like to start with just a little humor. Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, my dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem and they give him \$50. The second boy says, that's nothing. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100. The third boy says, I got you both beaten. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon and it takes eight people to collect all the money.

Well, open your Bible, if you will, to the Gospel of Matthew. The Gospel of Matthew. The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter Eight, and when you get this, amen. Gospel of Matthew Chapter Eight we will read beginning with -- we will read beginning with verse number five. Matthew 8 Verse 5, let's begin reading there and we will read down to Verse 10 and then we will also read Verse 13. Let's begin reading, Matthew Chapter 8 beginning with Verse 5 together in unison, ready, go. "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 Verse 13, “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.”

And I want you to notice something there in verse number 10, Verse 10. Notices it, when Jesus herded, he marvelled. When Jesus herded, he marvelled. Now, the word marvelled means to wonder at -- now, it means Jesus wondered. How do you make the person who does wonders to wonder? How do you make the God of wonders, wonder? He wondered. That word also means astonished. It means amazed and I think if you put it in our modern-day vernacular it says if Jesus said wow. And, I just want to use as a subject today, wow faith, wow faith, wow faith. Turn to your neighbor and say, wow, wow, wow.

Now, scripture recalls that Jesus only marvelled twice. Jesus only marvelled two times in the Bible. He marvelled here as a result of great awe and there is one second incidence in Mark 6:6 where he marvelled because of unbelief. And I think that is -- that way to say something to us in our lives today, is Jesus saying wow because of your faith or is he saying wow because of your unbelief. Jesus marvelled. He said wow. He said wow.

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Now, there are some interesting things I want just glean from this, this chapter here, Matthew Chapter Eight, the centurion really caught Jesus by surprise if it were even though he is the God who knows end from the beginning, he knows all things, it still did something to him to experience. Even though he already knew it, it still did something to him to experience it. And Jesus marvelled. He was amazed. He was astonished. He was in wonder over this man's faith because this was not common everyday faith. This was something he had not seen before and it was tie than a quality that made him marvelled, made him wonder, made him go wow. Everybody turn to your neighbor and say, wow, wow, wow.

Now, here is something I want to point out in this account, that this centurion that we're able to draw from this account. Number one, don't be afraid to ask God for something incredible,

or don't be afraid to believe God for great things, even things that have never been done before. I believe that God wants to do something in your life that you've never experienced before, that's what he's saying. God wants to do some things in our lives that we have never experienced before. And that good news? And so, don't be afraid to ask God for something incredible or to believe him for great things or even things that have never been done before. Steven Furtick said this, he says, if you're not daring to believe God for the impossible, you're sleeping through some of the best parts of your life. Too many boring Christians. Too many mundane regular Christians with small insignificant faith that doesn't even get a grunt out of God. But here's somebody who made him marvelled. Here's somebody who made him wondered. Here's somebody who amazed him. Here's somebody who astonished him. And so, we learn -- I like something that John Haggaisaid, he says, attempt something so great for God is doomed to failure unless God be in it. He's doomed to failure unless God be in it.

Bill Bright says, he says, we hinder God working in our lives not only when we doubt our fear but also when we are satisfied with mediocrity. God wants to do something great. God wants to do something mighty. God wants to do some things that have never been done before. God wants us to have some wow experiences, some great experiences. I believe that God wants to show himself strong in our lives. He's just waiting on somebody to believe him for something incredible. Man, we don't have faith for God to heal a headache these days. We run to get the aspirin as soon as the headache -- Man where is our faith, are we living at all, this is so boring, it's nothing that really gives God's attention any longer.

And so, we're talking about just ordinary faith, we're talking about wow. Turn to your neighbor and say, we talk about wow faith today. This is wow faith. This is uncommon. This is uncommon. This is not ordinary. This is special. Special faith. Faith is an adventure with God. Real faith is an adventure with God. Real faith is an adventure with God. And you will see people like characters in the Bible like Caleb or David. When they had encounters it was an adventure, faith was an adventure with God. When David run up on that giant, David knew that it was going to take God to flip him and that excited David, it excited David over the prospect of he and God teaming up to flip that giant. And so, he was excited over that. And so,

faith is an adventure, real faith is an adventure with God. It's basically saying God I can't wait to see what you are about to do and I get to be a part of it, oh, glory to God. I get to be a part of it. I can't wait to see what he is about to do and I get to be a part of it. Man, that's exciting, that's exciting. That's why when Caleb and Joshua, when they looked over, when they were part of the 12 spies, they spied out the Canaan land in the promised land, they came back and saw this big giant there they were huge giants and everybody was afraid, everybody was coward. Joshua and Caleb (00:09:59) oh, they start licking their lips.

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They said we want a piece of those giants because they knew it would take God, it would take to beat those giants. And so, they were excited over the possibility, over the prospect of having an adventure with God. Say with me, faith is an adventure with God. It's an adventure with God. It's looking at impossible situations and something on the inside of you gets excited because you know it's going to take God to help with you this, to use you for this. And that's what's exciting.

Some of us life is boring because we are not having any adventure. Oh, God is a God of the adventure. God is a God of the adventure. God is a God of the adventure. Some of you need to spice up your life a little bit, you know that makes you live longer. When you have a little adventure did you know that, did you know people literally who, people who do daring things where (00:10:54) a little bit, they live longer. You need to wake up, you revive yourself a little bit, you need something to (00:10:59) your life. You want to look for, you want to look for an adventure, you want to look for an adventure. I mean, if you know somebody in the hospital with two (00:11:10) life support, you want to say God, let's go this is going to be exciting, this is going to be exciting. This is adventure because you know that's going to take God. God is looking for somebody who's ready to do something. God is looking for somebody who's wants a little adventure in life, and he's looking for some people who are willing to have this wow, this wow, this wow faith, this wow faith.

The second thing I notice here about this centurion. This centurion had inspiring faith. He had, everybody say, inspiring faith. He had inspiring faith. It was not only a breath of fresh

air to Jesus but his faith inspired the whole multitude. It inspired the whole multitude when Jesus said, I have not seen, heard anything like this in all of Israel. This man was a gentile. He was an Israelite. He was not a part of the people of God. He wasn't the chosen. He was a gentile and here is a gentile, here is a gentile amazing God and Jesus said, I haven't seen this among my own people. And so that type of faith, not only did something to Jesus but it inspired the whole crowd. It inspired the whole crowd. And so, what I glean from that is that you need someone in your life who inspires your faith. You need someone in your life who inspires your faith. Somebody whose faith or whose love or whose prayer life or whose generosity or whose witness will make you say, wow.

Are there any wow people in your life? Anybody that's inspiring your faith? Anybody that's inspiring your walk? Anybody that's inspiring your life? You need some wow people. Turn to your neighbor and say, you need some wow people in your life. You need wow people in your life. I like what Pastor Nathaniel said, he said, that Attorney Sam, who is over 70 years old and Attorney Sam said, he had only missed six workout classes over the past year. And Pastor Nathaniel who's in his late 50s he's looking at someone over 70 and that became inspiration to him, he gave him a view of what he can be like once he's over 70. So, that became somebody who inspired his life. And so, you need people in your life who inspire you. You need people in your life to be reference points to you.

I had a chance to play basketball with our First Lady Simon's uncle who is 62 years old. Now, I'll be 45 this year and I had begun thinking, you know, well maybe it's time for me to put my basketball shoes up. I've had a great career. I've had a great career. I was really contemplating, I hanging my shoes, I said, I've had a great career. I've won a lot of victories. I've been in a lot of battles. I've done my thing, you know, I've proved my point. There's nothing left to prove. I've proven them I'm a bad boy on the court, I've already done that. I've already proven and so as I was getting older and you know you become a little bit more afraid of injuries, I start seeing people my age dislocating their knee. I start seeing backs go out. I started look at (00:14:43) I think it's too dangerous. I was looking on all these guys made and they going out, they going out pretty hard, they going hard pretty hard. But then, I saw somebody at 62 and I saw him lacing up his shoes. I saw him putting braces on.

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I saw him putting his liniment on. But let me tell you, let me tell you. When he hit the court, he didn't talk, he didn't smile. I mean that guy went to work and he was whipping these little 15, 16, 17, he was whipping, he actually scored the first eight points of our game, I was on his team, luckily for him. Luckily for him. Luckily for him. He didn't have me to (00:15:37) but I was on his team. I was on his team. He scored the first eight points and I was looking, I said, my God he is 62 years old. My God. But it inspired my faith. That reminded me of the Master's Tournament this past week when they had the 14-year-old. The 14-year-old who's the youngest player in history that play in the Masters and especially to make the cut and they said that when he was finishing up on the first day, one of the fans was so overwhelmed by what they had seen, they just yelled out, my God, he's only 14 years old, he's only 14 -- and that's the way I felt when I saw this 62 year old, I was like my God he's 62 years old, but he was inspiring.

And so now, I had decided not to retire. But he became an inspiration to me and he became a wow. You need people who inspire your life. You got to have people who are reference point for every area of your life. You need somebody to be a reference point for you. You better looking at the wrong people. You want to know how to get old and prosper, look at my mama. My mom is 80 years old this year and she is (00:17:01) strong as she was when she was 40. And so, you got to take people like my mother to be your reference point. My mama doesn't lived life nobody's grandma. She's little like nobody's great grandma. My mama is in style. My mama knows how to do it. My mama knows. She said (00:17:21) herself. My mama is tough. My mama went on a tour and they had to ride a motorcycle, my mama in a road to missed out their motorcycle. She doesn't care, she didn't care is she's 80 years old. Folks, you got to find people that inspire your life, people that inspire your -- God would drop people around you. He will drop people around you to show you your potential, to show you your destiny, to show you what you can do. Somebody to inspire you. Somebody to inspire you. So, you need some wow people, you need wow people.

So, the centurion, he was a wow person that inspired the multitude and Jesus used him because he knew this man would

inspire his own disciples, his own disciplines didn't have that type of faith. Jesus had not seen that type of faith before, it wowed him and so he used it to inspire a multitude. Tryon Edward said this, he says, people never improve until they look to some standard or example higher and better than themselves. People don't improve until they looked to some standard that's higher and better than themselves. So, you got to have people around that inspire your faith, that inspire your love, that inspire your (00:18:45), and inspire your prayer life. People that inspire your life, you need some people that will make you say, wow. That will make you say, wow.

Who was it in your life that makes you say, wow? Who was it you're watching that makes you say, wow? Whose marriage are you watching that makes you say, wow? Who are you watching that makes you say, wow? Who praise is it that makes you say, wow? When I saw Brother Julian (00:19:13). Now, Julian did something I had never seen. He came down the aisle sideways today. I've never seen that. You see that inspired my praise. That inspired my praise. Julian, let me know we got to take our praise to a whole different dimension. Julian came down, I had seen him come down for, I had never seen him turn sideways and come down. He came down sideways on one leg, that inspired me, that inspired me. That inspire -- that inspire. And in fact, my other good friend back there, when he saw it, he came down because it inspired his praise, that inspired his praise, that inspired his praise. And Sister Diana, she's the one that set them all of, she set them all of.

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Man, you don't know how my leg shakes when I see Sister Diana out there. I do everything in my power just to hold it back, just to hold it back, just to hold it back. That's inspiring. That's inspiring. So, you need people around you who inspire your faith. You need people around you who inspire your faith. Who is it around you that believe God for great things? Who is it around you that believe in God for impossible things? Who is it around you that's not afraid? Who is it that's around you they're full of faith and they're full of vitality and they're full of vigor and they love God with all their hearts and nothing in life faces them because they know God is worthy and they know God can be trusted? Who is in your life like that? Who is in your like that?

Here's something else we notice from the centurion. He said to Jesus, he said, I'm not worthy for you to come under my roof and that lets us know that we don't have to be perfect for God to work in our lives. Isn't that good news? Oh, that's good news, that's good news, that's good news because (00:21:28) have thought, Lord, I'm just too jacked up, I'm too jacked up for you to do anything with me Lord God, I mean, I'm such a mess. Lord I'm so ashamed. You can't use me Lord. Folks God is able to use us in spite of us, in spite of us God can use us. God can still work in your life in spite of your hang ups, in spite of your hang ups and he was saying, what this centurion realized that nobody else had realized that it was not about him but it was about Jesus. He understood it wasn't his right righteousness, it was the merit of the one he was coming to. It wasn't the centurion's merit, he understood it was Jesus' merit. It was Jesus' righteousness. It was Jesus who made him who he was. It was Jesus who he felt secured with and it was because of that, that we learned that God is able to work in our lives in spite of us, in spite of us. Give God praise on that. He's able to work in our lives in spite of us, in spite of us, in spite of us, in spite of us. Praise God.

I'm out of time. Those of you who are watching by television, I want you to go to brothersoftheword.com. You can listen to this message in its entirety, "Wow Faith." You can also e-mail it to a friend absolutely free of charge.

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