

When the nobleman heard these words of Jesus, he laid hold of them by faith and confidently put his trust in them. He had received no sign or physical proof that what Jesus had just said would happen. He was close to twenty miles from home and there was no way to find out immediately how his boy was doing. He simply trusted the words of Jesus and went away with a peace of mind and confidence of heart that his son would get well.

This is the way in which we lay hold of Jesus' words of promise, and not only His promise to help us in every physical need, but also more importantly in His sure word and promise that gives life and salvation to our souls. We have received no visible sign or physical proof that tells us that when Jesus died on the cross, He paid for all our sins. And yet when we hear the words of Jesus, "It is finished," we know by faith that He paid the full redemptive price for all our sins. We have no visible evidence that when we are led to repent of our sins and believe in Jesus for forgiveness, that we stand fully absolved before God. Yet when we hear Jesus' gospel proclamation in the Bible to the penitent sinners "Your sins are forgiven," we know by faith that our sins are all washed away. When Thomas saw the body of the risen Lord Jesus with his own eyes, his faith in the word of Christ was confirmed that Jesus had succeeded in redeeming mankind from sin, death, and the devil. And now, for those of us who have not seen this glorious sight with our eyes and believe in the risen Savior, Jesus said, "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

We have been blessed by God the Holy Spirit in that He has enabled us to believe in the Word of Christ that testifies of His life, death, and resurrection as our Savior without having to see any visible evidence or handle any tangible proof of this. And as a wonderful result of this, we have been gifted by God in being able to experience peace, joy, and hope in Christ Jesus.

When the nobleman left Jesus, it was around seven in the evening. Since it was so late, he waited until morning before returning home. As he made his way toward Capernaum, his servants met him on the road. They came with the wonderful news that his son was alive and well. After hearing this message, the nobleman carefully inquired as to when his son started to get well. Whereupon the servants replied that his son was completely recovered from his deadly fever on the previous day at seven in the evening. This was the exact time that Jesus had said, "your son lives."

This message was a source of great joy to the nobleman and was also a blessing for him. Not only did he find out that his boy was well again, but he also received confirmation of the faith and trust he had placed in Jesus' word. He received evidence of the wonderful truthfulness of Christ's word and of its great power. The Lord Jesus had given him His word of promise and was found to be faithful in fulfilling that word. The blessing which the nobleman received from Jesus was twofold. Through the power of Jesus' word the boy was made well. And also through that same word of Jesus this man's faith in God was greatly increased.

Praise be to God for His wonderful words of promise revealed to us in the Bible which not only pertain to the health and welfare of our bodily needs, but also and more importantly to the spiritual and eternal welfare of our souls. And thanks be to God that through that powerful word the Spirit enables us to believe in the words and promises of God without feeling the need to see signs and wonders. And finally, we glorify God for the blessed spiritual gifts of peace, joy, and hope that come to us from believing the Word of God. May the Word of our Lord ever help us to walk by faith and not by sight. Amen