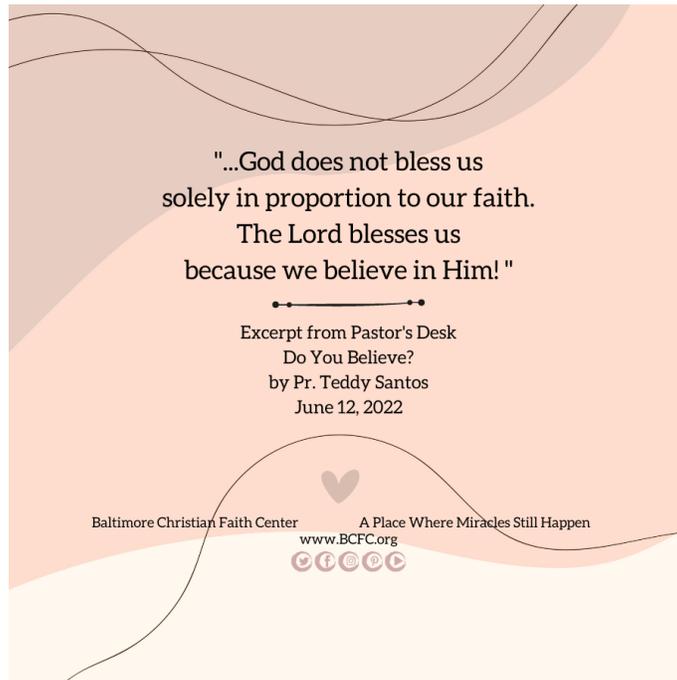


Do You Believe?

Pastor's Desk – June 12, 2022



Matthew 9:27-29 "(27) When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" (28) And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." (29) Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

The Lord Jesus' remark that we will receive according to our faith is both a stimulation and a challenge to faith. Often, however, we misconstrue what He says. The Lord does not imply here that we will acquire in proportion to our faith, but that we will obtain simply because we believe.

This occurred immediately after reviving a young girl to life, and many were hovering around, certainly abuzz at what they heard had occurred. Interestingly, the Lord Jesus took these men inside the house and away from the masses before He did what He did. Why? The Word does not explain, but there is enough here to speculate. It hinges on the question, "**Do you believe?**" The question now begs: why did He ask if they believed? Likely He wanted to hear their answer, but also what type of trust they actually had in Jesus. Or was it simply curiosity?

Matthew calls them "men". Were they capable of bearing the accountability of having new eyesight? Whenever God does something for us, even though it is a gift, He is not obligated to do it except because of His promises to us. Yet, when The Lord does something for you and me, it does set us under obligation.

The Lord Jesus likely wanted to see whether these men's belief was of a high enough quality that they would make proper use of what He was about to impart on them. It was a test when The Lord asked about their faith and if they could bear their conviction into the new, more responsible life that would result from this miracle.

How many individuals do we know that God has given a tremendous gift - perhaps even healing - and then leave the congregation or completely dissipate the gift they received? I don't believe God grudges it to them, but this is not the point. The recipient of such blessings fails to take advantage of them in God's service, which is part of why The Lord asked the question.

If we are to extract anything from these three verses, it is that God does not bless us solely in proportion to our faith. The Lord blesses us because we believe in Him!

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos