

4 • WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT FAITH

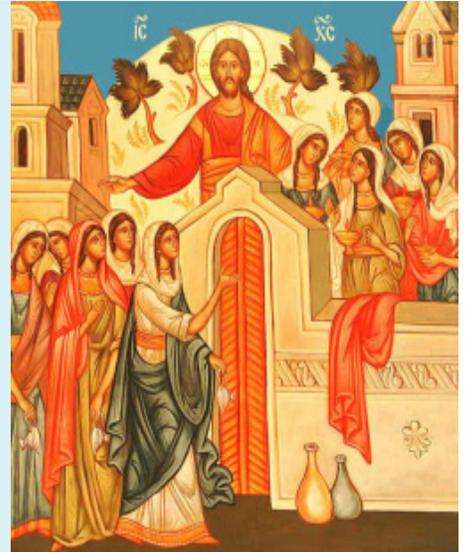
In the Epistle to the Hebrews 11:1, Saint Paul defines faith as “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Faith is at the **very center of Christian life and action**. “By faith Abraham... went out, now knowing where he was to go.” Without faith, our lives are paralyzed. Indeed, **without faith, we cannot claim to be Christians at all**.

Jesus was constantly amazed by the lack of faith in those around Him. His phrase, “O ye of little faith,” recurs on several occasions. If the people knew God the Father as He knew Him, they would have faith instead of fear. Curiously, while He commended many for having a strong faith, they were usually not His disciples. Hence, in the Lord’s Prayer, He reveals the **centrality of faith in our lives**, as we pray, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done.”

There is a **close relationship** between **faith and healing**, between **faith and joy**, between **faith and prayer**, between **faith and the power to overcome evil**. Faith, as Jesus taught, can remove the mountains of despair, of depression, of defeat which so easily besets us; **faith can make us whole**, healthy in spirit and body.

Jesus manifested supreme faith when He voluntarily offered Himself to the mob in the garden of Gethsemane, knowing that they would crucify Him – while also knowing that the final victory would be His.



Look up each of the following passages and write down what Jesus Christ says about faith.

MATTHEW 6:25–34

MATTHEW 17:20-21

MATTHEW 21:18-22; MARK 11:14, 22-26

MARK 4:35-40

MARK 5:30-34; LUKE 8:45-48

MATTHEW 14:27-31

MARK 9:16-29

LUKE 23:46

JOHN 6:20

JOHN 10:37-38