

The Father's Heart

Psalm 103: 13-14

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The perfect holiness and perfectly righteous standards of God are themes that are repeated all over scriptures. God in his wisdom has also laid down principles by which we should live and through which we can receive from him. One important requirement for receiving anything from God is faith. It is easy to see from the scriptures that God expects us to have faith, to grow in faith and to exercise faith. However, there are many passages that show Jesus intervening purely out of compassion....the recipients of the intervention had zero faith. This study reviews some of these passages. The hope is we will be encouraged by this wonderful quality of the Godhead.

Discussion questions

- 1) Read the following passages and discuss the importance of faith in receiving from God: Heb. 11:6; Matt. 21:21-22; James 1:5-7.
- 2) What are some situations that can promote a decline in faith? Feel free to share from personal experiences. What does a lack of faith suggest?
- 3) What can we do to overcome/prevent a decline in faith?
- 4) Read each of the following passages: John 5:1-13; John 11: 1-7, 17-44; Luke 7:11-15.
 - a) Comment on whether the recipients fulfilled the faith requirements in (1) above. What disqualified them?
 - b) What was the deciding factor for Jesus' intervention in each case?
 - c) What lessons can we learn about God's grace, mercy, and compassion?
 - d) How would you encourage a believer who has grown weary and have zero faith currency? Try to reconcile the passages in (1) and (4) in your answer.