



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

In a flash

Sis Techie Rodriguez, Elder- Founder

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In a flash means immediate, quick, or now. Our world is a mixture of people who either spiritually encountered or did not encounter Jesus Christ. Some believe that they have not experienced physical miracles and blessings, while others testified on God's greatness and miracles. Moreover, when God touched the lives of some people, their lives changed immediately as fast as the miracles and blessings bestowed to them.

1. Healing of Roman official's son (Jn. 4:46-54)

- 1.1. **He humbled himself to Jesus Christ.** The father, having the position of authority in a powerful empire, knew that nothing in his possession could help him except Jesus Christ. Our material possession nor our status in life would not be enough for our salvation but only through a profound relationship with the Son of God.
- 1.2. **He knew Jesus Christ by hearing.** The anxious father knew the whereabouts of Jesus Christ. Spiritually speaking, our sharing in the gospel of Christ points our anxious brothers and sisters to Him.
- 1.3. **He asked Jesus Christ to help him.** As a government official, he could impose Jesus to come and heal his son, but instead he went and requested Jesus Christ to come and heal his son.
- 1.4. **Jesus rebuked the people.** Jesus rebuked those who were only amazed at the signs and wonders, but they forgot that a profound relationship with Jesus Christ was more important than just miracles and blessings.

2. Despite our problems, we should praise God.

Our relationship with God does not excuse us from problems/sufferings. Amidst difficult situations, we should not stop praying and

and worshiping God. We should depend on his grace and believe that our own healing and blessings are provided in God's perfect time.

3. **God's plan is different from ours.** God answers our prayers, either yes, no or wait. Our priority is to have a personal relationship with Him. Moreover, most of our plans differ from God's plans (Is. 55:9) and His plans are for our own welfare (Jer. 29:11).
4. **Our faith requires believing in God's work.** The people who have experienced healing from God believed first the words spoken by Jesus Christ and would eventually do/follow what He said.
5. **God's word affects in a flash.** The stories about the healing of the Official son and Jairus' daughter demonstrate God's powerful word which is living and effective (Heb. 4:12).
6. **Our gratefulness to God's work makes us closer to Him.** Being thankful for God's miracle and blessings brings us closer to our journey with Him. Like the grateful leper, we must not delay our appreciation for what He has done for us and our family.
7. **Obedience is faith.** We obey God not because of the series of miracles and blessings we receive, but because we believe in Him and put our faith and trust in his promises.

Conclusion:

Our faith in God requires complete trust in His every word, whether it is from our prayers or from the Bible. He demonstrated his amazement of the Gentiles' faith and gave them prompt healing and miracles. Hence, our faith that God will answer our heartfelt prayers will surely give us a divine experience that can change our lives forever.

Reflection:

1. How do you show your gratitude to God?
2. What are the godly encounters you remember?
3. Why do you think obedience is important?

Transcriber/Writer: Bro. Remegio M. Sagarino Jr

Approved/Final Edited by: Sis Vera I. Tuplano

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