

Faith vs. “But...”, “What If...” and “How...”

A Lord’s Flock General Assembly Topic

By: Sis. Techie Rodriguez, Elder and Vision-Holder

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Oftentimes, we face the battle of faith versus our own reasoning. We say “But”, “What If” and “How” in our lives, even in our prayers, as indication of our reasoning. However, more often than not, our reasoning hinders what God wants to do in our lives. He wants us to have a mindset for miracles, that puts our faith into practice.

1. Definition of terms:

- **But (Pero, Ngunit, Subalit)** – marks opposition on passing from one thought to another. It is used to indicate an exception to anything other than what is being stated.
- **If (Kung)** – indicates condition/possibility, no matter or whether. Introducing a conditional clause on the condition that; in the event that.
- **How (Paano)** – asks about the manner/condition of doing something.

2. Four stories on mindset for miracles in Matthew 8:

2.1 Leper (Mt. 8:1-4)

- “Lord, **IF** You are willing, You can make me clean” (Mt 8:3). He came to worship God in anticipation that he will be made well.
- Let us ask Jesus to cleanse us from our sins.

2.2 Centurion (Mt. 8:5-13)

- “Lord, I do not deserve to have you under my roof. **BUT** just say the word, and my servant will be healed” (Mt. 8:8).
- Jesus is not limited by space, time, and distance. Let’s ask Jesus to move in our lives.

2.3 Peter’s Mother-in-law (Mt. 8:14-15)

- She knew how to live with a servant heart. As God’s servants, we have the privilege to ask the Lord. And also rebuke the sickness. “Lay your hands upon the sick and they will recover in the name of Jesus.”(Mk 16:16-18)

2.4 Demoniac (Mt. 8:28-34). In Jesus’ Name, we can cast out demons. (Mk. 16:17)

3. The mindset is where the battle begins:

3.1 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2).

3.2 “If anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things” (Phil. 4:8).

3.3 The blind man was healed.

- Let it be done to you according to your faith. (Mt. 9:29). Let Jesus touch our eyes so we can see the wonderful blessings and miracles that God has in store for us.

3.4 “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them” (Mk. 11:22-23).

4. Those who went through battles of faith vs. reason:

4.1 Moses doubted that he would defy the Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt (Exo. 3:7). Just obey God. Follow His plan. Walk together with the Holy Spirit.

4.2 Jeremiah said he was too young to be called by God. (Jer. 1:6-7). “Call to me, and I will answer you; I will tell you great things beyond the reach of your knowledge” (Jer. 33:3).

4.3 Abram thought he was too old to have a child. (Gen. 15:1-2)

4.4 Caleb saw beyond the giants living on the promised land (Num. 13:30).

4.5 Noah didn’t know what rain was and yet obeyed God’s command (Gen. 7:4&10). Don’t worry about the details that we don’t have control over. Leave the rest to God.

4.6 Joshua was confident in God’s promise. (Jos. 6:2)

4.7 Habakkuk, despite the bleak situation, rejoiced in the Lord. (Hab. 3:17-18). When nothing makes sense, remember that God has the strength.

Sometimes our reasoning is a faith killer. We focus all our attention on the limitations and negativities until we fall into the pit of doom and gloom. What we believe, we must confess. Thus, we must have a mindset for miracles to allow God’s blessings to reign upon us.

Transcriber/Writer: Sis. Regine Baclig

Edited by: Sis. Jane Boholano

Approved by: Sis. Vera Tuplano

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