

It is helpful to read the parallel passages of these verses in **Mark 5:21-34** and **Luke 8:40-48**. Both Mark and Luke were inspired by the Holy Spirit to add more details to the historical account. There is no contradiction here, but, as is often the case, Matthew does not follow the chronological order of events in the Lord's life. Instead, he is led of the Spirit to group together certain miracles and occurrences in the ministry of Christ which best served his purpose of proving that Jesus of Nazareth was (and is) the one true Messiah, the Savior of sinners, promised in the Old Testament. In this lesson, we see two more examples of faith in Jesus Christ to perform miracles, and this is always a picture of the greater God-given faith in Jesus Christ as the one true Savior Who saves all of His people from their sins. All three Gospel accounts of Christ healing the woman with the issue of blood records what He said to this woman - *"THY FAITH HATH MADE THEE WHOLE"* (Matt. 9:22; Mark 5:34; Luke 8:48). This statement has been much misunderstood and perverted by professing Christians putting the emphasis on a person's act of believing rather than on the object of their believing.

(Matt. 9:18-19) - While Christ continued to speak to His audience on the issue of fasting and prayer, a *"CERTAIN RULER"* came and *"WORSHIPPED HIM, SAYING, MY DAUGHTER IS EVEN NOW DEAD: BUT COME AND LAY THY HAND UPON HER, AND SHE SHALL LIVE."* Mark and Luke tell us that His name was Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue (Mark 5:22; Luke 8:41). He expressed his faith in Jesus to be able to heal his daughter. Mark and Luke tell us that the girl *"lay dying"* and was *"near death."* Matthew says that she was *"even now dead,"* but this could be translated *"near dead"* or *"just now has died"* as well. *"AND JESUS AROSE, AND FOLLOWED HIM, AND SO DID HIS DISCIPLES"* - We will see in the last verses of this lesson that Christ healed the ruler's daughter. What is important for us to see in this is not only the accomplishment of a miracle, nor any power that comes from simply strongly and sincerely believing something possible because we desire it, but the power and goodness of the ONE Who worked the miracle, the Lord of glory. This man's faith was not in his own power to believe but IN JESUS CHRIST and Christ's power to save his daughter from physical death. Notice how the man *"worshipped"* Jesus. This is reverence and honor that a Jew would only give to one who is God! To worship a man or any mere creature would be idolatry and blasphemy. So, we understand that this man believed Jesus of Nazareth, not only to be a healer, but to be the Messiah, the Savior of sinners, sent from the Father to save His people from their sins. HIS FAITH WAS IN JESUS CHRIST! If this man understood by revelation from God that the Messiah was (and is) the very *"righteousness of God"* (Isa. 45:20-25; Jer. 23:5-6; Rom. 1:1-4,16-17), he knew also by revelation from God the Gospel of salvation by God's grace through the blood and righteousness of Christ (Rom. 5:21).

(Matt. 9:20-21) - As the Lord walked to the ruler's house, He was surrounded by a great crowd of people, *"AND, BEHOLD, A WOMAN, WHICH WAS DISEASED WITH AN ISSUE OF BLOOD TWELVE YEARS, CAME BEHIND HIM, AND TOUCHED THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT."* This woman had a disease for twelve years that caused her to hemorrhage. Mark tells us that she *"had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse"* (Mark 5:26). What a great picture of false religion trying to heal the spiritual sickness of sin. All the false preachers, false messages, and all the money in the world cannot provide a cure nor can they make atonement for even one sin (Isa. 55:1-2). *"FOR SHE SAID WITHIN HERSELF, IF I MAY BUT TOUCH HIS GARMENT, I SHALL BE WHOLE."* Great faith led her to believe that if she could just come into contact with the Great Physician, she would be healed. Like the ruler before, she believed in the power of the Messiah to heal her. When she touched the hem of His robe, she was immediately cured.

(Matt. 9:22) - **“BUT JESUS TURNED HIM ABOUT”** - Mark wrote, *“And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that virtue had gone out of Him, turned Him about in the press, and said, Who touched My clothes?”* (Mark 5:30). Luke wrote, *“And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched Me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of Me”* (Luke 8:46). The Lord knew that power had gone from Him to the woman. He asked the disciples who touched Him. They knew that many had touched Him, but He knew exactly who this woman was. Mark wrote, *“But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before Him, and told Him all the truth”* (Mark 5:33) about her healing (Luke 8:47).

“AND WHEN HE SAW HER, HE SAID, DAUGHTER, BE OF GOOD COMFORT; THY FAITH HATH MADE THEE WHOLE. AND THE WOMAN WAS MADE WHOLE FROM THAT HOUR” - Luke added that the Lord said to her, *“Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace”* (Luke 8:48). What exactly was her faith, and what role did faith play in healing her illness? Many today have misunderstood the word “faith” and the role it plays in the salvation of sinners. First, the Bible tells us that faith brings sinners to see the glory of God in Christ is not natural to unregenerate people (John 1:12-13; 1 Cor. 2:14; Rom. 3:10-12). Next, the Bible tells us that faith in salvation is the gift of God given to His chosen people by the Holy Spirit in the new birth (John 3:3-7; Eph. 2:8-10). In both physical healing and spiritual healing, faith is more than simply a person’s act of believing something. Many people believe things that are not true. For example, many believe a false gospel that teaches that God loves everyone, Christ died for everyone, and it is only those who, of their own wills and goodness, choose to believe who are saved. They make salvation conditioned on the sinner’s believing. Their so-called faith, then, is not in the true Christ but in their own faith (believing). It is not Christ who makes the difference for them; it is their faith.

But the true Gospel teaches that all of salvation is conditioned on Christ alone, and that He alone fulfilled all the conditions by His obedience unto death as the Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer of His people. It tells that by His blood and righteousness imputed alone, all whom the Father gave to Him before the foundation of the world are justified (forgiven and declared righteous) and will be born again (regenerated and converted) and brought to faith in Christ and repentance of dead works. The object of true, God-given faith is the glorious Person and finished work of Christ as revealed by God in His Word (Rom. 10:13-17). The foundation and object of the ruler’s and the woman’s faith was (and is) Christ Who alone had (and has) the power to heal.

(Matt. 9:23-26) - When Christ arrived at the ruler’s house, the mourners and musicians were already playing sad music. The Lord said, **“GIVE PLACE: FOR THE MAID IS NOT DEAD, BUT SLEEPETH.”** Though the unbelievers **“LAUGHED HIM TO SCORN,”** Christ **“WENT IN, AND TOOK HER BY THE HAND, AND THE MAID AROSE.”** Mark and Luke wrote that when the Lord made the others leave, He took the maid’s mother, father, along with Peter, James, and John into the maid’s room. He *“took her by the hand”* and she was raised from the dead. Mark wrote that He said to her, *“Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise”* (Mark 5:41). In her restoration unto physical life, we see a great picture of sinners quickened by the power of Christ by the Holy Spirit in the new birth. It is in this operation of the Spirit that God gives true faith in Christ for all salvation and brings His people to true repentance of dead works and idolatry.