

Believed (Belief) to Believed (Faith)

John 4:46-53 (NKJV)

⁴⁶So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." ⁴⁹The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. ⁵¹And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!" ⁵²Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household.

Introduction

I remember watching a movie and the scene is like this, a soldier with his team rushed in the war zone. Bullets were everywhere; soldiers were taking bullets one after the other. Then, one guy hid behind a boulder and he said, "God, get me out of here safely and I will serve you for the rest of my life!" Then, the war ended, and he safely got through the battle.

The man believed in God that was why he prayed. We can say that God heard his prayer because he believed. However, the real test is not during the battle but after the

pressure is off. Will he forget God and go back to his old ways? Or, will he go deeper and develop genuine faith in the person of Christ that is not just a response to his immediate need? Will he repent of his sins, trust in Christ as his Savior, and follow Him as Lord after his crisis is over?

A. Desperate Cry

Life always has two sides of stories. The first is filled with joy and happiness; but the second is filled with sickness, desperation, anxiety, and death. It is like the two sides of the same coin.

John mentioned that Jesus came again to Cana, where He made the water wine. There was a nobleman whose son was sick. When he heard that Jesus is coming to Galilee, from Capernaum, he travelled around 20 kilometers on foot just to meet Jesus and implored Him to come and heal his son. Maybe he had consulted several physicians as he was a nobleman, but to no avail. Now, his son was about to die. He was desperate!

God often uses the crises in our lives to get us to seek Him in ways that we never would have done if the crisis had not occurred. But we need to understand that seeking the Lord in a crisis is not automatic. Many curse God and grow bitter when trials hit. We should follow this man's example by seeking the Lord when trouble strikes.

Jesus knew that the nobleman was not there seeking forgiveness and eternal life. He was not there to follow Him or be His disciple. He was

there because he was in desperate need.

So, Jesus rebuked him saying, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."

v. 48-49 - ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." ⁴⁹The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"

This rebuke was addressed to both the man and the Galileans who were there. Jesus' rebuke was intended to help them see their greater need, the salvation of their souls.

Many of us come to God and cry for help when we are in a desperate situation. We expect God to immediately answer our prayers like a genie in a lamp. After our prayers were answered and the difficulties had passed, we immediately have an amnesia.

B. Initial Faith (taking His word or not)

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Rev. Dr. James C. Sy
Administrative Pastor

UCA ENGLISH WEEK

LEARNING ENGLISH EVERY DAY

United Christian Academy (UCA) celebrated English Week last July 14-17 with its fun and exciting activities that boost students' wits and skills. It was a productive week of learning new words and using them in practical ways, such as in daily communication and conversation.

Beaming with excitement, students participated in the Spelling Bee where their knowledge in spelling practical words was tested. They also joined the Reels for Real vlogging contest by creating a short video about the latest topics from their English classes with the twist of creating relatable scenarios. Various booth games incorporating lessons on English were also enjoyed by the students. Indeed, celebrating English Week has opened exciting opportunities for the students to learn English in a new perspective and platform.

Praise God for this venues where the students may learn while having fun and excitement!



SPELLING BEE (FACE-TO-FACE)

Students showed their exceptional skill in spelling basic and complicated words together with their classmates. Everyone participated and those who excelled reached the qualifying and final rounds. It was a friendly competition as all students did their best and participated well in every round.



The activity emphasizes the importance of learning the correct spelling of words that will be necessary as they do other school activities which require composing sentences or even writing a simple essay.



Romans 1:16
(NKJV)

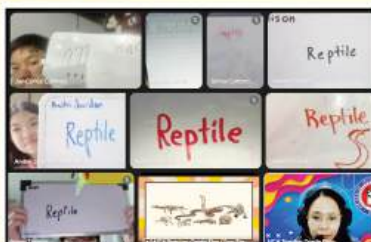
For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.



Students are eager and excited as they successfully join the final round of Spelling Bee together with their classmates.

SPELLING BEE (ONLINE)

Distance learning students also participated in the online spelling bee contest. They answered as quick as possible while ensuring the accuracy of their spelling. This activity helped students to be familiar with various English words that are useful in expressing themselves during casual chats and practical tasks.



Students showcased their vlogging skills through the Reels for Real vlogging contest where they creatively presented English lessons and concepts through scenarios and conversations common in everyday life.



REELS FOR REAL



Students pick a lesson of their choice and recreate them into engaging conversations.



Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6 (NKJV)

BOOTH GAMES (FACE-TO-FACE)

Exciting and mind-boggling booth games welcomed the UCA students for this year's celebration of the English Week. Various word-related booth games like Text Twist, Boggle, Rebus Puzzle, 4-Pics-1-Word, and Riddles challenged their English proficiency skills and wit. A robotics demo booth was also set up.



Joyful laughters and bright smiles fill the Multipurpose Hall as students take part in the booth games.



Truly, the English Week is just a glimpse of what is more to come in UCA. Students will surely enjoy and learn a lot in the upcoming events.



The distance learning students did not miss out on the fun with the online booth games. Despite the time differences and physical limitations, UCA made sure to also involve the distance learning students in the booth games via Google Meet. Here they also got to meet new friends!

BOOTH GAMES (ONLINE)



Even though the games are held online, the students still show enthusiasm and excitement in every Google Meet they enter. With their whiteboards raised, they are determined to win in every game to be qualified for the Mystery Box and to redeem exciting prizes!

1 Corinthians 1:9
(NKJV)

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pagtugon sa tawag ng Diyos

Isa ang Mt. Tabor Church Re-Creation Center sa mga ministeryo ng United Christian Fellowship na ginamit at patuloy na ginagamit ng Diyos, hindi lamang para maisakatuparan ang *mission* at *vision* ng UCF, kung hindi ay maging kaparaanan upang maabot ang mga nawawalang kaluluwa.

Kaya naman sa anomang panahon at pagkakataon, ang mga manggagawa at boluntaryo ng panambahan ay patuloy sa pakikiisa sa mga gawaing makatutulong sa pagpapalago ng Mt. Tabor Church, at maging sa pangangaral ng ebanghelyo. At dahil sa pagkilos ng Banal na Espiritu Santo, bunga nito ang kanilang pagsunod sa tawag ng Diyos sa kanilang mga buhay.

Hanggang sa muling pagbabalik ng Panginoon, patuloy na gagamitin ng Diyos ang ministeryong Kaniyang itinatag. Purihin ang ating Diyos na buhay!

SERTIPIKO NG PAGBAWTISMO

Malugod na tinanggap ng ating kapatiran ang kanilang sertipiko ng pagbawtismo sa tubig noong Hulyo 13, Linggo, matapos ang *Sunday Worship Service*.



Ang kanilang pagsasailalim sa bawtismo sa tubig ay simulain pa lamang ng kanilang paglakad nang mayroong pananampalataya at buong pusong pagsunod sa kalooban ng Diyos.

AGRITOURISM SA MT. TABOR

Sa kabila ng maulan na panahon ay isinagawa pa rin ang pagtanim ng mga halaman sa Mt. Tabor. Sa kabuuan, limampung mga okra na ang nai-transplant ngayong linggo.



Tulong-tulong ang mga manggagawa at boluntaryo sa pag-transplant ng mga okra sa mas malaking seedling bag upang mabigyan ito ng sapat na lugar para lumaki at tumubo.

**PURIHIN ANG PANGINOON PARA SA
MGA GAWAING SIYA ANG NAGTATAKDA!**

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23
(NKJV)


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Believed...

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v. 50 - Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So, the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.

This man had a preconceived idea on how the Lord must work to solve his problem. Like many of us, we also have our own thoughts on how God will resolve our problems. We want to solve it our way. But, Jesus answered his plea to help him develop his belief.

When the man said, "Come before my child dies!" Jesus said, "Go, your son lives." I believe that Jesus did that to force the man to believe without a sign. Jesus requires a deeper faith.

Note

The Lord answered the man's desire (to heal his son), but not his request (to come down to his house). So, the man had to put aside his expectations of how Jesus would work and just take Him at His word.

The nobleman believed Jesus' word and he demonstrated his faith by going home.

C. Saving Faith (holding on to Jesus' words)

v. 51-53 - ⁵¹And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!" ⁵²Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives."

And he himself believed, and his whole household.

The following day, as he was on the way home, his slaves met him with the wonderful news that his son was living. The man was no doubt overjoyed, but he wanted to make sure that this wasn't just a coincidence. So, he asked them at what hour "he began to get better." They replied (4:52), "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."

The man then knew that it was the same hour when Jesus had spoken the word, "Your son lives." As a result, the man and his entire household believed in Jesus.

He has grown from the belief when he sought Christ to get him out of a crisis, to the stronger faith of taking Christ at His word, to this mature faith in Jesus for who He is, the Christ, the Son of God.

The result is that he and his family recognized that Jesus was no ordinary prophet, but one who can speak the word and heal at a distance. He is God in human flesh.

Conclusion

Realistically, God doesn't often give us immediate answers to our requests, as Jesus did to this man. But even then, we must trust that He has a good reason for His delays and that He waits for our good.

How often I expect God to answer in my way and my timing? But when He doesn't, I doubt His love or His care.

We need to trust God in His time and His way.

SERMON NOTES

Write the points to remember from the sermon as you seek God in your life.

SHARE HIS WORD



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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
9:00 AM (Parañaque)

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
3:00 PM (Cabuyao, Laguna)

HOUSE OF PRAYER
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

HOME BIBLE CHURCH & STUDY
Monday - Thursday
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