

信心是什么

信心是确信所望之事定会实现，是确信未见之事确实存在。——希伯来书 11:1

嗨，孩子们！我猜你肯定知道下图穿绿色衣服的这个是谁，他是一名士兵，对吧！这个士兵的动作是什么？——敬礼！那士兵向谁敬礼呢？是向每个他遇见的任何人敬礼吗？当然不是！士兵须向他们的长官和比他们头衔等级高的人敬礼，比如他们的队长或将军！士兵们首要使命就是他们必须听从指挥官的指令。无论长官对士兵说什么，士兵都必须回答：“遵命！”如果长官说：“上刀山下火海”，士兵不能回答：“嗯？你是开玩笑吗？”。

士兵必须按照长官所说的去做，他的回答总是：“遵命！”



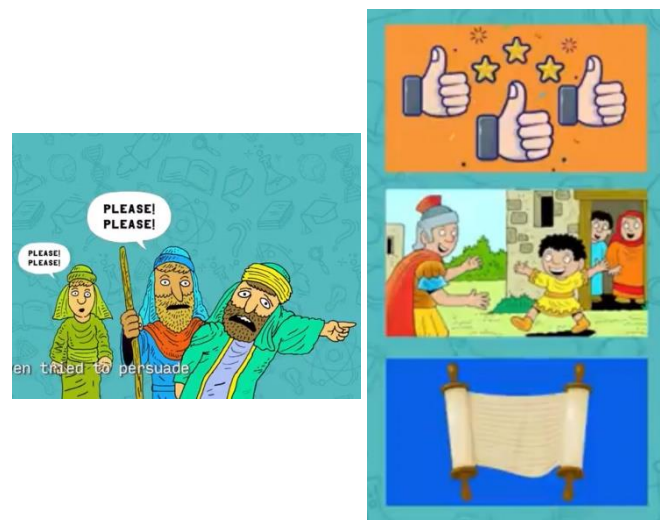
在耶稣时代，士兵并不像我们今天的士兵那样穿着绿色的制服，他们穿着的是盔甲。请看图片，是不是很威风！？他们的指挥官也不叫“长官”，他们被称为“百夫长”。现在，你猜猜看，哪一位是百夫长？我想你猜对了，就是头盔最大的那位。这位罗马百夫长只需要说：“过来。”，他的手下就会马上服从地跑到他跟前来；如果他说：“去那边。”，他的手下会立刻注意到并说：“遵命！”并立即地跑到那边去。所以百夫长所要做的就是——发号施令！



今天的圣经课是讲述一位住在犹太城迦百农的罗马百夫长。这位百夫长有一个仆人病得很严重，就快要死了。这位百夫长听说耶稣在迦百农，就委托犹太人的几个长老，去求耶稣来救他仆人。于是这几位长老就去找耶稣，在路加福音 7 章 4-5 节是这样记载的：“他们到了耶稣那里，就切切地求祂说：‘这位长官是配得你的帮助的，因为他爱我们的人民，且他还为我们建造了一座会堂。’”



现在，你看到了吗？这些犹太长老不只是来“请求”耶稣，他们是在“乞求”他。你知道“请求”和“乞求”的区别吗？“请求”是这样子的：“你能帮忙吗？”“乞求”是这样子的：“噢，拜托，求求你了！拜托，拜托，拜托，拜托……！”“乞求”是在绝望与没保证的时候才不得不使用的。这是因为他们对耶稣是否会去帮助这位百夫长一点信心都没有，因此他们选择“乞求”而不是“请求”，且他们还列出了各种理由来说服耶稣为什么这位百夫长配得他的帮助。他们列举的理由是说：“他爱我们的人民，他还为我们建造了一座会堂。”。他们的实际意思是，“你看，这是个好人，他应该得到帮助。”



你猜耶稣会如何回答？祂会不会去呢？“嗯！有意思……让我考虑一下。”耶稣会不会这样说呢？当然不会！圣经告诉我们，耶稣到处医治百姓的各种疾病。所以耶稣就跟他们一同去了。但在他们去百夫长家的路上时，百夫长却委托几个朋友去见耶稣，原来是百夫长有话要传达给耶稣。到底是什么话语这么重要呢？在路加福音 7 章 6-7 节告诉我们，百夫长要对耶稣所说的是：“主啊，你不必要来，我不值得你到我家来，所以我才没有亲自去找你……”等一等，什么？不必要来吗？他不是要他的仆人得医治吗？先别急，认真听好百夫长接下来要说的话，我们会更好理解他的意思，百夫长接下来要说的是：



“只要你说一句话，我的仆人就必好了。”原来百夫长确信：耶稣只需开口说就可以命令疾病消失！百夫长相信耶稣有如此大的权柄和能力，即使是疾病也得听祂的话，服从祂的命令！

为什么百夫长能这么确定呢？看看百夫长在路加福音 7 章 8 节所说的，你就知道原因了，他是这样说的：“我在他人的权柄下，同时我也有士兵在我的指挥下。我对这士兵说，“去！”，他就去；对那士兵说，“来！”，他就来；对我的仆人说，‘你做这事！’，我的仆人就服从我。”百夫长并没有乞求或恳求帮助，他只是简单地表明了他所确信的事。他确信：**耶稣是神，满有权能，能命令疾病消失；他也确信耶稣满有慈爱，愿意为他实现他所求的事！**



耶稣听见这话，就很希奇，祂转身对众人说：“我告诉你们：这么大的信心，我在任何地方都没有遇见过，甚至在整個以色列都没有！”这位百夫长到底做了什么让耶稣这样评价他呢？答案却与百夫长做了什么无关，答案是出于百夫长的信心！百夫长确信**耶稣是满带权能的神且又有丰盛的慈爱，愿意实现他所求的事！**这应验了希伯来书 11 章节 1 的经文：“信心是确信所望之事定会实现，是确信未见之事确实存在。”百夫长所盼望的事实现了吗？当然！等百夫长的朋友们回到家中时，仆人已经能起身走动了，完全康复了！



好消息是，临到百夫长身上的好事今天仍然发生在我们身上噢！圣经告诉我们，我们可以永远信靠耶稣。当我们带着我们的请求去见祂时，**我们可以确信：耶稣是满带权能的神且又有丰盛的慈爱，愿意为我们实现我们所求的事！**

接下来，我们来分享一个见证。就是我们教会的一个读中学的女孩子，她敢于说出她确信的事，以及之后所发生的事。事情发生在她读中一的时候，当时，在她所在的学校门口竖起了一块巨大的招牌，上面展示着所有在高考中表现出色的学生的名单。当她看到这个招牌时，她说：“总有一天我的名字也会出现在那块板上。”



通常，当她的家人开车经过学校时，她会指着那个招牌说：“我告诉耶稣，有一天我的名字也会出现在那块板上。”。她的家人刚开始并不在意，以为她只是说说而已，但她却着急且认真地说：“快啊，你们要回应，说‘阿们’！”这是自夸吗？不，她只是相信因为主与她同在，她必会是一个成功的女孩。



但有一天，学校取下了招牌。噢，糟了！这是不是意味着她的名字出现在那块板上的梦想落空了呢？她在学校的最后一年，那年刚好是该校成立五十周年，学校举行了盛大的庆祝活动。为了纪念这个特别的日子，学校竖起了一块新的招牌。现在猜猜看，那块板上的名字和面孔是谁的呢？就是这位女孩！在一开始时只是一个单纯的愿望，就在这一天，对她来说变成了现实！



孩子们，我们来回顾一下今天学到了什么？我们了解到，我们可以确信，在我们良善的上帝面前，我们是如此的受保护和安全。当我们带着我们的要求去找祂时，我们可以确定祂有能力并且愿意为我们做我们所提出的要求。我们可以肯定：祂是大能的神足以帮助我们，因为天上地下所有的权柄和权能都属于祂，没有任何病患或疾病、挑战或问题对于祂来说是太大或太难的。还记得百夫长的话吗？——“你只需要说一句话……”我们也可以肯定：祂总是满有丰盛的慈爱，会倾听我们的声音并实现我们所求的。为什么？因为祂爱我们！我们可以肯定祂对我们的爱，因为祂在十字架上为我们所做的一切已经显明了，我们永远不必乞求或恳求祂的帮助，我们甚至不必向祂提供我们需要祂帮助的各种理由。

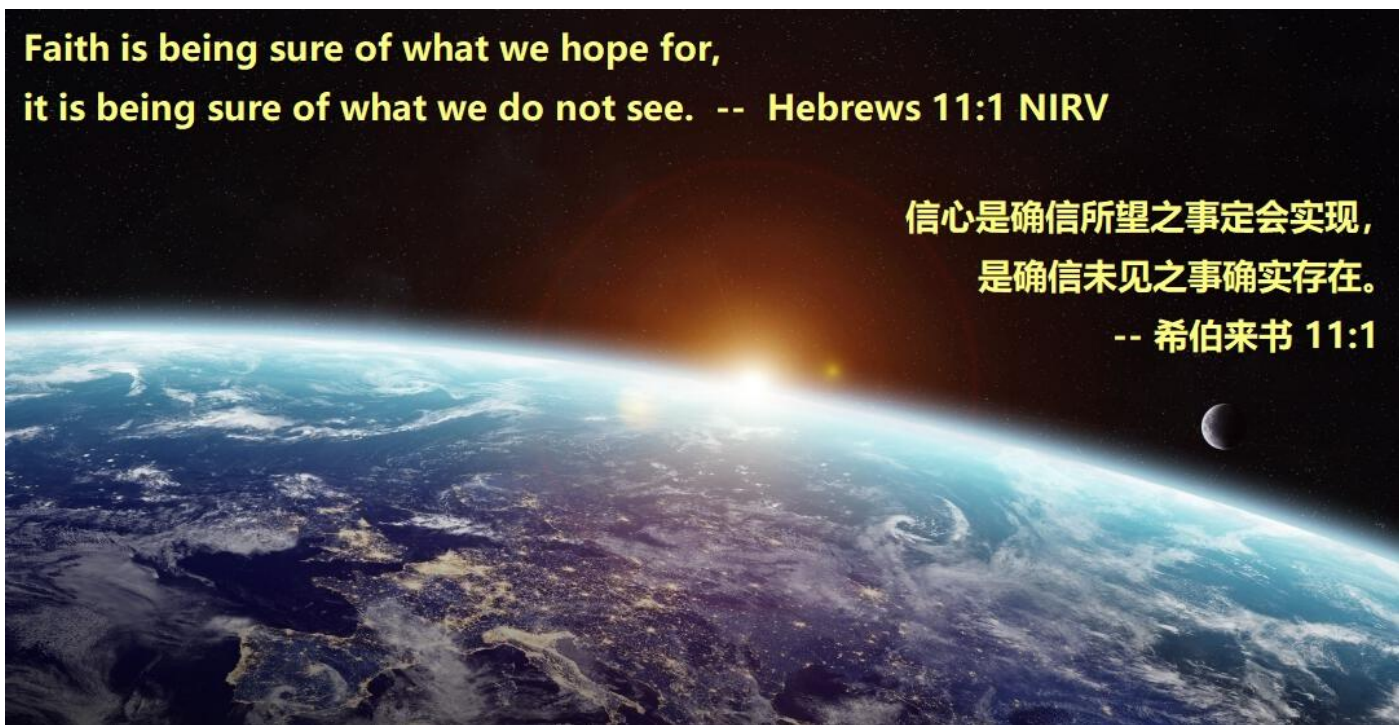
所以，我们要常常仰望耶稣，我们不要把焦点放在自己身上，我们把焦点放在耶稣身上。因为当我们只看自己时，我们可能会因为自己总有不尽人意之处而感到沮丧；当我们只看自己的处境时，我们可能会担心或害怕。而当我们仰望我们良善的耶稣时，看见祂对我们的爱时，我们可以确信：祂必会一直照顾我们！就像百夫长一样，**我们可以确信：耶稣是满带权能的神且又有丰盛的慈爱，愿意实现我们所求的事！**所有的孩子们一起说：“阿们！”。

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孩子们，如果你正在听这个故事，你从来没有邀请耶稣进入你的生命，成为你的主和救主，你现在可以这样做，跟着我重复这个祷告：“亲爱的主耶稣，感谢你为我死在十字架上。你是神的儿子，你死了，也被埋葬，第三天又复活了。你宝血洗去了我所有的罪，使我得以永远与阿爸天父在一起。我请求你现在进入我的生命里，成为我的主和救主，我永远是个义人，永远是有福的，永远是神的孩子。奉耶稣的名，阿门！”

**Faith is being sure of what we hope for,
it is being sure of what we do not see. -- Hebrews 11:1 NIRV**

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Being Sure Of What We Hope For

Faith is **being sure of what we hope for**. It is **being sure of what we do not see**. – Hebrews 11: 1, NIRV

Hey Rock Kidz! Who do you think this man is? A soldier. What is he doing? Saluting? Who do soldiers salute? Everyone and anyone? No, soldiers salute their officers and those who have a higher rank than them, like their captains and their generals. Salute! Let me tell you something very important about soldiers. They have to listen to their commanding officers. Whatever the captain says to the soldier, the soldier has to answer, “Sir, yes sir.” If the captain says march up the hill, the soldier cannot say, “Huh? Seriously?” No, the soldier has to do what the captain says. His answer is always, “Sir, yes, sir.”

During the time of Jesus, soldiers did not wear green uniforms like our soldiers do today. They wore armor and looked like this. And their officers were not called ‘captains’. They were called ‘centurions’. Can you guess which is the centurion? Yes, the one with the biggest helmet. A roman centurion only had to give the command, “Come here” and his men would obey. All he had to do was speak. If he said, “Go over there”, his men would snap to attention and say, “Sir, yes sir.”

Today’s Bible lesson is about a Roman centurion living in the Jewish town of Capernaum. The centurion had a servant who was very sick, so sick that he was going to die. When the centurion heard that Jesus was in Capernaum, he sent some of the Jewish leaders to Jesus, to ask Jesus to come and save his servant’s life. But when the Jewish leaders went to Jesus, this is what happened. In Luke 7:4-5 it says, “The men went to Jesus and begged him saying, “This officer is worthy of your help. He loves our people, and he built us a synagogue.”

Did you see that? The Jewish leaders didn’t just ‘ask’ Jesus, they ‘begged’ Him. Do you know the difference between ‘asking’ and ‘begging’? ‘asking’ looks like this: “Can you please help?” ‘Begging’ looks like this: “Oh, please, please, please, please, please ...!”. ‘Begging’ has to do with being desperate and unsure.

The Jewish leaders were so unsure that Jesus would help the centurion that they chose to ‘beg’ instead of just ‘ask’. They even tried to persuade Jesus by giving Him all kinds of reasons why the centurion deserved to be helped. “He is worthy,” they said, “he loves our people. He built us a synagogue.”. What they actually meant was, “This is a good guy. He deserves to be helped.”.

What do you suppose Jesus said? Did He go, “Hmm, interesting... Let me think about this.”. Of course not! Jesus is not like that. The Bible tells us that Jesus went about healing every sickness and every disease among the people. So Jesus went with the men. But as they were on their way to the centurion’s house, some of the centurion’s friends came to meet them. These friends had a message from the centurion. In Luke 7: 6-7 it says, “Lord, you don’t need to come into my house. I am not good enough for you to be under my roof. That is why I did not come to you myself...” Wait, what? No need to come? Didn’t he want his servant to get healed? But when we see the rest of the centurion’s message, we understand better. “You only need to say the word, and my servant will be healed.” The centurion believed that Jesus could command the sickness to go simply by speaking. The centurion believed that Jesus had so much power and authority, the sickness would have no choice but to obey His command.

Look what the centurion said in Luke 7: 8 “I, too, am a man under the authority of other men. And I have soldiers under my command. I tell one soldier, ‘Go’, and he goes. And I tell another soldier, ‘Come’, and he comes. And I say to my servant, ‘Do this’, and my servant obeys me.” The centurion did not beg or plead for

help, he simply said he was very sure of. He was sure that Jesus was God enough to command the sickness away. And he was sure that Jesus was good enough to do what he asked.

When Jesus heard this, He was amazed. He turned to the people and said, "I tell you, this man has great faith! I have not found such great faith anywhere, not even in all Israel!". What did the centurion do to make Jesus say that about him? The answer is that it is not about what the centurion did. The answer is about what the centurion believed. The centurion was sure that Jesus was able and willing to do what he asked. In Hebrews 11:1, it says, "Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see." Did the centurion get what he hoped for? For sure! By the time the centurion's friends got back to his house, the servant was already up and about, completely healed!

The good news is that what happened for the centurion still happens for us today. The Bible tells us that we can always put our trust in Jesus. When we go to Him with our requests, we can be sure that he is always God enough and good enough to do what we ask of Him.

Let me tell you what happened when a youth from our church dared to say what she believed. When she was in Secondary one, her school put up a huge signboard with the names of all the students who had done well in their 'O' level exams. When she saw it she said, "One day my name will be up on that board."

Often when her family drove past the school, she would say, "I told Jesus one day my name will be up on that board.". And if her family didn't respond, she would say, "Quick, someone say 'amen'!" Was this being boastful? No. she simply believed that because the Lord was with her, she was a successful girl.

But one day, the school took down the signboard. Was that the end of her dream to see her name on that board? In her final year at school, there was a grand celebration. It was the school's fiftieth anniversary. To mark the special occasion, the school put up a new signboard. Guess whose name and face was on that board? That's right! What started as a simple hope became true for her that day.

What did we learn today? We learned that we can be sure that we are safe with our good, good God. When we go to Him with our requests, we can be sure that He is able and willing to do what we ask of him. We can be sure that He is God enough to help us. He is God enough because all the power and authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Him. No sickness or disease, no challenge or problem is too big or difficult for Him to do. Remember what the centurion said? "You only need to say the word..." We can also be sure that He is always good enough to listen to us and do what we ask. Why? Because he love us. We can be sure of His love for us because of what He has done for us at the cross, we never ever have to beg or plead for His help. We never even have to give Him all sorts of reasons why we deserve to be helped.

When we look at ourselves, we can get discourage. When we look at our situation, we can get worried or afraid. No, let's not do that. Let's look to our good, good Jesus and see His love for us. When we look to Jesus, we can be sure. We can be sure that He will always take good care of us. Just like the centurion, we can have faith that He is always God enough and good enough to do what we ask of Him. And all of Rock Kidz say, "Amen!".

Hey Rock Kidz, if you are listening to this story and you've never asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, you can do so now. Just repeat this prayer after me, "Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. You are the Son of God, who died, was buried and on the third day, you rose again. Your precious blood washed away all my sins making me forever right with Daddy God. I ask You now to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. I am forever righteous, forever blessed, forever a child of God. In Jesus' name," and everyone say, "Amen."