

Faith, Healing & Miracles

It was great to see how God was moving, speaking & ministering on Sunday morning and at Encounter in the evening. With that in mind, spend some time as a group exploring what God was doing for your members by answering the following questions together:

Reflective Questions:

- what did God say to you?
- what are you going to do about it?
- who do you need to help you?

[spend as much time here as is helpful for your group - if the Lord did something significant for a few of your members, it's possible you may not get to the remaining items - that's OK]

Hall of Fame

Hebrews 11 is often called the "Faith Hall of Fame" because it highlights many individuals who lived by faith and witnessed God's power in extraordinary ways. **Read Hebrews 11 together** and explore/discuss where you see faith, healing & miraculous power in the stories represented.

Use the list below to fill in the gaps (if any) and highlight how the **gifts of faith, healing, and miraculous powers** are reflected in Hebrews 11:



Gift of Faith

The entire chapter centres around the **gift of faith** - a supernatural confidence in God that empowers people to act beyond natural reasoning.

Examples:

- **Hebrews 11:7** - *Noah*, "by faith... built an ark to save his family" - faith led him to obey before the flood came.
- **Hebrews 11:8-10** - *Abraham*, "by faith... went, even though he did not know where he was going" - a clear example of radical trust in God's promises.

- **Hebrews 11:17-19** - *Abraham*, when tested, offered Isaac, believing "God could raise the dead" - this is a profound example of spiritual faith.
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Gifts of Healing

While not the main focus, healing is **implied** in some stories:

- **Hebrews 11:11** - *Sarah*, "was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise" - the opening of her barren womb could be viewed as a form of divine healing.
 - The idea of physical renewal and divine empowerment is embedded in the faith that overcomes natural limitations (e.g., old age, barrenness).
 - **Hebrews 11:32-34** - *"And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies."*
 - **"Weakness turned to strength"** could include **physical healing or restoration**—a theme often tied to the gift of healing.
 - Many of the judges and prophets (like Elijah and Elisha) were known for performing acts of healing or life-restoring miracles, though those stories are told elsewhere in Scripture (e.g., 1 Kings 17:22).
 - **Hebrews 11:35** - *"Women received back their dead, raised to life again."*
 - This directly recalls the **healing and resurrection** miracles in the Old Testament—like the **widow's son raised by Elijah** (1 Kings 17) and **Elisha raising the Shunammite's son** (2 Kings 4).
 - These miracles foreshadow the **New Testament gift of healing**, now made manifest in the Church through the Holy Spirit.
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Working of Miraculous Powers

Several verses describe acts that go far beyond natural ability, demonstrating the **gift of miracles**:

- **Hebrews 11:29** - *The Israelites*, "passed through the Red Sea as on dry land" - a clear miraculous intervention.
- **Hebrews 11:30** - *Jericho's walls fell*, "after the people had marched around them for seven days" - miraculous power in response to obedient faith.
- **Hebrews 11:32-35** - A summary of miraculous acts:
 - *Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel* (v.32) - known for mighty deeds empowered by God.
 - "...who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions" (v.33 - *Daniel*), "quenched the fury of the flames" (v.34 - *Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego*), "escaped the edge of the sword," "whose weakness was turned to strength," and "became powerful in battle" (v.34).

✨ **Hebrews 11 gives vivid, story-driven illustrations of the spiritual gifts of faith, healing, and miracles. These gifts are shown not as theoretical concepts but as real, history-shaping encounters with God's power, activated through bold trust and obedience.**

Group Exercise:

On Sunday we explored the story of Peter healing the beggar at the temple gate.

Option 1: Read Acts 3:1-16 together and try to answer the question:

? By whose faith was the man healed? Peter's or the beggar's?

Notes/Thoughts:

- Peter's faith led him to command healing in the name of Jesus
 - arguably this was the start of the miracle, with Peter's faith
- The man's faith & experience led him to get up and test what had been said

- we don't know if he even had faith in Jesus at this point
 - but he had enough faith to be obedient
- Does it matter whose faith it was?
 - probably not, provided God gets the glory

Option 2: If you have a little more time, or you think this will work well in your group, split the group in half and ask one half to argue it was Peter's faith, the other that it was the Beggar's