

Now we know at that very moment that son's body was instantaneously healed. But more importantly something also happened to the father. He took Jesus at his word.

So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.
John 4:50b

Jesus is not only a miracle worker, He's a truth teller.
Everything Jesus said pointed to His deity.
They said about Him. "Never a man spoke like this man,"

This is essential. It's wonderful to read the gospel accounts and see Jesus as a miracle worker. But you've got to get beyond the works to the Words, right? The works have no saving power. But the Words have the saving power and the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he started off.

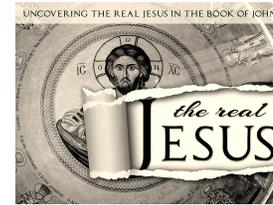
⁵¹ And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told *him*, saying, "Your son lives!" ⁵² Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³ So the father knew that *it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives."* And he himself believed, and his whole household.
John 4:51-53

His initial faith was trusting what Christ said. He had assurance by faith. Here we see that what he hoped for is realized.

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen.
But now he gets to see as well.

So you had a Samaritan village saved in chapter 4, now you have a household saved.

This is to remind us of **John 4:42 He is the Savior of the world.**
This story again reminds us that the gospel is for the whole world: **Whoever believes will not perish but have everlasting life.**



What True Belief Looks Like!

John 4:39-54

The Response of Unorthodox Peoples

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, ... ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

⁴³ After the two days he left for Galilee. ⁴⁴ (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) ⁴⁵ When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, for they also had been there. ⁴⁶ Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

⁴⁸ "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." ⁴⁹ The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

⁵⁰ Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son lives." The man took Jesus at his word and departed. ⁵¹ While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. ⁵² When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour."

⁵³ Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and all his household believed. ⁵⁴ This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed, having come from Judea to Galilee.

Jesus was a man of miracles.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are full of miracle stories.

Wherever the Jewish leadership rejected Jesus as Savior and Messiah *you will not read an account that they ever questioned His miracle power.*

Why? Because it was impossible to question that. The miracles were too unmistakably divine and for them to deny.

And so just like Nicodemus, who we saw in chapter 2, who said,
"Nobody can do what you do unless God is with him."

In fact, the miracles of Jesus were so common that at the end of the gospel of John, the very final statement, John 21:25 says,
"And there are also many other things which Jesus did which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written."

John's message is written against the backdrop of 1st century Judaism

A system that believes you gain heaven by something you do.

"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.
"Even to those who believe in His name."
John 1:12

How do you become a child of God? By receiving Christ.

"For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16

It's not connected to works, rituals, ceremonies, accomplishments, morality, goodness...it's believing in Christ.

¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.
John 3:18

³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.
John 3:36

"Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen."
Hebrews 11:1

So we know right away belief involves something not yet or realized, and something not seen.

You're putting your eternal destiny in the hands of Jesus Christ.
Why do you do that? Because it is the only way to eternal life.

We believe in something that is firmly established and concrete.
What is that? The Word of God.

In today's narrative we have an illustration of something very unusual. Someone actually being saved.

Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum.

John 4:46

Royal official most likely meant he worked for Herod Antipas.

What moves a person from having a sort of detached view of Jesus as a miracle worker, to a place much closer to the reality of who Jesus actually is?

Simple answer: Desperation.

Jesus rebukes the Galileans.

"You people all seem to need signs and wonders or you won't believe." John 4:48

The Royal official pushes past the rebuke.

⁴⁹The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" John 4:49

Jesus said to him, "Go, your son lives."

John 4:50a