**Scripture:** Exodus 20:1-17 & Luke 7:1-10

**Singing:** 241:1, 4, 5, 9 – 1:2 – 69:1-7 – 149:1, 2, 5, 6 – 154:1-4

Preparation: God expects us to prepare ourselves

 Ex. 19:10; Joshua 3:5; 7:13; 2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Cor. 11:20ff

**The portrait of a great believer**

I. Love II. Humility III. Confidence

**I. Great Faith reveals itself in *love to God and neighbor***

A. What is the measure of true love?

 1. True love is measured in *strength of commitment & depth sacrifice*

 2. Centurion displayed the elements of true love (vs. 4-5)

 3. How did he come to such love? Acts 11:17-18

B. Great faith is rooted in how you think about God and His Son Jesus

 1. Do you have an **experiential** knowledge about God

 2. Is knowledge of God increasing in you and changing you?

 a. What is the fruit of growing to know God in His goodness?

 b. Is knowledge of God’s devotion – goodness stirring us to *sacrifice*

 *to help your needy neighbor as the centurion?*

C. Great faith isn’t just believing right doctrines or able to explain mysteries.

 1. It is when my knowledge of God/Jesus is so believed that it turns into

 loving action to everything and everyone God places upon our way

**II. Great faith reveals itself in *humility***

A. Doubtful *centurion could tell how he came to or whether he had great faith*

1. Yet Jesus was *marveled* by this man’s deeds of faith!

B. What is humility?

 1. To have *low thoughts about yourself* (vs. 6-7)

 a. seeing God’s glory withers pride – humbles Is. 6:1-3)

 b. difference between *almost and real Christian is* seen here

**III. Great Faith is expressed in sure confidence**

A. Faith is *trusting God and Jesus: on His Word do I hope!*

 1. See how this is found in this Roman: *speak a word only and my servant*

 *shall be healed* (vs. 7)

 B. Great faith is when we trust the Lord Jesus as the only and complete Savior

 1. This confidence and trust in Jesus follows a growing knowledge of Him

 a. Jesus’ ministry and preaching ‘fed his faith’

Close: What think you of sin and salvation, self and Jesus? Is the preaching of

 Jesus’ glory growing your confidence in Him? (Eph. 1:16-17; Phil. 3)

My spirit longs for Thee

Within my troubled breast,

Though I unworthy be

Of so divine a Guest.

Of so divine a Guest

Unworthy though I be,

Yet has my heart no rest,

Unless it come from Thee.

Unless it come from Thee,

In vain I look around;

In all that I can see

No rest is to be found.

No rest is to be found

But in Thy blessed love;

O let my wish be crowned,

And send it from above!

 John Byrom (1692-1753)