

And Jesus said to them,
“Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

Matthew 9:28

Question for Us Today:

“Do you think I am willing to do this for you?”

The Importance of Personal Belief

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Likewise you also, reckon (*logízomai*) yourselves to be (1) dead indeed to sin, but (2) alive to God (how) in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:11

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The key word is “reckon” (*logízomai*) which means “to deem, consider, account, impute, think, to live as such, to put together in one’s mind, to credit to one’s account.”

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“Abraham believed (*pisteúō*) God, and it was accounted (*logízomai*) to him for righteousness.

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And see how this word seems to always be associated with faith (*pistis*) or believe (*pisteuō*).

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Let that sink in for a moment.

We see before us an open doorway to a deeper life of faith with our Lord, or the Higher Christian Life.

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The faith that imputes something to us is an active faith, a doing faith, a vibrant faith, with the action being the essence of exercising our faith in Him.

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What happens if we don't "reckon" ourselves to be dead to sin but alive to Christ?

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What happens if our faith is passive and not active?

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What happens if we don't "reckon" ourselves to be dead to sin but alive to Christ?

What happens if our faith is passive and not active?

What is then imputed to us who don't exercise faith?

Time for an Honest Assessment

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What hinders us from having the faith we once had when we were young in the Lord?

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“I know God can, and I know that He is able.

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It is usually summed up in this one statement:

“I know God can, and I know that He is able.
I just don't think He will.”

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“Why?”

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“Why?”

“Because he’s...” You fill in the blanks.

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“Why?”

“Because he’s...” You fill in the blanks.

Whatever your answer, it impugns the character of your father and makes him seem selfish.

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“I would surrender my life to God if I could trust Him to truly take care of me. And since I can't trust Him to do that, I'll just have to keep looking out for myself.”

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“I would surrender my life to God if I could trust Him to truly take care of me. And since I can't trust Him to do that, I'll just have to keep looking out for myself.”

“I want to surrender my life to the Lord because I know He is God and He is sovereign and He can do anything He wants anytime He wants. But I just don't think He will take care of me. Maybe others, but just not me. So, I'll have to keep looking out for myself.”

God is Able, and God is Willing

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To experience the freedom from sin and shame and failure that comes with the Higher Christian Life, you must first believe in the promises of God and then “reckon” or “impute” or “consider” or “count” or “deem” those promises are for you.

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You must also be convinced God is also willing.

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When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying,
“Son of David, have mercy on us!”

And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them,
“Do you believe that I am able to do this?”
They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.”

Matthew 9:27-28

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Then He touched their eyes, saying,
“According to your faith let it be to you.”

And their eyes were opened.

Matthew 9:29-30

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Note, they believed Jesus was able to heal them. But they also believed He was willing, otherwise they would have never followed Him and cried out to get His attention. Belief in His willingness came first.

Do You Believe God is Willing?

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Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
and to present you faultless before the presence of
His glory with exceeding joy.

Jude 1:24

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We know He is able.

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We know He is able.

But do you believe He is willing to do this for you?

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Yes, you.

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And God is able to make all grace abound toward you,
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may have an abundance for every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

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Ephesians 3:20-21

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But do you believe He is willing to do this for you?

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For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

2 Timothy 1:12

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But do you believe He is willing to do this for you?

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Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25

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We know He is able.

But do you believe He is willing to do this for you?
And if you do believe He is willing to do this for you,
are you resting in that assurance?

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Because it is only by resting and abiding in Him, in total, dependent surrender and trust, as the branch abides in the vine, that the Higher Christian Life can be experienced to the fullest.

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Because it is only by resting and abiding in Him, in total, dependent surrender and trust, as the branch abides in the vine, that the Higher Christian Life can be experienced to the fullest.

Are you ready?

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Are you ready?

Then let's begin by trusting Him more today than we ever have before and then act on that trust in Him.

