

## **SCCC – NOT JUST FAITH**

### **S - Scriptures**

“When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.” Matthew 8: 10

### **C – Consideration**

Jesus had just finished teaching a large crowd the well-known “Sermon on the Mount”, and soon, a leprous man approached him, and kneeling down he asked, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” After his years of loneliness and segregation, the leper had his request granted by Jesus, “He touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.” As Jesus traveled to Capernaum, a Roman official, who led one hundred soldiers came to him, asking for help. “Lord,” my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.” Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?” But, the official sharing his knowledge about authority, and placing himself under Jesus’s authority, replied “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.” Then, Jesus praised this man, not for his rank in the army, but for his “great” faith.

### **C – Commitment**

Both incidents revealed that the two, the leper and the official, had faith. But, the Roman had a type of faith, that even among every Jew that Jesus had met, didn’t have, including Jesus’ own family, His disciples, and among the multitudes that often followed Him. This man came with a broken heart inquiring of God to heal his slave. He didn’t come because he needed the servant’s work. He could easily replace him with another one. He came because he, and probably his family, loved his slave. Another point is that he could have sent someone else or even forced Jesus to come, as the Jews were under the power of Rome, but he didn’t. He came personally to speak with the Lord, showing humility. And finally, he had the assurance in his heart that Jesus’ words had the power to act anywhere; that Jesus, not Nero was the true God. Therefore, love, and humility were added to his faith. This brings us to the greatest challenge of our days. Jesus said about the last days, “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” He also said, “Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.” To make things worse, Paul wrote, “People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy.” Then, the virtues of the Roman official will be scarce, and more than ever, I should pray for deliverance from all these evils of my days and for God’s power to believe in His words as the man did.

### **C – Call**

My Heavenly Father, in the midst of many challenges of our days, I pray for guidance not just for me, but for many servants in this world, who might get spiritually sick with the virus of pride, apathy, selfishness, greed, and other evil maladies. Revive us, so Jesus can find the same kind of faith that He found in that Roman official. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.