



■ † Fourth Sunday of St. Matthew

Faith as a Gift of God...* ...we must ask for it with faith

What faith the centurion had!
The Lord Himself marvelled.

The essence of his faith is that he confessed the Lord to be the God of all things, an Almighty Sovereign and Master of all that exists.

For this reason the centurion beseeched: “Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed” (St. Matthew 8:8).

It was as if he said: “I believe that everything is under Thine authority and everything obeys Thy slightest beckoning.”

The Lord requires the same faith of us as well. He who has this faith knows no lack, and whatsoever he asks, he receives. Thus has the Lord Himself promised.

Oh, when will we acquire if only a little of such faith! But this faith is also a gift; we must ask for it, and ask for it with faith.

Let us ask for it with a feeling of need for it. We must ask for it constantly and fervently, at the same time helping it to develop within us by means of corresponding thoughts, and primarily by submitting to God's commandments.



(*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God*