



MATURITY MATTERS John 4:48-54
Sunday, December 1, 2019 AVBC 10:30 am

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. (II Cor. 4:16)

LEVEL 3- I BELIEVE IN JESUS BECAUSE OF WHAT HE CAN DO (based on the works of Christ)

LEVEL 2- I BELIEVE IN JESUS BECAUSE OF WHAT HE SAYS (based on the words of Christ)

LEVEL 1- I BELIEVE IN JESUS BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS (based upon the person of Christ)

1. _____ performed many miraculous signs & wonders.
2. Jesus _____ performs miraculous signs/wonders today.
3. Jesus _____ the seeking of or dependence upon miraculous signs and wonders.

A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah...(Matthew 16:4)

Matthew 11:20-24

"The feeding of the five thousand illustrates why Jesus, with all the supernatural powers at his command, showed such ambivalence toward miracles. They attracted crowds and applause, yes, but rarely encouraged repentance and long-term faith. He was bringing a hard message of obedience and sacrifice, not a sideshow for gawkers and sensation-seekers." [Philip Yancey]

4. Miraculous signs and wonders are _____ of what God intended to _____ with.

Luke 16: 19-31

DIGGING DEEPER

(For use in personal/family devotions or with your care group)

- Q1: Someone once defined maturity as *delighting in God's unpredictability*. What do you think of that definition? Why?
- Q2: Pastor David laid out four statements concerning the miraculous. What do you think of each statement? Are there others thoughts you might add?
- Q3: Re-read Jesus' statement in John 4:48. What kind of emotions and concepts are wrapped up in that simple statement? Do you ever feel a similar "frustration"? If so, explain.
- Q4: Read Matthew 8:5-13. What level of faith is demonstrated in this passage? What is the connection between who Jesus is, what He says and what He is able to do?
- Q5: John 4:53 says that the official and his whole household believed. Have you ever witnessed a similar situation where one member of the family trusts Jesus and all of a sudden many others in that same family also step out in faith? If so, describe.
- Q6: Review the story in Acts 16:16-34. What factors contributed to the Roman jailers maturing faith? What factors have helped shape and deepen your trust in the Lord?
- Q7: What level of faith is indicative of how you normally live out walk with Jesus?
- Q8: Read Hebrews 11:32-38. How are the 3 levels of faith revealed in this passage?