

**“According to your
faith”—not someone
else’s—“be it unto you”
(Matthew 9:29 KJV).**



WHEN PETER AND JOHN HEALED THE LAME BEGGAR AT THE GATE OF THE TEMPLE, Peter said, “Look at us”—and immediately the man was healed (Acts 3:1–9). His faith was in *their* faith, and God honored it. But God expects more from those of us who are familiar with the promises in His Word and understand how faith works. He expects us to make direct, personal contact with Him, and to demonstrate our faith by claiming those promises ourselves. He wants us to learn to put our faith in Him alone, and not to depend on someone else’s faith or prayers or connection with Him.

There are times, of course, when we should ask others to pray *with* us, but that’s different from leaning on their faith. Sometimes we need to avail ourselves of the extra power that comes from united prayer (Matthew 18:19), or to demonstrate our faith by meeting certain conditions He has set down in His Word, such as asking others to pray for our healing (James 5:14–16). God doesn’t hear and answer others’ prayers more than our own, and the power isn’t in the elders’ hands—“the *prayer of faith* will save the sick.” It’s *our* faith that God rewards with the answer, and He does that for us because we have demonstrated that faith by putting feet to our prayers.