

Seeing and Hearing
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Jesus had once said *a prophet has no honor in his home town*. He was referring to prophets of long ago as well as Himself who experienced persecution in their home towns. However, one day when Jesus was in his home region of Galilee, the people welcomed Him. It seemed as though a prophet was finally being honored in His own country until we learn why they had welcomed Him. In John 4:45 it says: *They had seen all he had done in Jerusalem*. (Jesus had performed many miracles in Jerusalem.) They welcomed Him because He had performed flashy miracles and they wanted to see more. They were excited about what Jesus was doing, but weren't very interested in listening to what He was saying. Jesus expressed his frustration over this when a man came to Him seeking a miracle; he wanted Jesus to heal his sick son. Jesus responded by saying: *Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders you will never believe*.

Sometimes in the church today, we too, can place too much of an emphasis on what we see from God rather than what we hear from Him. We have a tendency to get excited and place our confidence in The Lord when we see Him performing mighty acts. Don't you find yourself excited when you see God bring a new couple to the church, or when He fills the offering baskets or when He repairs a broken relationship? There's nothing wrong with getting excited about seeing those things, but will we still be excited and confident in Him when we don't see those things happening? If all we have is the Word of God, but no affirming visuals to go with it, is that enough for us to still honor Him with our excitement and trust? It can be difficult to do this, but its important that we do because God doesn't always perform miracles. Sometimes the bank account is low, a rift remains between friends and we haven't seen a new face in church a while. The good news, however, is that if we turn to His word (The Bible) and listen to what He says to us, we will find everything we need to remain excited and confident in Him despite the lack of visuals. The man with the sick son came to understand this.

After Jesus had expressed his frustration, he said to the man: *You may go, Your son will live*. Notice how there was no visual yet, no proof that the son would live, all the man had was the word of Jesus. But it says: *He took Jesus at His Word and departed*. You can imagine the sense of excitement and comfort he would have experienced as he placed his trust not in what he saw, but in what he heard. We can experience the same thing. Until God decides to move in a powerful visual way, be excited even now, by focusing upon and trusting in what God says.