

Sure Faith is Pure Faith

Acts 5:12-16

Even aside from the apostles' miracles, **life in the Jerusalem church was extraordinary**

But verse 15 seems to be just weird

What?

Superstition is about fear, but real faith draws us near

Fantastic church—

One of the extraordinary elements in the Jerusalem church was the **oneness of mind** the believers experienced

Besides the sheer numbers, **the believers' boldness in the face of opposition was also extraordinary**

Faith response and fake response (13-16)—

5:13—One response was **fear and distance by some**

5:14—But **others believed** as the church's unity and boldness set the stage for the Lord to add large numbers to the early church

5:15—Then we see the odd fact that many brought the sick out into the street so that Peter's shadow would fall on them

Connection with Jesus—

A woman touched Jesus from behind for healing

After 12 years of suffering, she wanted to benefit from Jesus' ability to heal, but from a distance, superstitiously in fear

Mark 5:32-34, ESV—He looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Jesus told her **it was her faith, not her touch**, that healed

Jesus wanted to **interact with her personally, intimately**

The Big Question—What does it mean that people wanted Peter's shadow to fall on the sick?

People **superstitiously believed** in the power of his shadow

This was the response of those keeping their distance (13)

Luke does not say that **anyone was healed in this way**

Later Peter himself condemned Simon's superstition

5:16—In contrast to superstition, others experienced **healing and deliverance because of true faith**

So What?

It's **possible to superstitiously believe in the rituals of Christianity**, or **believe with misplaced faith** that doesn't save

We need to **rid ourselves of superstitious practices**, like Bible reading and prayer as rituals to invoke God's blessing

Another form of superstition is **believing that bad things are God's punishment**

On the other hand, genuine faith results in extraordinary lives and extraordinary church

The last word—Peter

I Peter 1:8-9, ESV—Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls

Now What?

Ask the Lord to show you any person, place, ritual or event you are substituting in a superstitious way

Use the Daily Praise Guide to spend time fellowshiping with the Lord