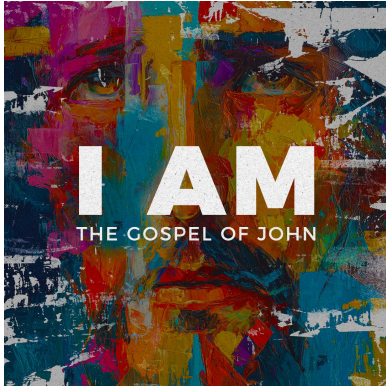


**Title:** The Architecture of Faith

**Series:** I Am

**Speaker:** Kevin Sneed

**Date:** June 28, 2026



## Introduction

In this sermon, we are invited to consider the following question: “Can I believe that Jesus is who He says He is?” Dallas Willard once wrote that “faith is the readiness to act as if what you believe is true.” The royal official who approached Jesus and begged him to heal his son had heard about the signs that Jesus had performed. He was left with an ambiguous answer, and on the road back home, he was faced with both trust and doubt. His response was anchored in Jesus’ command to “go” - not in the state of his son’s health.

**Key Texts:** John 4:43-54

---

## Icebreaker

Are you usually slow to warm up, or do you tend to trust people pretty quickly? **OR** What is something that helps you trust a person?

---

## Discussion Questions

1. Read **John 4:43-54** aloud, and take some time to silently make some initial observations about the text. What stands out to you? Is there anything surprising, confusing, or challenging?
2. Put yourself in the shoes of the royal official. What do you imagine he would be thinking or feeling as he was approaching Jesus? How do you think you would have responded internally to Jesus’ answer to him?
3. Kevin mentioned how “faith begins with reason.” How do you think this was demonstrated in the story of the royal official? Kevin challenged us to “doubt our doubts in the same way we believe our beliefs.” What do you think that means and what does it actually look like? How does that require courage and faith?

4. Jesus' response, "your son will live," in Greek is actually "go, your son lives." The man was left with ambiguity. Jesus could have been talking about the future (his son would still live), or he could have been talking about the present reality (his son was alive but might not be for long). Has there been a time when you felt left in ambiguity or uncertainty? How do you think God was inviting you into a deeper level of trust?
  
5. Kevin reminded us that the development of trust gives way to life with God. In essence, trust and faith are relational words. As we continue in a relationship with God, we begin to see that God is a good Father who won't lead us astray. Is there a story in your own life where God has demonstrated His trustworthiness and care for you? How does that help you trust Him more?
  
6. Suffering exposes what our life is built on - it is like a crucible, refining our faith like gold. What might it look like to offer your suffering, struggles, or places of pain to God? Where might you need to confess, "Lord, I do believe, but help me overcome by unbelief?" How can our group support you in prayer?

---

## Key Takeaways

- Faith begins with reason.
  - Faith develops through trust.
  - Faith matures through suffering.
  - Suffering enables us to meet Jesus in a different way. God invites us to open our pain to Him, and to trust that He can take our suffering and turn it into good.
  - It's not about the quantity or quality of our faith - it is about the object of our faith.
- 

## Silence and Solitude

This week, find a quiet moment and prayerfully consider if there is an area of uncertainty, ambiguity, or suffering where the Lord might be inviting you to draw closer and to trust Him. Are there any pain points or doubts about God's care for you? How might you honestly bring those before Him, and invite Him to meet you in a different way? Remember that the road that the royal official walked to get back home, wrestling with both trust and doubt, was over 20 miles long. It takes time to develop faith, and the road is long. Ask God to walk alongside you and to give you the strength to keep going. Perhaps you can borrow the prayer from Mark 9:24 - "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"