

Discovering Your Gifts #5

The Gift of Faith

1 Cor. 12:8-10

Continuing in our studies on the Gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12, we now come to the three *power gifts*. The power gifts are

- 1) the gift of faith
- 2) working of miracles
- 3) gifts of healing.

In this lesson we want to look at the gift of faith.

Definition: A supernatural endowment of faith that is a gift of the Holy Spirit granted as the Spirit wills. The working of miracles *ministers* the miracle. The gift of faith *receives* a miracle or the ability to perform the miracle. The Amplified Bible calls it "special faith." It should be distinguished from:

- 1) Initial or Saving Faith - Rom. 12:3,2 Pet. 1:1, Eph.2:8. Given to us as we hear the Gospel
- 2) Our personal Faith that comes by hearing and can grow - Rom. 10:17; 2 Thes. 1:3.
- 3) The Fruit of Faith - Gal. 5:22 (KJV) faithfulness, i.e. character.

Examples:

I. Old Testament

- A. Daniel 6:16-17, 19-23 - Protection
- B. 1 Kings 17:2-6 - Sustenance
- C. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego - Dan. 3:8-18; 26-27

II. Jesus

- A. Mk. 4:35-38
- B. Jn. 8:58, 59

III. Disciples

- A. Paul - Acts 27:19-25
- B. Peter - Mt. 14:28-33
- C. Dorcas - Acts 9:36-43

IV. Modern Examples

- A. My own testimony of casting out demons
- B. Smith Wigglesworth raising the dead. "I began to penetrate the heavens with what faith I had, all the time my wife was shaking me saying, 'Stop praying; she is already dead; It is too late.' "But I just kept praying. Soon I came to the end of my faith, and when I did I was conscious of a faith which took hold of me that could not be denied. While I was praying in my own faith it seemed as if God said, 'No, no.' But when this other faith came over me, I looked right up into heaven and said, 'Yes, yes.'
- C. The gift of faith comes into operation when laying hands on someone to receive the Holy Spirit.
- D. Bill Turner: "The gift of faith is not natural faith, saving faith, the fruit of faith, or even the prayer of faith. It is an act of divine power. It is a supernatural confidence and power

imparted by the Holy Spirit to meet a specific need. ... it is not my faith struggling, it is God's faith and power working through me, it is an outshining of the indwelling Holy Spirit's faith and power."

The Gift of Faith is useful for: Supernatural Protection; Casting Out Demons; Raising The Dead; Performing Miracles, Trusting in Impossible Circumstances.