

HOLY SPIRIT POWER

August 19th, 2018 - Holy Spirit Power

Part 14

Last week we studied about divine protection through the Gift of Faith and this week is about how the Gift of Faith supplies the needs of Christians. Today we'll see a number of things that can hinder this gift from being in operation, including disobedience.

Let's start by reading **Matthew 17:24-27** where Jesus says the following; *"When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, 'Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?' He said, 'Yes.' And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, 'What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?' Peter said to Him, 'From strangers.' Jesus said to him, 'Then the sons are free. Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.'*"

What a great way to see God's provision! In the areas of your life where you're in need, are you open to see the supernatural provision of God for it? In thinking about it, they could have probably drawn money from their ministry fund to pay for these taxes, but Jesus wanted to show Peter the importance of faith and to see how He would miraculously provide. Let's listen a little more to the Holy Spirit to see how the Lord will provide for our needs supernaturally and not just look to see natural provision. This Gift of Faith will enable the miraculous in your life – that's what Peter saw first hand.

Here are some other examples that you can read. [John 2:1-11](#) Jesus turns water into wine; [Matthew 14:13-21](#) Jesus feeds 5000 with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish; [Matthew 15:32-39](#) Jesus feeds 4000 with 7 loaves and a few little fish. These were not brought about by the Gift of Faith though, but rather the Gift of Miracles, these were instant miracles.

Let's read now about where the Gift of Faith was in operation in **Matthew 10:5-10**; *"These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: 'Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.'*"

Imagine that! Jesus was telling them to go out and work for him, operate in the supernatural - but not to take anything with them. So if you're working for the Lord and you're stepping out in faith and you're seeing the miracles take place; you're actually operating in the Gift of Faith because you believe that He'll take care of all of your needs. Jesus was teaching his disciples to go out in faith, not taking money with them but solely walking by faith to watch Him supernaturally provide for their lives. The same applies to you and me today. This was the Gift of Faith in operation, supplying all of their needs as they ministered the Gospel, trusting God to supply all their needs.

Let's read a well-known scripture from **Malachi 3:8-10** where it says; *"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."*

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I believe that obedience to tithing is an act of faith which opens up the door for not only God's provision to be made in our lives materially, but also for the Gifts of the Spirit to be given to us in a full measure because of obeying this stewardship principle. It brings about miraculous provision through this simple act of faith to obey God with our tithes.

It's doubtful that any of the Gifts of the Spirit will be in operation in a Christian's life if they are robbing God by not tithing. They may have a measure of faith but won't have the Gift of Faith. It's serious to think that God will bless the tither and those that withhold, open themselves up for curses in their lives. Here we have obedience versus disobedience. God does not bless disobedience. If you want the supernatural Gift of Faith operating in your life you need to tithe.

Mark 10:29-30 is a powerful example of the Gift of Faith in operation when Jesus tells his disciples that when you give him everything and walk in faith – he'll supply more than enough. It says; *“So Jesus answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.’”*

That's a powerful exchange! In essence Jesus is saying that you're not really giving up anything. You might give up your present family or things but He'll bless you with a new family and new things. You might lose this that and the other in life, but He'll take care of you and give back in different ways what you've given up in order to establish His kingdom. He'll provide for you so that you won't lack. What's your requirement? To give it all up to Him.

The **condition of this hundredfold** blessing is leaving all, trusting God to supply your needs. This is not an irresponsible act but rather a responsive act of the Gift of Faith in operation with the end results of experiencing God's miraculous provision through a simple act of faith to give up everything for the call of God your lives. What may appear irresponsible of you to give up everything if that's what Jesus is asking of you, isn't irresponsible if you're following the Lord. This differentiates between the natural and supernatural life. The walk of the natural or the walk of faith. As you let go of everything in your heart and maybe even in the natural – He promises to give it back to you.

Jesus also says in **Matthew 6:25-34**; *“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. **For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”*

Once again we can clearly see that by faith, seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness first, is the **condition** on receiving God's provision.

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Hebrews 11:1-3 says this; *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”*

If you read the rest of this chapter thru verse 40, you can see great examples of the faith of the Old Testament saints, who are now surrounding us as a great cloud of witnesses that Hebrews 12:1 talks about. These saints – the ones from the Old Testament and not the ones who have died as New Testament born again Christians - are surrounding us and cheering us on.

Hebrews 11:39-40 continues saying; *“And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.”*

The reality is that their salvation was not perfect apart from us New Testament believers. We received the promise that they believed to come, but never received. That promise being the Holy Spirit.

These Old Testament Saints, who are listed in Hebrews 11, as great as their faith was, were not privileged as we are, in that when they died they could not go to heaven, but rather were staged in a spiritual realm called Abrahams Bosom - [Luke 16:19-31](#).

Jesus died for their sins and granted them access into heaven by His blood that was shed to not just atone for their sins but rather remove their sins and make them holy, as he did with us when we became born again of the Holy Spirit.

The privilege you have as a New Testament Christian, is that when you die, you have instant access to heaven. When Jesus died and took the keys of death, hell and the grave from satan, he rescued those Old Testament saints from Abrahams bosom and together with Abraham, gave them access to heaven. When a non-Messianic Jew dies today, he doesn't go to Abraham's bosom because it's been done away with, but will go to hell because he or she has rejected Jesus as Messiah.

Hebrews 12:1-2 talks about the race of faith; *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Your walk of faith in Jesus is no different than the faith that these saints lived in. They're looking down and cheering you on to give it all up and lay everything aside that hinders you in your walk with Jesus!

Jesus talks about the power of prayer in **Matthew 7:7-11**; *“Ask and keep on asking and it will be given to you; seek and keep on seeking and you will find; knock and keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who keeps on asking receives, and he who keeps on seeking finds, and to him who keeps on knocking, it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will [instead] give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will [instead] give him a snake? If you then, evil (sinful by nature) as you are, know how to give good and advantageous gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven [perfect as He is] give what is good and advantageous to those who keep on asking Him.”* Amplified Bible.

God's supernatural provision is by faith. I believe that the Gift of Faith is given to those believers who **obey** Gods word and I believe it's conditional and given to those who obey the Biblical requirements of New

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Testament Christians. The opposite of the Gift of Faith would be fear, and we know that God does not give us a spirit of fear as we read in **2 Timothy 1:7**; *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*

So if the spirit of fear is operating more with regards to Gods provision in you than the measure faith and/or the Gift of Faith, it’s a pretty clear indicator that you need to examine your life and repent of those sins that are opening the door for fear and closing the door to the Gift of Faith and its provision.

Examine your heart today, be real and honest. Are you walking in fear, doubt and unbelief or faith in regards to God’s provision for you? It’s up to you.

In closing we read in **Matthew 11:28-30** where Jesus says this; *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

God’s will for you is to walk in the Gift of Faith. His will for you is to take His yoke – the Gift of Faith - and to give up fear, doubt and unbelief which will get you to be heavy laden and weary, and in doing so, will open up the door for God’s provision. There is no struggle with his yoke and his burden is light.

Please read a short script from Bob Snook called “[Chair](#)”.