

## Discipleship 301 Chapter 10

Open with testimony of what you feel God's Spirit is doing in your life.

This is a chapter looking at the special gifting of faith in the church. Everyone God has given a measure of faith to as they believe his goodness to some degree. It is working to inspire acting in faith that the Father draws people to himself. Jesus then reveals himself and offers his salvation. Then the work of growing in faith in relationship with the Lord begins. The Holy Spirit gives some measure of revelation of the Lord's will into your spirit. As you believe him and act in his will, he grows you in faith. The gifts of the Spirit are given as you commit to act in obedience to serve the Lord. This helps you in life as well as an ability to serve in his kingdom.

Jeremiah 29:11-13, For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

This was written to those who had turned away and was a promise on their return. But this is a promise for those who would give their lives to follow and serve the Lord.

Psalm 37:4-6, <sup>4</sup>Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him and he will do this:

<sup>6</sup> He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,  
your vindication like the noonday sun.

The Lord will call people into different circumstances where what they have in their heart to do is beyond the physical capabilities they have. This can be spiritual accomplishments in the Lord or natural accomplishments that serve a purpose for the Lord.

Mark 11:20-26, <sup>20</sup> In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. <sup>21</sup> Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

<sup>22</sup> "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. <sup>23</sup> "Truly<sup>[a]</sup> I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. <sup>25</sup> And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Do you believe this? Each one answer what you think about this statement.

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The gifting of faith is to give you an increased ability to believe for great and impossible things. God will inspire things that are not possible with human effort but as you move forward in faith in the Lord and pray for his provision, he will bring the things to pass. Great works of faith are done through the gifting of faith.

What would you believe in your walk in the Lord that would require extra faith over what you believe from him now? Discuss this and the needs for the body of Christ?

An individual can believe God for increased faith but also a group of believers under the Lord's authority can as a corporate entity as well. A corporate group can believe and excel in a gifting to believe the Lord for great works. They can have a vision for great works to be done and walk forward in faith to see that which is not come into being. Discuss what you can believe God for?

Hebrews 11:1-6, Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.

<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

<sup>4</sup> By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

<sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away."<sup>[a]</sup> For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

The faith that Abraham had was faith shown as he moved forward in life trusting something unseen that he had a conviction to believe the reality for. To believe for that which is not, to come into being. This is not trying to have faith for something you want to be true, but believing something God has given by his Spirit that you hold onto and trust God for. Discuss this.

You may pray for each other, one by one. Pray that the gift of faith is imparted, you may have it already. When God gives some gift or ability, his Spirit is transforming the mind for understanding of moving in faith and the heart for desire for that area of gifting. Pray that the mind is given understanding of moving in faith and the heart is increased in awareness of God's will in faith. Pray also they be sealed by his anointing to move in faith in the Lord.