

Discipleship 401 Chapter 11 Faith of the Apostle

Open with insights of the work of the Holy Spirit in or around you in the last while. You may have a greater awareness of the work of the Holy Spirit now. Comment on this.

An Apostle of the Lord is called and commissioned to a unique area of service by the Lord. Paul was given a specific calling and prepared to receive that anointing before being given it. It doesn't say everything that Paul did before the Apostolic anointing except that he was teaching. There would be other gifts given that would enhance his ability to apply the main ministry he was given. I am going to focus on one particular gifting that needs to be developed either prior to or after becoming an Apostle. The manifestation /gift of faith. This allows you to extend yourself with greater ease to believe beyond your abilities for the works of the Spirit. You don't have to be an Apostle to tap in on the apostolic authority of the church mantle. God will enable you to tap in on that as you step out according to God's will in some situation needed. The gift of faith enables a believer to do that as part of whatever ministry you have. An Apostle who develops this well can have great works of the Spirit done in their ministry. Recall a few verses...

John 5:19, Jesus - ... "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

John 8:28, So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up⁶ the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.

Luke 17:5-10, The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

⁶ He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

⁷ "Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? ⁸ Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? ⁹ Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

You have a certain measure of the Spirit given, and as you are 'faithful' in acting in his authority on what he does give you, more will be given. As you are willing to act in surrendering your own agenda to trust him for, "his will be done", he will take you through 'trials' to enable you to submit and trust him for the work of his Spirit to a greater degree. This usually means your attitude in circumstances you find yourself in. Everyone has their limitations but ask for his help in going through your trials and thank him for the trials. Discuss the concepts shown above.

The Lord could choose someone who has a major task before him that required his main gifting and ministry to be one of faith. He would have a heart to step out with God's help to take on an overwhelming task. This can only be accomplished with the Lord's help. He is serving the Lord in fulfilling God's purposes in the natural or spiritual. This person could have secondary giftings to aid them in fulfilling these purposes. Useful would be Discerning of spirits, Wisdom or Prophecy. In 'faith', when you set your heart on a course of action, there will be a conviction of the Lord's will behind that. You will not find a 'sureness' of conviction behind something not of God's will. There is no outward proof of these things, it is "by faith". Exercising faith is like a muscle.

Take time now to go around to each one and briefly describe a certain way you stepped out in faith in something where no proof was there, and you received blessing as a result of your faith.