

Gifts of the Holy Spirit Part 6 “The Gift of Faith”

If you recall in a prior teaching, we separated all nine gifts of the spirit into three categories:

- *The revelation gifts:* Word of wisdom, word of knowledge and the discerning of Spirits.
- *The power gifts:* gift of faith, working of miracles, gifts of healing.
- *The utterance gifts:* Prophecy, divers kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues.

In this teaching we are going to begin to discuss the first of the three power gifts and that is the gift of faith. The amplified bible calls it “wonder-working faith” and some translations call it “special faith.”

The gift of faith is not the same as saving faith.

- Every believer has general faith or saving faith (the faith you got saved by when you first came to Christ).
- This kind of faith is also a gift (Ephesians 2:8).
 - o You were given saving faith when you first heard the word of God concerning the gospel. It’s the faith you got saved by.
 - o Romans 10:17 “Faith or saving faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word.”
- This kind of faith is also supernatural because it’s the ability to see and be convinced of something that the senses cannot detect.
 - o Prior to hearing the word and receiving saving faith, a supernatural faith, all you had was natural faith.
 - o Natural faith is faith based on sense knowledge which means I can believe it because I can see, taste, touch, hear and smell it.
 - o But in order to be saved you had to believe in something, the death and resurrection of Jesus, that your senses couldn’t detect.
 - o Therefore, God had to give you a gift of supernatural faith through the hearing of the word that supernaturally convinced you of something your senses couldn’t comprehend.
 - o But even though saving faith is supernatural and a gift from God, it is not the gift of faith mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:9
- The gift of faith mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:9 which we also called “wonder-working faith”, or “special faith” is faith given by the Holy Spirit to believe God for a miracle.
 - o So, saving faith or general faith is faith that every believer has because it’s the faith they got saved by.
 - o But not every believer will have the gift of faith or this special faith.
 - o The gift of faith is special faith given to us by the Holy Spirit to believe God for something impossible.
 - o This is not the same as the gift of the working of miracles (1 Corinthians 12:10) even though both gifts result in miracles.

- One gift, the gift of faith, receives a miracle. The other gift, the gift of working of miracle, performs a miracle. One receives the other does.
- All nine gifts of the spirit operate by general saving faith not the gift of faith.
 - So whenever the gifts of the Holy Spirit are in operation, it requires general faith.
 - It takes general faith to hear the Holy Spirit and allow Him to work through your life in the area of the gifts.
 - But when the gift of faith is in operation, you will receive by the Holy Spirit the ability to believe God without a shadow of a doubt for something impossible. When you speak with the gift of faith, God will honor in that moment what you say as if it was His own word coming out of His own mouth.
- Also, it's good to note that the gift of faith is not the same as the faith mentioned in Galatians 5:22 when it's talking about faith as a fruit of the Holy Spirit.
 - This word faith can actually be translated faithfulness.
 - Faith in this verse is referring to the character trait of faithfulness.
 - All the fruits of the Holy Spirit deal with character.
 - Fruits of the Holy Spirit are for producing Godly character in a believer's life, but the gifts of the Spirit are for producing power out of the believer's life.
 - Faithfulness along with these other fruits will grow in a believer's life until they become established in Godly character.
- So, in review we have discovered that there are different kinds of faith.
 - Saving faith or general faith
 - Faith as a fruit of the Holy Spirit which can also be referred to as faithfulness.
 - The gift of faith. Special faith given by the Holy Spirit to receive miracles.
 - So, when the scripture says in 1 Corinthians 12:9 "to one is given faith..." doesn't mean that some will have faith some won't and it's up to God. People may say, "Well, if God wants me to have faith, He will give it to me." We know now this verse is referring to the gift of faith.
 - Everyone has saving faith or general faith. God has given that faith to every man (Romans 12:3).
 - By general faith you can get saved, have prayers answered, get healed, have your needs met, receive wisdom for certain situations in life and so on. You don't need the gift of faith for these things.
 - The gift of faith is for those special impossible miracles that someone may need in life, and it is given as the Holy Spirit sees fit.

Gift of faith vs the gift of the working of miracles

- So, the gift of faith is a special faith given to the believer to believe God that he might receive a miracle from God.

- This is different from the working of miracle. When the gift of the working of miracles is in operation, the believer will receive by the Holy Spirit the faith and the ability to perform or work a miracle.
- One gift receives and the other does. One is passive and the other is active.
- Daniel in the lions' den.
 - Daniel received the miracle of the mouth of the hungry lions being shut by a special gift of faith (Dan 6:23)
 - It was the gift of faith because it was passive. He didn't do anything or say anything he just went into the lion's den and went to sleep and woke up the next morning alive.
- Jesus asleep on the boat (Mark 4:35-38)
 - Jesus is able by a special gift of faith to remain calm enough to sleep on the boat in the middle of the storm. This was a miracle to sleep in the middle of this storm that was evidently so bad the disciples thought they were going to die.
 - But notice Jesus didn't do anything or say anything he just went to sleep by this gift of faith given to Him from the Holy Spirit.
 - We mostly see the gift of faith in operation in the bible in times of danger to give the believer peace and a calm assurance that everything's going to be alright.
 - Sometimes you need special faith for situations that is beyond the general faith that one receives by hearing the word.
 - So, the gift of faith expects a miracle to happen and has duration to it. When you work a miracle, there is a burst of faith in that moment to perform that miracle and that is it.
 - For instance, Daniel had to have faith all night long and Jesus had to have this faith working in him for the whole time they were battling that storm.
 - When the patriarchs spoke blessings over their children, they did this by the gift special gift of faith. But it would be years before some of this stuff would come to pass. Therefore, this faith had to work over a long period of time and keep them believing for what they said.
 - So, the gift of faith is an enablement by the Holy Spirit to cause what the man or woman of God has desired or spoken to come to pass and also to cause what God has said to come to pass no matter how long it takes. If it takes years this gift will be in operation.

Smith Wigglesworth and the gift of faith

- Smith said, "if you will take a step of ordinary faith, when you come to the end of that faith, very often this supernatural gift of special faith will take over."
- The reason many people don't see the gift of special faith in operation is because they don't first use the faith they already have.

- Whenever Smith raised someone from the dead, he said it was the gift of faith.
- He said that we need faith that is beyond our ordinary faith to believe for the power for this kind of miracle.
- Read from ever increasing faith.
- Notice that he said when the gift of faith rose up in him, He could believe for anything, and he had a peace.
- That's what it's like when this gift is in operation. You will be able to believe for anything and have absolute confidence and peace that God is going to do it.

Most likely these are examples of the gift of faith.

- 1 Kings 18:38 Elijah calling fire down from heaven to consume the sacrifice as a sign to the prophets of Baal and all of Israel who the real God is.
- 1 Kings 17 believing God for food by ravens and for meal and oil out of an empty vessel for many days.
- Believing for rain out of an empty sky
- Hebrew boys and the furnace
- Peter sleep in prison the night before he is to be executed.
- All of these are examples of special faith working to bring about a miracle of God for protection, provision, peace, revival and ultimately God's glory.