

IT'S YOUR SERVE

Spiritual Gifts and You!

Dr. John S. Powers

Study # 9

“THE GIFT OF FAITH!”

1 Corinthians 12:9

Like the Contemporary church, the Corinthians were in need of balance in their understanding and execution of spiritual gifts.

I. DEFINING THE GIFT OF FAITH

- There are three uses for Greek term *pistis* translated as “faith”
 - Natural faith (James 2:19)
 - Saving faith (Ephesians 2:8 – 9)
 - Spiritual gift

“The gift of faith is the Spirit – provided ability to know something is so when it not so, because you know god is going to make it so.”

Ralph Neighbor

Definition of the Gift of Faith

“The gift of faith is the special ability that God gives to some members of the body of Christ to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for the future of His work.”

- Each Christian is to be a person of faith
- Some Believers are given the unique ability to trust God even in the midst of overwhelming circumstances
- They live on the cutting edge of faith
- They are goal centered, possibility thinkers; undaunted by circumstances/suffering
- Often irritated by criticism and see criticism of themselves as criticism of God Himself
- They are dreamers, courageously spirited, visionaries and promoters

II. DANGERS OF MISUSING THE GIFT OF FAITH

1. Stubbornness – “My way or the highway”
2. Arrogance – “You can tell them, but not much”
3. Prayerlessness – “Lives on yesterday’s successes”
4. Procrastination – “Puts off making plans for the future”
5. Judgmental spirit – “Expecting others to have same depth of faith as they”

III. DEMONSTRATING THE GIFT OF FAITH

1. Noah – Hebrews 11:7
2. Abraham – Hebrews 11:17 – 19
3. Elijah – 1 Kings 17:8 – 16
4. Paul – Acts 27:22 – 24
5. Hudson Taylor, Missionary to China
6. George Mueller in Bristol, England

DO YOU HAVE THE GIFT OF FAITH?

_____ During prayer times, I am led to commit funds I do not possess to the Lord's work and then watch Him provide them.

_____ I receive ability to perform tasks for the Lord which are quite impossible for me to accomplish otherwise.

_____ I believe the Lord will act with a specific situation before He actually does so.

_____ I feel sure of God's specific will for His work, even when others doubt it will happen.

_____ I sense the need to develop a life of prayer and fasting.

_____ I am willing to carry out God's will in spite of difficulties and hindrances.

_____ I consistently invest time in personal pray for "impossible situations."

_____ I enjoy obeying God's will even when I cannot see results.

_____ When I say to mountains, "Be moved..." I expect God to move them.

APPLICATIONS

- Begin developing the life of a personal prayer intercessor
- Become involved/develop an intercessory prayer ministry
- Call other believers to prayer and fasting
- Believe God for the impossible
- Ask God how you may better live by faith.

"It's easier to cool down a fire than to raise the dead!"