



Activating the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit (Part 3)

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are for every believer. The right gift is activated at the right moment. His timing is always perfect in all that He does. God wants us to demonstrate His love through the gifts of the Spirit. The Lord wants to bless the body of Christ. People need to know that Jesus is alive and loves them!

In this month's article, we will be exploring the gift of Faith. There are several kinds of faith. One of the other kinds of faith is saving faith.

Eph 2:8 (Amp) "For it is by grace (God's remarkable compassion and favor drawing you to Christ) that you have been saved (actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life) through faith. And this (salvation) is not of yourselves (not through your own effort), but it is the (undeserved, gracious) gift of God." The grace of God is the source of salvation; faith is the channel, not the cause. God alone saves. Salvation never originates in the efforts of people; it always arises out of the loving kindness of God.

The gift of faith is different than faithfulness. **Gal. 5:22 (NIV) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control."** As we mature in Christ, becoming more and more like Jesus, we exhibit more and more of His Presence in our lives including faithfulness. Throughout the Scriptures, they speak of God's faithfulness to us. **Lam. 3:22-23 (NAS) "The Lord's loving kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness."**

But saving faith and faithfulness, though very important, are not the same as the gift of faith. The gift of faith is one of the three power gifts of the Spirit, along with healing and miracles. It also works in conjunction with other gifts.

Kenneth Hagen said, "The gift of faith is something different than saving faith, and it is separate from faithfulness, a fruit of the Spirit. The gift of faith is a gift of the Spirit given to a believer that he might work miracles. Those who possess this faith, the gift of the Spirit, believe God in such a way that He honors their word as His own and miraculously brings it to pass."

Derek Prince said, "The gift of faith is a tiny portion of God's total faith supernaturally imparted by the Holy Spirit and operated only under God's control. It is different than the faith of salvation or the fruit of the Spirit. It is a mountain moving gift."

John Wimber said, "The gift of faith is the mysterious surge of confidence which sometimes arises within a person faced with a specific situation or need. It gives that person trans-rational certainty and assurance that God is about to act through a word of action. "You just know that you know that you know." The gift of faith is a power gift, but it is often expressed in combination with our words and actions."

Smith Wigglesworth, known as the apostle of faith said, "The faith of the Lord Jesus is needed. Your faith may waiver, but the faith of Christ never waivers. When you have that faith, the thing is finished. When you have that faith, you will never look at things as they are, but you will see the things of nature give way to the things of the Spirit. You will see the temporal swallowed up by the eternal."

When we are given the gift of faith, we are looking at things through God's eyes. **Acts 3:1-10** Peter and John saw that the beggar had faith to be healed. The gift of faith met the beggar's faith and he was healed. **John 11:11** Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus' faith never wavered as ours often does.