
The Gift of Faith (Wonder-Working Power)

The Works & Sign Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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Sermon: The Works & Sign Gifts of the Holy Spirit: The Gift of Faith (Wonder-Working Power)

New Series Messages: “The Works & Sign Gifts of the Holy Spirit”

- Theme Scriptures:
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28

Lesson Text

1 Corinthians 12: 7–11 (AV) ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. ⁸ For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; ⁹ To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; ¹⁰ To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: ¹¹ But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Matthew 17:14–21 (AV)¹⁴ And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a *certain* man, kneeling down to him, and saying, ¹⁵ Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. ¹⁶ And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered and said, **O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.** ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. ¹⁹ Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? ²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.** ²¹ Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Mark 9:23–24 (AV)²³ Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things *are* possible to him that believeth.** ²⁴ And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

Introduction

In our last series, The Foundation Gifts, we looked at the Spiritual Gifts given to us to Establish the Church (Apostle), to be the Voice of the Church (Prophet), to be the Messenger of the Church (Evangelist), to be the Shepherd of the Church (Pastor), and to be the Instructor of the Church (Teacher).

Now we will look at the next two categories of Spiritual Gifts, Works & Sign Gifts.

- Works Gifts (Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Discerning of Spirits, Helps, Administrations)
- Sign Gifts (Healings, Miracles, Tongues)

Today we will look at the Gift of Faith.

Most Christians have Faith in God to believe him for salvation, but when it comes to moving mountains, they are pessimists by nature.

The Gift of Faith distinguishes between “Saving Faith” and “Wonder-Working Faith”!

We all are given a measure of faith (Romans 12:3) for Salvation, but some of us are giving the Gift of Faith; the Wonder-Working, Miracle-Working Faith for Moving Mountains.

The gift of faith doesn't make wonders or miracles happen, it is simply supernatural knowledge given to some of us to believe and declare when God is going to perform a wonder or miracle.

Our last lesson text explains how this Gift works: Mark 9:23–24 (AV)²³ Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.**²⁴ And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

Because most of us are naturally pessimistic, and constantly attacked with doubt; God gives some of us the Gift of Faith to encourage the rest of us concerning what God is about to do!

Series and Sermon: The Works & Sign Gifts of the Holy Spirit: The Gift of Faith (Wonder-Working Power)

“The Purpose, Work, and Stirring of the Gift of Faith”

I. The Purpose of the Gift of Faith (Wonder-Working Faith)

Matthew 17: ¹⁹ Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? ²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.**

Whenever God gives us an assignment, we are always resisted by the enemy with obstacles, troubles, storms, and mountains that are designed to keep us from accomplishing our purpose.

Trouble comes from every direction at us, Hurricane-Force Storms come out of nowhere to resist us, and Insurmountable Mountains and Obstacles block the path of our destiny.

In order to overcome the trouble, get through the storms, or get beyond the mountains it will take a wonder-working miracle from God to do it.

So, God gives some of us the Gift of Faith to know and then believe He's going to do it.

This faith doesn't stop the trouble, it doesn't calm the sea, it doesn't move the mountains; it simply gives us the supernatural knowledge that God is going to do it regardless of what the circumstances say.

Telling the mountain to move doesn't make the mountain move, it simply gives the mountain notice that God told me to tell you, you've got to move.

Telling the trouble to stop doesn't make it quit, it just puts the troublemakers on notice that you're not going to be stressed, in despair, forsaken, and certainly not destroyed by them!

Telling the sea, “Peace be still”, doesn’t make the wind and waves calm, but it does tell the devil what you meant for evil, God is going to turn it around for your good.

II. The Works of the Gift of Faith (Overcoming Doubt)

Mark 9:23–24 (AV)²³ Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.**²⁴ And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

Just like this father who had fears and doubt concerning his son, many of us face the same dilemma when it comes to the impossible; “Lord I believe but help thou mine unbelief”.

We all have been given a measure faith; and like the disciples, it’s probably not enough.

Matthew 8:25–26 (AV)²⁵ And his disciples came to *him*, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.²⁶ And he saith unto them, **Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?** Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

Some religious denominations get the gift of faith wrong. They tell people that the reason why you have not been healed is because you don’t have enough faith. The reason why you haven’t been delivered is because you don’t have enough faith.

What they fail to understand is that faith doesn’t heal us, God does. Faith doesn’t deliver us, God does. Faith doesn’t move mountains, God does. Faith doesn’t perform miracles God does.

Fear produces doubt when you’ve done all that you know, and are still on the verge of sinking.

Failure produces doubt when you’ve prayed and cried, cried and prayed, and still see no results.

And so, when Fear and Failure crushes us, God will send someone with the Gift of the Faith to say, “Fear Not, Only Believe”!

I know that you haven’t receive healing yet, but God said, “Fear Not, Only Believe”!

I know you’ve being waiting a long time and want to give up, but “Fear Not, Only Believe”!

I know the ship is sinking, but God told me to tell you to “Fear Not, Only Believe”!

I believe James Rowe had the gift of faith when he wrote: *“I was sinking deep in sin, Far from the peaceful shore. Very deeply stained within, Sinking to rise no more; But the Master of the sea, Heard my despairing cry. From the waters lifted me, Now safe am I.”*

III. The Stirring of the Gift of Faith (Prayer & Fasting)

Matthew 17: ²¹ **Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**

The Purpose of the Gift of Faith is to know when God is performing a Wonder-Working Miracle. The Work of the Gift of Faith is to Communicate to those that doubt that God’s about to perform a Wonder-Working Miracle.

But how is Gift of Faith Stirred Up? Through Prayer and Fasting!

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To Stir up our Gift of Faith, we must communicate with God: We must Pray to Speak to God, and we must Fast to Hear from God.

Pray to Speak to God:

- Luke 18:1 (AV)¹ And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (AV)¹⁶ Rejoice evermore. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
- Philippians 4:6–7 (AV)⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Fast to Hear from God:

- Matthew 17: ²¹ **Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**
- Jeremiah 17:9 (AV)⁹ The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
- Romans 7:18 (AV)¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.
- Hebrews 11:6 (AV)⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
- Romans 10:17 (AV)¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Gift of Faith (Wonder-Working Power))

Lesson Text

- 1 Corinthians 12: 7–11, Matthew 17:14–21, Mark 9:23–24
- Book: [The Complete Guide To Understanding The Holy Spirit](#): Read “Works Gifts, Faith”

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. The Purpose of the Gift of Faith

II. The Work of the Gift of Faith

III. The Stirring of the Gift of Faith

Questions

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What’s your preference: iced coffee or hot coffee / toilet paper over or under / beach or mountains / city or country / a bath or a shower?
2. Would you rather only eat sweet foods for a month or only eat savory foods for a month?

II. Into the Bible

1. Using the principles taught in Sunday’s sermon concerning the purpose, work and stirring of the gift of faith, describe how the Apostle Paul demonstrated and exercised that gift in Acts 27:21-44. Provide specific examples from the scripture passage.
2. According to Hebrews 11:1-2, what is the importance of faith to our everyday living, as well as to our ability to accomplish what God desires for us?
3. Is there a significant contradiction in the statements made by the father in Mark 9:24? Why or why not?

III. Life Application

1. Jesus made a connection of being fearful and of having little faith in his response to the disciples in Matthew 8:26, “ And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?” What are other methods that can be used to overcome fear and to increase our faith in addition to prayer and fasting?
2. Have you created a playlist of scriptures and songs that you use to overcome your doubts when you are tested? Share some of these with the growth group and tell why you are strengthened by them.