

## THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART VII THE GIFT OF FAITH - Part II

Text: I Corinthians 12:9b

**Key Word:** Faith

**Key Thought:** Understanding the Gift of Faith

We began these sermons by looking at the 3 Gifts of Revelation which the Bible calls the Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, and Discerning of Spirits. We then turned our attention to the Gifts of Power. Here we studied the Gifts of Healings, Working of Miracles and now the Gift of Faith. Last week I introduced the Gift of Faith by explaining that although it appears to be a passive gift (cursing of the Fig Tree), it is actively working even when we don't recognize it.

Faith is mentioned in 3 different ways in the Bible. There is first of all a **SAVING FAITH** which is required for us to make the necessary steps to accept Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour. There is secondly **THE FRUIT OF FAITH** which is given to build Christian character into our lives. Lastly, there is **THE GIFT OF FAITH** which is given to overcome the enemy and the problems of life.

**SAVING FAITH** must be exercised before we become a Christian. Therefore, this type of faith is given to unbelievers in order for them to begin their walk of faith.

**THE FRUIT OF FAITH** comes after salvation in order to help us live in a manner which is pleasing to God. It is what God uses to develop a new personality within us.

**THE GIFT OF FAITH** comes after the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It is used to exercise God's will in ways that we would not have any other means of doing so. It opens up the storehouse of God's power to enable a common believer to do things that are usually only attributed to God.

The 3 different types of **FAITH** may be understood with a simple illustration. Faith begins like a seed of tree. This is the **SAVING FAITH**. The other types of faith cannot grow without the **SEED FAITH** planted into our hearts. Once it finds root it quickly begins to grow.

If it were a Fig Tree seed we would soon see it sprouting from the ground and eventually growing into a strong tree. This is like the **GIFT OF FAITH**. The Gift comes **fully matured** but we must grow in **Christian maturity** in order to exercise it.

The final step of maturity is that the Fig Tree bears its own fruit. This is like the **FRUIT OF FAITH**. The more mature we become, the more the **FRUIT OF FAITH** is evident in our lives. The **GIFT OF FAITH** provides the branches for the **FRUIT OF FAITH** to mature upon.

## Lets Look Again to the Scriptures to See How this Gift Is Exercised among us.

### I. FOR SUPERNATURAL BLESSING (Genesis 27:28-29)

\*\*\* Dr. John Trent wrote a book years ago titled "*The Blessing.*" He basically surveyed the Bible to discover the important truths behind passing on a blessing to our loved ones.

There are many accounts of a father's blessing which unveil the heart of God concerning this matter. \*\*\*

One such account took place when Isaac became old and blind (Genesis 27:1). His younger son Jacob worked along with his mom Rebekah to deceive Isaac. Jacob pretended to be his older brother Esau in order to receive the eldest son's blessing. Esau had already sold his birthright for some bread and lentil stew (Genesis 25:32-34). By doing so Esau exposed his heart. **He had no respect for the covenantal promises which were associated with his birthright.**

The story went on to tell us that Isaac by faith passed on a blessing to whom he thought was his eldest son, Esau. There was only one **blessing (berakah)** because there was only one **birthright (bekorah)**. Isaac was betrayed by a kiss (Genesis 27:27). Jesus who also was betrayed by the kiss of Judas (Matthew 26:48-49) was able by the GIFT OF FAITH to obtain His Father's blessing.

Isaac's blessing was very important for the nation of Israel.

*"May God give you heaven's dew and earth's riches  
-- an abundance of grain and new wine.  
29. May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you.  
Be lord over your brothers and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed."*

*Genesis 27:28,29*

*"By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future."*

*Hebrews 11:20*

## II. FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION (Daniel 6)

Political (or any) jealousy may seal the "mouth of a lions den" but the GIFT OF FAITH is able to break it's cursed pronouncement over our lives. The ungodly of this world think they have shut the mouths of God's people and confined them to a den of death. They have gathered their arsenal of hungry lions in hope of sealing the fate of our message and lifestyle.

King Darius suffered a night of torment in his palace (Daniel 6:18) while Daniel walked in peace with assurance in the den of lions. Faith arose in the heart of the humble servant of God. His righteousness shone like the noon day sun exposing the darkness of the administrators and satraps.

The message from the cursed den was loud and clear.

*"My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."*

*Daniel 6:22*

Little do we often realize the powerful protection afforded to those who exercise their GIFT OF FAITH. Jesus re-instituted this message into the halls of Satanic deception when he was tempted of the devil for 40 days.

*"and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with wild animals, and angels attended him."*

*Mark 1:13*

### 4595 Kicking the Bird Trap

\*\*\* William Gladstone told the story one day of a little girl who really believed that God would answer her prayers. Her brother had made a trap that was catching sparrows and so she prayed that it would fail. A short time later her facial expressions changed and she was radiant with absolute faith in the futility of the trap.

Her mother noticed and asked, "*Julie, how can you be so positive?*"

She smiled and said, "*Because, dear Mama, I went out three days ago and kicked the trap to pieces.*" \*\*\*

### III. FOR SUPPLY DURING TIMES OF FAMINE (I King 17)

Our nation is going to need this GIFT OF FAITH in full operation to meet the needs which are going to surface in the next few years, if God should tarry. Our world is about to be hurled into an economic earthquake with such magnitude that nothing will compare with it.

Much of what will take place will be caused by God in order to shake this world into its senses. Men and women of the calibre of Elijah will need to rise to their spiritual feet and declare God's coming judgement over the nations of the world because of their iniquity. Signs will follow to confirm the Word of the Lord.

*"As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."*

*I Kings 17:1*

These words will echo into the halls of education, commerce as well as the seats of our politicians. No one will escape the ravages of this upcoming famine. Those who exercise their faith will find that God will supernaturally supply for their needs.

*"The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook."*

*I Kings 17:6*

Faith will support those who are faithful to God. Biblical Faith calmly faces any type of peril or lack of supply.

\*\*\* Stories abound of the faith that George Muller exercised while living in Bristol, England. He had set up a large orphanage and refused to turn to anyone but God for help.

Many nights with hundreds of hungry little faces staring at empty plates this man of faith would stand strong in prayer.

He would pray God's blessing upon the cups and plates. As he prayed cans of milk were delivered to one door while baskets of bread arrived at another door.

He would continue to pray until all the children were filled to overflowing with the abundance of God's provision. \*\*\*

#### IV. FOR SUPERNATURAL VICTORY (Exodus 17)

Leading millions of people through the Sinai desert resulted in times of great trials. Moses faced them dead on. It caused his faith to be exercised on a daily basis.

*"By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible."*

*Hebrews 11:27*

"Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible"

When the Amalekites sent out their forces against God's people (Exodus 17:11) to prevent them from going on, they needed the GIFT OF FAITH. We need those like Aaron and Hur to stand along the Moses' in their inner room at Rephidim. Faith must arise to overcome our enemies. The altars of "Jehovah Nissi" (Exodus 17:15) must be built to declare that "the Lord is our Banner." The memory of those like the Amalekites needs to be blotted out from the minds of men (Exodus 17:14).

**It is through faith** that our feeble hands will be raised up and the victory will be won. **It is through faith** that the **sons of salvation** will find their place beside the **Son of Deliverance**. **It is by faith** that we will defeat our enemy's cunning devices.

Years ago we were competing with Russia in space and China in technology and commerce. Now we are linking arms and saying to the world that we will reach our destiny in unity. I'm not fooled by the deceptive plans of our Cold War enemies. Why do we continue make strange bed-fellows? I'd rather hold up the hands of those who declare righteousness as their banner.

**The Church must take its position on God's mountain and lift one another into victory through faith in God.**

Lets not return to the days of old when the GIFT OF FAITH only came for a limited time on those who served God's purposes. Today it is meant for all who will receive God's rich Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Covet the best gifts - those that are needed right now.

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Date: Aug 2/20

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: I Put all my Trust in You - G

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*Genesis 27:1; Genesis 25:32-34; Genesis 27:27; Matthew 26:48-49; Genesis 27:28,29;  
Hebrews 11:20*

**II. FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION (Daniel 6)**

*Daniel 6:18; Daniel 6:22; Mark 1:13*

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*Hebrews 11:27; Exodus 17:11; Exodus 17:15; Exodus 17:14*