The Gift of Faith (Part 1)

**Bible Texts:** Ephesians 2:8; Romans 12:3; Galatians 5:22,23; 1 Corinthians 12:9

**Central Truth:** Those who possess the gift of faith believe God in such a way that He honors their word as His own, and He miraculously brings it to pass.

Having covered the three revelation gifts – the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the discerning of spirits – in previous lessons, we will go now to the three power gifts.

The power gifts – those that do something – are: the gift of faith, the working of miracles, and the gifts of healings. In this lesson we will discuss the first of these: the gift of faith, or special faith. (Read First Corinthians 12:4-12.)

Let me emphasize that the gift of faith, like all the other gifts of the Spirit, is supernatural; it is not natural. There are those who say that some of the gifts of the Spirit are natural and some are supernatural. However, if one is supernatural, then all are supernatural. I believe that every one of the gifts is a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit! (See First Corinthians 12:11.)

The gift of faith is the greatest of the three gifts of power. It is a gift of the Spirit to the believer so that the might receive miracles. The working of miracles is a gift to the spirit given to the believer so that he might work miracles. One gift receives, and the other gift does something. One gift is passive; it receives. The other gift is active; it works. Notice that the scripture says, "To another the working of miracles..." (1 Cor. 12:10). When you perform a miracle, that's "working" a miracle. But when receive a miracle, you don't "work" it, and that's the gift of faith in operation.

And we must remember too, that these power gifts are very closely associated, just as the revelation gifts are closely associated, and the utterance gifts (prophecy, divers kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues) are closely associated. In fact, the Bible plainly tells us in First Corinthians 14:5, that tongues with interpretation is equal to prophecy. We differentiate between these gifts and list them separately in order to better define them.

Furthermore, we also find that faith, like prayer, is often confused in some people’s minds. We have a tendency to put all kinds of faith in the same sack, mix them up, and shake them all out together. But we must differentiate between them.

Thus, we learn that there are four different kinds of faith:

1. **Saving faith**, which leads one to salvation.
2. **General faith**, which every believer has.
3. **The fruit of faith** – or faithfulness – the fruit of the recreated human spirit, which comes after salvation.
4. **The gift of faith** – or special faith – a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit, which is imparted after the baptism of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit wills.

And as someone once said, sometimes the best way to find out what something is, is to find out what it’s not.
Saving Faith

EPHESIANS 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through FAITH; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God....

The faith by which we are saved is a gift of God. It is imparted to us through the Word: "So then faith [saving faith] cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom, 10:17). However, the kind of faith which we will be discussing in this lesson – the gift of faith, or special faith – is different from saving faith.

General Faith

ROMANS 12:3 ...God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

There is a type of faith – I call it general faith – which all believers have. This general faith can be increased as Christians feed on the Word of God and exercise it in the arena of life. We can all have this ever-increasing general faith. The gift of faith, however, is one of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit, given as the Holy Spirit wills.

Furthermore, general faith is the faith by which we ordinarily receive answers to prayer. For example, we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit by faith; and we receive answers to prayer by faith, because Jesus said, “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, BELIEVE that ye RECEIVE them and ye SHALL HAVE them” (Mark 11:24).

Many of us received answers to prayer by faith – general faith – even before we received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. These answers came because we believed God by faith, but that is not the same as the gift of faith in operation.

In fact, if the gift of faith had to be in operation in order to get an answer to prayer, to receive healing for the body, or to have a financial need met, then we could never get any prayers answered until after we had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, because that’s when this kind of faith – the gift of special faith – is received. But even then, it’s only as the Spirit wills.

However, we know that many of us did receive answers to prayer by faith – general faith – before we had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Many of us, for example, were healed based on faith in God’s Word before we ever received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We exercised general faith to receive these answers to prayer.

And following this same line of reasoning, if it required the gift of faith – special faith – to receive answers to prayer, then not everyone – even those filled with the Spirit – could be assured of having their prayers answered. Why? Because not every Spirit-filled believer is promised this gift of special faith. The Scripture says, "For to ONE is given... the word of knowledge...; To ANOTHER FAITH by the same Spirit...” (1 Cor. 12:8,9).

Regarding this gift of faith, Paul sums up at the end of the chapter, "...are ALL workers of miracles?” (v. 29). No. “Have ALL the gifts of healing?” (v. 30). The answer is no. Then we can add to it, “Do ALL have this GIFT OF FAITH?” The answer is again, no.

So we can see that the gift of faith is not the same as general faith which every believer has; for if we had to rely on the gift of special faith to get our prayers answered, then not everyone could receive answers to prayer.
The Fruit of Faith

GALATIANS 5:22,23  But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The fruit of faith is also different from the gift of faith. We read about the fruit of the Spirit (one of which is faith) in Galatians 5:22,23, quoted above. In the original Greek, however, this fruit of faith is not called faith at all, but “faithfulness.”

While the fruit of the spirit are for the development of Christian character, the gifts of the Spirit are to produce power in the believer’s life.

Fruit is something that grows. Faith – or faithfulness – is a fruit that grows in the life of a Christian to establish him in spiritual character. But the gift of special faith is a gift given by the Spirit of God, as the Spirit wills.

Concerning the gift of faith, Weymouth’s translation says, “...to a third man, by means of the same Spirit, special faith” (1 Cor. 12:9).

I have heard people say, “well, if God gives me faith, I will have it, and if He doesn’t, I won’t.” They read the scripture, “…To another [is given] faith…,” and they think that this is the way to get “faith.” However, the faith referred to in this scripture is the gift of faith, or special faith.

The Gift of Faith

1 CORINTHIANS 12:9 to ANOTHER faith by the same Spirit....

So we see that the gift of faith is not imparted to all, but only as the Spirit of God wills. Also, it is a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit to receive a miracle. By the gift of faith one does not work a miracle, but passively receives a miracle.

The gift of faith is distinguished from the other kinds of faith in that with this special faith there is a manifestation of the evidence of the supernatural. One can supernaturally, and against all odds, believe God for a miracle.

Of the three power gifts – the gift of faith, the working of miracles, and the gifts of healings – the gift of faith is the greatest.

And we have also seen that the gift of faith, or special faith, is separate and distinct from saving faith which leads one to salvation, general faith which every believer has, and the fruit of faith which develops one in Christian character.

We will see in the next chapter, that by the gift of faith one is given a supernatural ability to receive a miracle from God; whether it be for supernatural protection, supernatural sustenance, the casting out of unclean spirits, the raising of the dead, or the impartation of supernatural manifestations, such as in the laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit, or pronouncements of blessings.

Memory Text:

“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom... to another faith by the same Spirit...” – 1 Cor. 12:8,9
The Gift of Faith (Part 2)

**Bible Texts:** Daniel 6:16,17,19-23; 1 Kings 17:2-6; Galatians 3:5

**Central Truth:** The gift of faith is a supernatural endowment by the spirit whereby that which is uttered or desired by man, or spoken by God, shall eventually come to pass.

The gift of faith is different from the gift of working of miracles, although both gifts produce miracles. Although both gifts produce miracles. The gift of working of miracles is *active*, whereas the gift of faith is *passive*. It doesn’t work; it receives. In other words, the difference between the gift of working of miracles and the gift of faith is that one *does*, and the other *receives*.

When the gift of faith is in operation, whatever is spoken or desired by the individual being used in this gift will come to pass. Whether it be an utterance by God or man, a miracle, assurance, *curse* or blessing, creation or destruction, removal or alteration, it will ultimately come when it has been spoken by this gift of faith.

The working of miracles is more of an action, and the gift of faith is more of a process. The gift of working of miracles *performs* a miracle, whereas the gift of faith *receives* a miracle. This is because the working of miracles utilizes faith which actively *works* a miracle, but the gift of faith utilizes faith which passively *expects* a miracle, a prolonged or ongoing miracle. Also, when the gift of faith is in operation, the believed for miracle may not manifest immediately. It may manifest over a long period of time.

**The Gift of Faith for Supernatural Blessings**

The gift of faith was used by the patriarchs of old for direst supernatural blessings or fulfillment of human utterances. When these patriarchs were about to die, they would lay their hands on their sons and would command blessings upon them. Often these blessings did not come to pass until many years later. We see this in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Joseph. These patriarchs believed their pronouncements would come to pass at the appointed time in the future. This was the gift of faith in operation.

**The Gift of Faith for Personal Protection**

**DANIEL 6:16,17,19-23** Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Daniel received a miracle while he was in the lions’ den. In those days, and throughout history, many others were thrown to the lions – and they were killed. Why didn’t these lions harm Daniel?

The Bible says that Daniel “believed in his God.” There is no doubt that God gave Daniel special faith – a special manifestation – to *receive* deliverance. Daniel didn’t *do* anything: He just lay down and went to sleep.
Notice that Daniel’s faith was passive rather than active, yet he received a miracle. This was the gift of faith in operation.

In just the same manner, Jesus exercised the gift of faith in the face of great danger. During a raging storm Jesus slept on a pillow in the back of the ship. This was the gift of faith in operation which simply expects a miracle.

Someone might argue, “Yes, but that was Jesus. He was the Son of God.”

However, we know that Jesus never did anything except by the power of the Holy Spirit. He stripped Himself of the power He had as the Son of God.

The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus and anointed Him when He was baptized by John in the Jordan River. Jesus was just as much the Son of God before the Holy Spirit came upon Him as He was afterwards. Yet the Bible tells us He had never worked any miracles prior to His baptism (John 2:11). Afterwards, Jesus ministered as any man anointed by the Holy Spirit would minister.

If Jesus had worked miracles by some power INHERENT within Himself as the Son of God, then He could not have told us we would do the works that He did! But Jesus plainly said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also…” (John 14:12). However, if Jesus did these works as a man anointed by the Holy Spirit, then certainly under the inspiration and anointing of the Holy Spirit, believers can do the same thing!

While the storm swept across the sea, Jesus slept. He wasn’t bothered by the storm. While hungry lions roamed about Daniel, he lay down and slept in the face of that danger. Throughout the Bible, we see such instances where the gift of faith worked for individuals in the face of great danger. They possessed a calmness which was supernatural; and by that supernatural faith they received a miracle.

The Gift of Faith for Supernatural Sustenance

1 KINGS 17:2-6 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

Here we see an instance where the gift of faith was used for supernatural sustenance in the time of famine, Elijah’s faith had to be given to him supernaturally by God, because it was beyond human reasoning to expect ravens to feed a human. Nevertheless, ravens brought food to Elijah morning and evening. And by this supernatural faith, Elijah received a miracle.

The Gift of Faith for Raising the Dead

As we mentioned before, the gifts of the Spirit often operate together. In the case of raising the dead, three gifts operate together – the gift of faith, the working of miracles, and the gifts of healings. This is one reason we don’t see too many people raised from the dead. Some Christians may have one or more of these gifts in operation in their lives, but not too many have all of them in operation.

First of all, in the raising of the dead it takes supernatural faith – the gift of faith – to call a person’s spirit back when it has left the body. It takes a working of miracles to raise the person, and it takes the gifts of healings; otherwise, if the person is not healed, he would immediately die again. Therefore, all three of the power gifts are in manifestation when someone is raised from the dead.

According to Albert Hibbert, as many as fourteen people were raised from the dead during Smith Wigglesworth’s ministry.

The first instance occurred while Wigglesworth was still working as a plumber. (He had already received the baptism in the Holy Spirit then, but he wasn’t out in the active ministry as yet.)

One night he was called to the home of a young woman who was dying of tuberculosis. Wigglesworth started praying for her at 1 o’clock. At 3:30 a.m., she died.
“It was a time when I would not have ‘No,’ and God said ‘Yes,’” Wigglesworth recalled. The face of Jesus appeared at the window of the room where Wigglesworth was praying. Color returned to the face of the girl. She rolled over, fell asleep, and later awakened totally well.

Another case concerned a neighbor who had died just before Wigglesworth arrived at the man’s home. Mrs. Wigglesworth was already there. As Wigglesworth began to pray for the dead man, Mrs. Wigglesworth shook her husband, pleading, “Don’t, Dad! Don’t you see that he is dead?” But Wigglesworth continued to pray.

“I got as far as I could with my own faith,” Wigglesworth said, “and then God had hold of me. Oh, it was such a laying hold that I could believe for anything. The faith of the Lord Jesus laid hold of me and a solid peace came into my heart.” The man returned to life!

A third case Wigglesworth told about, was a woman who died immediately after Wigglesworth and another man had prayed for her. “You may think that what I did was absurd,” Wigglesworth said, “but I reached over into the bed and pulled her out. I carried her across the room, stood her against the wall and held her up.”

Wigglesworth commanded the corpse, “In the Name of Jesus, I rebuke this death!” The woman’s body began to tremble. “In the Name of Jesus, I command you to walk!” he said – and the woman walked. She was restored to life!

This is beyond anyone’s ordinary faith. With ordinary faith we could pull a dead person out of bed as Wigglesworth did, stand the body up, and tell the corpse to walk. But with ordinary faith I don’t believe that corpse is going to walk. It takes a supernatural manifestation of God’s power to receive a miracle such as this.

Many times if we will take a step of faith – ordinary faith – the faith every believer has, when we come to the end of our own faith, this supernatural faith will take over. The reason this hasn’t happened with a lot of people is because they haven’t used the faith they already have.

The Gift of Faith for Casting Out Evil Spirits

The gift of faith may be used, on occasion, to cast out unclean spirits from those whose bodies have been defiled by them. Here again, more than one gift must be in operation. The gift of discerning of spirits and/or the word of knowledge will be manifested as well as the gift of faith. If one doesn’t discern or “see” the spirit, often the spirit is revealed through the word of knowledge. But the gift of faith still will be exercised to cast out the evil spirit. Of course, we know from Mark 16:17 that general faith also is effective in casting out evil spirits.

The Gift of Faith for Ministering the Holy Spirit

GALATIANS 3:5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

This gift of faith comes into operation in the laying on of hands for people to be gilled with the Holy Spirit.

Any believer can lay hands on people in general faith, and appropriate God’s promises, and believed God’s promises, and believe God. But there is a difference between believing God with general faith and appropriating His promises, and that supernatural manifestation which is passed from one individual to another through the gift of special faith.

Now it is possible, in general faith, to lay hands on a person for healing or any other blessing; and although nothing may be perceptibly manifested, if it is received, it is still a demonstration of God’s power.

However, if when one person lays hands on another and there is ministered through them healing, or the infilling of the Holy Spirit by supernatural manifestation, then that is the gift of special faith in operation.

So God works in both these ways: by our general faith appropriating the promises of God and receiving His power that way; and, on the other hand, by a supernatural manifestation of God ministered from one person to another – which is the gift of faith in operation.

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Memory Text:

“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom... to another faith by the same Spirit...” – 1 Cor. 12:8,9