

Spiritual Gifts: *Faith*

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Introduction

Today we'll be talking about the spiritual gift of faith. There will be a quiz, so please pay attention.

Do *you* have the spiritual gift of faith? Please raise your hands. *All of you* – raise your hands. *All* of you have the gift of faith. If you are a Christian, you have the gift of faith. *Without* faith it is impossible to please God. Whatever is *not* of faith is sin. It is *by* faith that we have been saved and that faith itself is a gift – a *spiritual* gift – from God.

Faith is, in fact, one of the three greatest spiritual gifts – faith, hope and love – found in 1st Corinthians chapter 13.

While faith is a gift *every* believer possesses, God does bestow upon *some* believers a special kind or a special degree of faith – mountain-moving faith. Nevertheless, the gift of faith is one we each have to some degree.

Definition

The spiritual gift survey gives this definition:

The gift of faith is the ability to see God's purpose in a situation and to trust His wisdom and power to accomplish that purpose. Essentially it is the gift of vision which enables one to believe God for what seems impossible.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Paul is talking about *future* and *invisible* things.

2nd Corinthians 4:18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Paul is talking about *invisible* and *eternal* things.

Spiritual Sight

We read in Hebrews 11:27 that Moses “endured as *seeing* Him who is *invisible*.” Indeed, the gift of faith enables us to see with *spiritual* eyes. It provides us with spiritual *sight*. As a modern-day psalmist wrote, our “lives are in His hand and through the eyes of faith” we “can clearly see.”

We see this remarkably illustrated in the life of the prophet Elisha.

2nd Kings 6:15-17

And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

God opened the eyes of Elisha’s servant to literally see the army of angels surrounding him. Elisha himself did not literally see those angels, but he, *through the gift of faith*, knew the angels were there.

(Dear Lord, please open our spiritual eyes to Your awesome presence in our lives and to see Your eternal providence in all of life’s circumstances!)

The gift of faith *knows* God’s character and love and the gift of faith *sees* with spiritual eyes. Through faith we perceive the *preeminence* and *transcendence* of God in all circumstances. Through faith we *know* the perfect character of God can be relied upon at all times and that all His promises will be fulfilled. The gift of faith *witnesses* to our souls about God’s eternal faithfulness and perfect love.

Let’s Hear the “Voice” of Faith

My Deliverer (Ragamuffin Band)

<http://www.audio.fln.org/song/detail.asp?strSongs=572>

*My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.
My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.
I will never doubt His promise,
though I doubt my heart, I doubt my eyes.
My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.*

That song, “My Deliverer,” has this marvelous line – “I will never doubt His promise, though I doubt my heart, I doubt my eyes.”

That is the *voice* of faith! This entire song speaks of our *assurance* in God’s promises, recognizing that God’s *character* is the source of our assurance. The gift of *faith* never doubts His promise. We can doubt our *hearts* because we are imperfect and we can doubt our *eyes* because they only see the physical – and they see that imperfectly. But God’s *character* is *perfect* and His *Word* is *sure*. *He* can be trusted. *Always!*

The gift of faith *knows* this. The gift of faith is *assured* that God will never leave us or forsake us. The gift of faith *testifies to us* of God’s holy and righteous character.

Mountain Moving Faith

And as a result of faith, relying on the faithfulness of God, we can walk boldly into the challenges and trials of life. We can enter the lion’s den. We can endure the desert journeys. We can defeat our Goliath. We can storm the gates of Hell.

The end result of faith is *courage* to surmount the challenges of life, to overcome our trials, and to experience *peace* in those challenges and trials.

Have you ever experienced a moment in time and space when you *knew* God was with you – *while* you were walking through the valley of the shadow of death, *while* you were entering in the lion’s den, *while* you were experiencing a fiery trial – you *knew* God was with you and you were at *peace*? *That* is the gift of faith.

Faith gives us the *courage* to face *anything*, knowing that with God *all* things are possible and that if *He* is for us who can be against us?

Faith *believes!*

1st Corinthians 13:2 though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains

Matthew 17:20 So Jesus said to them, “... if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Help Our Unbelief

Faith is a gift God has given to *each one of us* and it is a gift that can be nurtured. We can *all* grow in faith.

Mark 9:24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

Luke 17:5 And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.”

Let us pray:

“Dear Jesus, our Lord and Savior, our Brother and Friend, the One in whom we place our complete confidence and total trust, we come before You in faith, thanking You for the gift of faith that You have already placed within us. We ask You to increase our faith. Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief. Give us Your vision. Give us the spiritual sight to see You as You make the footprints in the sand of our lives. Help us to walk by faith and to live by faith, being assured of Your love for us and that You will reign victorious in our lives. As You fill us with Your Spirit, let Your courage embolden us and allow us to rest in Your peace. Increase our faith that we may be faith-filled warriors for Your truth and Your love. Amen.”

Quiz on the Spiritual Gift of Faith

1. Faith is a spiritual gift that _____ Christian _____.
2. “Faith is the _____ of things hoped for, the _____ of things not seen.”
(*Hebrews 11:1*)
3. “For without faith it is _____ to please Him.” (*Hebrews 11:6*)
4. “For we walk by _____, not by _____.” (*2nd Corinthians 5:7*)
5. If we “have faith as a mustard seed” we can _____.
(*Matthew 17:20*)
6. “And the apostles said to the Lord, ‘_____ our faith.’” (*Luke 17:5*)
7. Faith is which piece of spiritual armor? (*Ephesians 6:16*)
8. “The _____ shall live by faith.” (*Romans 1:17, Habakkuk 2:4*)
9. Which is the “faith chapter” of the Bible?
10. Who is the “author and finisher of our faith?” (*Hebrews 12:2*)

Answers:

1) every, possesses; 2) substance, evidence; 3) impossible; 4) faith, sight; 5) move mountains; 6) increase; 7) shield; 8) just; 9) Hebrews chapter 11; 10) Jesus Christ.