

## FAITH

"For to one is given by the Spirit...faith" (I Corinthians 12:9)

### FOUR KINDS OF FAITH

- #1. Saving Faith...which comes to us by the proclamation of God's Word "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). This faith itself is a gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9) and not something we manufacture. Yet this faith which gains entrance to the kingdom of God is not that "special faith" in I Corinthians 12:9.
- #2. General Faith...which is an Abraham faith that receives and rests in the promises of God declared in His Word. This faith is a sustaining, quiet trust in the faithfulness of God. As saving faith helps you begin the Christian life, this "Abraham faith" helps you to continue in your walk with the Lord (Colossians 2:6,7). Through this faith our prayers are answered, financial needs are met, healing is received, etc. This faith is for all of us to exercise and grow in, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24). If this general faith for growing and receiving answers to prayer was the supernatural gift of faith (I Corinthians 12:9) then not every-one could pray as Jesus said to in Mark 11:24, because the supernatural gift of faith is distributed to believers "severally as He wills" (I Corinthians 12:11), on specific occasions for specific crisis situations.
- #3. Fruit of Faith...which is a fruit that grows in the life of a Christian to establish them in spiritual character. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith" (Galatians 5:22). In the original Greek language, this word faith is not called faith, but "faithfulness". This is something that grows, a fruit, and is not that special "gift of faith" which is given by the Spirit of God "as He wills".
- #4. The Gift of Faith...this gift is:
  1. A special miraculous mountain moving faith (G. Raymond Carlson)
  2. A miraculous assurance dropped into the heart.
  3. A special quality of faith, coming upon certain of God's servants in times of crisis or opportunity. (Donald Gee)
  4. A divine certainty in the soul that triumphs over everything.
  5. An instantaneous surge of faith, usually in a crisis, to confidently believe without a doubt, that as we act or speak in Jesus' Name it shall come to pass. (Dennis Bennett)
  6. A supernatural endowment by the Spirit whereby that which is uttered or desired by man, or spoken by God, shall eventually come to pass. (Harold Horton)
  7. The supernatural ability to trust God for protection or provision in a crisis situation.
  8. A sudden surge of faith to believe without doubt and triumph over difficult circumstances.
  9. A heightened ability, an exceptional ability or an extraordinary capacity to believe God for the impossible.
  10. The God given ability to sustain unwavering confidence that God will do something regardless of the obstacles.

### REMEMBER...

...While we all have general faith and trust in God, not everyone will have this exceptional or miraculous gift of faith. Why? Because not all are called upon to do the same thing. Remember; this gift is resident in the Holy Spirit, totally supernatural, and manifested through believers "severally as He wills" (I Corinthians 12:11)

(over)

## BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THIS GIFT

- #1. Daniel 6:16-23...Why did the lions not harm Daniel? The Bible says that Daniel "believed in his God" (v.23). God gave Daniel special faith, a special manifestation to receive deliverance. Daniel lays down, goes to sleep and believes God for supernatural protection in perilous circumstances. And where faith ends, miracles begin.
- #2. I Kings 17:2-6...It's beyond human reasoning to think ravens would feed you. Yet Elijah was given supernatural faith to receive sustenance in time of famine. Results? The ravens brought food to Elijah every morning and every night.
- #3. I Kings 18:21-39...A striking example of this special endowment of power is Elijah on Mount Carmel. In the face of overwhelming odds, he is calmly triumphant to the point of mocking his opponents. He even glories in making the thing he is asking of God more impossible by soaking the sacrifice with water (v.33-35). Then, Oh what a prayer of faith that is answered in a supernatural way!!!
- #4. Acts 9:36-42...When Peter was called to Tabitha's bedside, he did not walk into the presence of faith: "All the widows stood beside him weeping... but Peter sent them all out." (v.39,40) The Holy Spirit directed and enabled Peter to call Tabitha's spirit back into her body. This gift of faith lifted Peter's faith far above his own natural plateau. This gift is distributed as the Spirit wills, not man, and it is strictly at His direction alone that the dead are brought back to life. Many other godly servants died in the early church (Stephen - Acts 7:59,60; James - Acts 12:1,2) and they were not raised from the dead.
- #5. Acts 3:1-11,16...A supernatural endowment, the gift of faith was dropped into the heart of Peter when he and John went up to the Temple to pray. After the miracle had been performed, Peter attributes it to faith in the Name (v.16).
- #6. I Samuel 17:36,45,46...It was surely the "gift of faith" which enabled David to meet Goliath head on and not run from the giant. This faith enabled David to move in confidence that "God will" come through in the face of all odds.
- #7. Acts 27:25..."Be of good cheer, for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." What a special gift of faith given to Paul as he stood before his fellow passengers on the ship in the storm. In Acts 14:9,10, Paul gives evidence of this special gift of faith again in operation.

### LORD DO IT AGAIN!

As God gave Nehemiah the heightened capacity to believe over a period of time, so He does today. While Nehemiah faced an impossible situation (crumbling walls, demoralized people and enemies armed and dangerous) he saw his assignment through to completion with unwavering confidence. God gave special faith to enable Nehemiah to finish the task, and God will give the same faith to you to finish what He calls you to do.

### INCREASE OUR FAITH

"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed...nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Matthew 17:20) "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22) "Ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" (James 1:6) "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" (Hebrews 11:6).

PLEASE LORD...help us not to provoke you, grieve you, forget your signs and wonders of the past and limit the Holy One of Israel (Psalm 78:40-43)