

The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

This week we're going to study a very helpful gift—the *gift of faith*!

1) The gift of faith

Compare and contrast these two scriptures...

Romans 12:3

"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."

1Corinthians 12:7-9

*"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit..." ~ 1Corinthians 12:7-9a*

The apostle Paul makes a distinction between the *faith* that God gives to all Christians, and the *gift of faith* that the Holy Spirit gives to some believers. What do you think the difference is?

2) In the following two scriptures pay attention to how the *gift of faith* works when the faith of others is weak; and explain why you think the *gift of faith* was necessary.

Matthew 8:25-27 (Jesus vs. the disciples)

"Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing! But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

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Mark 9:21-24 (Jesus vs. the father of the demonized boy)

"So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

- 3) Other than Jesus who in the Bible do you believe had the *gift of faith*, and why do you believe that?
- 4) What are some situations today where *the gift of faith* would be needed?
- 5) How would you define *the gift of faith*?
- 6) How would you know if you have been given the *gift of faith*?
- 7) Whether you have *the gift of faith* or not how can you grow your faith?