

40 Days *WITH* the HOLY SPIRIT

Small Group Curriculum

Session Four THE POWER GIFTS (A)

The Gift of Faith

In this session we will briefly examine the supernatural Gift of Faith within the category of the Power Gifts, which also consists of the Gift of Healings and the Gift of the Working of Miracles.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit,

What is the Gift of Faith?

Definition: Is a **supernatural impartation** from the Holy Spirit that goes beyond and above the resources and ability of the **believer's everyday faith**.

The Scriptures present the difference between the believers "everyday faith" and the "supernatural gift of faith." (see below in further study) However, all faith comes from God one way or another.

The everyday faith of the believer is a daily **trust** and **confidence in the Lord** and is **outworked through the application of God's Word** in our everyday lives.

Additionally, there is also a **supernatural kind of faith** that goes beyond the believer's everyday trusting faith.

It is an extraordinary deposit of faith into the spirit-filled believer directly from the Holy Spirit!

The gift of faith is a **supernatural expression of faith**, which goes beyond and above the **everyday faith** that functions in the life of the believer.

Sometimes, despite of our best efforts through prayer and really trying to believe, in our heart we still feel inadequate.

We identify with the man who said to Jesus in **Mark 9:24** “*Lord, I do believe: help me overcome my unbelief.*”

This is where the gift of God’s supernatural faith can come to the rescue surpassing our everyday faith’s resources.

The Gift of Faith is often given to meet a crisis or challenge.

Example, that healing or financial provision we are believing for, that feels so *farrrrr* out of reach.

This is where the Holy Spirit can deposit into us His special fuel of faith, giving us the assurance that healing and financial provision is in reach and ours to obtain.

In fact, the irony is that this type of faith injection becomes easier without the struggling where we don’t realise, we are using it.

It’s often only afterwards as we reflect on the provision of the Lord that we appreciate the extent of what has been accomplished.

At times life can throw us into situations where we need to ask the Holy Spirit to give us His gift of divine faith to endure or to overcome.

Obstacles like sickness, unemployment, family breakdown, grief, debt, or an accident. Any of these may come unexpectedly or as a result of our own decisions.

There are times when we need to ask and believe that the Holy Spirit will deposit into us His gift of supernatural faith either to overcome or to breakthrough or to change the circumstances.

DISCUSSION

- Ask questions for clarification or provide comments from the teaching and discuss as a group.
- Share with your group examples of your own experience of the gift of faith.
- As a group, you may wish to discuss some of the points in the ‘Further Study’ section below to generate further discussion.

PRAYER

Please take time before you finish your discussion to pray for any needs that those in your group may have.

FURTHER STUDY

Biblical examples of the Gift of Faith.

1. **Personal Protection:** Daniel had faith that he would survive in the den of lions *Daniel 6:17; 23, Hebrews 11:33.*
2. **Divine Assistance in famine or fasting:** Elijah demonstrates this *1 Kings 19:4-8* and Jesus in *Matthew 4:14.*
3. **To receive the astounding promises of God:** As Abraham did *Romans 4:20.*

4. **Victory over overwhelming odds:** *Exodus 17:11.*
5. **Raising the dead:** *John 11:1-45.*
6. **Casting out evil spirits:** *Mark 16:17.*
7. **Dealing contrary to the laws of nature:** *Matthew 15:29; Mark 4:35*

What is Faith?

The fundamental meaning of the Bible word 'faith' is to 'trust'.

There are three basic aspects to this trust.

1. Conviction Trust (to follow)

A convicting trust is the full acknowledgement of God's saving truth – saving faith!

Luke 19:10 (ncv) The Son of Man (Jesus) came to find lost people and save them.

*John 3:16 (niv) For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that **whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

2 Thessalonians 2:10 reveals those who refuse to accept this truth will perish.

2. Commitment Trust (to believe)

This is more than an intellectual acceptance of the gospel of salvation. It is committing to a 'personal relationship' with the God of Salvation!

Knowing of God intellectually is ok but knowing Him experientially is life giving!

Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. John told people to **believe in Jesus**, who was coming later." *Acts 19:4 (gw)*

To "believe in Jesus" is to have faith **IN** the Person of Jesus and to commit to the Person of Jesus by trusting **IN** Him for one's wellbeing.

3. Confident Trust (to obey)

Such confidence in God and in His promises (*found in the Bible*) affects our behaviour and way of living - our everyday life.

*"Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? **I will show you my faith by my good deeds.**" "*
James 2:18 (nlt)

If we combine these three elements of trust, we have a good definition of **trusting faith**.
To believe in God is to throw the full weight of our trust upon Him.

There is no such thing in the Bible as a faith, which does not involve conviction, commitment and active dependence on God.

1. **We trust in the Person of God:** He is by definition trustworthy. Someone who is not trustworthy is not worth following.
2. **We trust in God's Promises:** His promises reveal His will. We trust in His promises for guidance, provision and ongoing sustaining grace.
3. **We trust in God's Power:** He demonstrated His power through the life and ministry of Jesus and in particular through the resurrection. (*Ephesians 1:17-23*)