

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT POWER GIFT - SPECIAL FAITH

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We've been learning about the third Person of the Most High God, who is Holy Spirit. He is God just as the Father and the Son are God. They are three distinct Personalities, yet One--in unity and purpose. A great part of the Body of Christ has not recognized nor made room for Holy Spirit and so He has become, to them, the forgotten God. But, without Holy Spirit, the Church has lost its power; it's distinguishing mark from every other religion. It's Holy Spirit working through us, as believers, that lets the world know that Jesus is alive. Without Holy Spirit's gifts manifesting in the Earth, there's no proof that Jesus is alive. That's why it is vital that we learn all we can about this God and His gifts that He has given us.

Let's review [1 Corinthians 12](#) and then we will dive into the power gifts.

There are three power gifts:

Special faith

Gifts of healings

Working of miracles

SPECIAL FAITH

It is distinguished from the other forms of faith by the fact that it is a sovereign, supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit working through a believer.

[Mark 11:11-24](#)

On His way to Jerusalem with His disciples, Jesus came to a fig tree by the wayside. Jesus was seeking fruit. When He found that the tree contained no fruit, He pronounced a curse upon it. Next day, passing the same tree, the disciples were astonished to see that within 24 hours, it had withered. Peter pointed it out to Jesus and Jesus told them to 'have faith in God'.

This is the normal English translation, however, a more literal form would be, 'Have the faith of God' or 'Have God's faith!'

The special kind of faith we are speaking of here is faith that is a gift. It has its origin in God, not man--it is an aspect of God's own eternal nature. Through the gift of special faith, the Holy Spirit imparts a portion of God's faith directly and supernaturally to the believer. This is faith on a divine level, as high above mere human faith as Heaven is above Earth. In saying, 'Have God's faith', Jesus challenged His disciples to receive and exercise this kind of faith, just as He, Himself had done.

He went on to tell them that with faith of this kind, they would be able to accomplish much--even to moving mountains! Notice in Mark 11:23 that Jesus speaks of this special faith not merely to the disciples then present, but by using the word, 'whosoever', He extends His promise to ALL believers! Jesus sets no limits to the scope of this kind of faith. The phrases He uses are all-inclusive: Whoever says...what he says...shall be granted him. There is no restriction as to the person who speaks or the words spoken. All that matters is the nature of the faith: it must be God's own faith.

Luke 8:22-25

They were suddenly taken over by an unnaturally violent storm. Jesus rebuked the wind and surging waves. They stopped and became calm. Obviously, the faith Jesus exercised here was not on the human level. Normally, the winds and the waters are not under man's control, BUT AT THE MOMENT OF NEED, Jesus received a special impartation of God's own faith. Then, by a word spoken with that faith, He accomplished what otherwise only God alone could have done--the INSTANTANEOUS calming of the storm

Afterwards, Jesus asked His disciples, 'Where is your faith?' In other words, 'why couldn't you have don that instead of Me?' If they had exercised the right kind of faith, they could have, but instead, in the moment of crisis, the storm aroused FEAR in their hearts, thus EXCLUDING faith. Jesus, on the other hand, opened His heart to the Father and received from Him the supernatural gift of faith needed to deal with the storm

Matthew 17:14-20

Soon after this, Jesus confronted a storm of a different kind. Here is a boy

in full epileptic seizure. Jesus dealt with this storm as He had the one on the Sea of Galilee. He spoke an authoritative word of faith that drove the evil spirit out of the boy. When His disciples asked why they had failed, He told them plainly--'because of the littleness of your faith.' Matthew 17:20
NOTICE THIS!

Matthew 13:32

Jesus here uses a mustard seed as a measure of quantity and He tells us that a mustard seed is smaller than all other seeds. Jesus is reminding us it is not the quantity of faith that matters, but the quality! A mustard seed of this kind of faith is sufficient to move a mountain!

John 11:39-44

Jesus once more demonstrated the power of words spoken with this kind of faith. He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" This brief command, energized by supernatural faith, caused a man who was both dead and buried to come walking out of his tomb, alive and well. This kind of faith is found in the act of creation itself

Psalm 33:6-9

By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath--literally-Spirit-- of His mouth all their host...For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

God's spoken Word, energized by Holy Spirit, was the effective Agent in all creation. When the gift of special faith is in operation, a man becomes, for a time, the channel of God's own faith. The person who speaks is not of primary importance--THE FAITH IS! If it is God's own faith at work, it is equally effective whether the words are spoken directly by God or uttered by the power of Holy Spirit through the mouth of a human believer.

When a believer operates with the divine faith, his words are just as effective as if God Himself had spoken them. In all these examples, supernatural faith was expressed through a spoken word. By a spoken word, Jesus caused a fig tree to wither and die. He calmed a storm. He cast out an evil spirit from a little boy. He called Lazarus out of the tomb

James 5:15-18

Sometimes a word spoken in prayer becomes the channel for the gift of faith. Is there any doubt as to the effect of prayer described here? Its

results are guaranteed. Prayer with this kind of God-given faith is irresistible. Neither sickness nor any other condition contrary to God's will can stand against it.

As an example of the prayer of faith James refers to Elijah. Scripture is clear that the giving and withholding of rain is a divine prerogative, exercised by God Himself ([Deut. 11:13-17](#); [Jeremiah 5:24](#); [14:22](#)). Yet for three and a half years Elijah exercised this prerogative on God's behalf. James emphasizes that Elijah was a man with a nature like ours. A human being just like the rest of us but so long as he prayed with God's faith, the words he uttered were as effective as God's own decrees. Faith of this kind need not operate only through the spoken word

[Matthew 14:22-33](#)

It was this kind of special faith that enabled Jesus to walk on the stormy Sea of Galilee. He did not need to speak. He merely walked out over the water. When Peter followed the example of Jesus and exercised the same kind of faith, he was able to do exactly what Jesus did. That is until he looked away from Jesus and onto the waves. His faith left him and he began to sink. [Matthew 14:31](#). Jesus' reproof is very illuminating, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' Notice that Jesus did not reprove Peter for walking on the water, but for losing faith halfway

There is a divine urge implanted in every human heart to step out in supernatural faith and walk on a plane above the level of our own ability. Since God Himself placed this urge in man, He does not reprove us for it. On the contrary, He is willing to give us the faith that will enable us to do it! He is only disappointed when we do not hold long enough to this kind of faith

[I Corinthians 12:11](#)

When supernatural faith is given in a specific situation to meet a specific need, it remains under God's direct control, for it is God's own faith. He gives it or withholds it at His discretion. Faith is like all other supernatural gifts--'as the Spirit wills.' That key phrase at the end--'just as He wills'--means God Himself determines when and to whom He will impart each of these gifts. The initiative is with God, not with man.

This was true even in the ministry of Jesus Himself. He did not curse every fruitless fig tree, nor still every storm, nor call every dead man out of his

tomb, nor always walk on the water. Jesus was careful to leave the initiative in the hands of the Father

Let's look at [John 5:19](#)

Always, the initiative was with the Father. THE GIFT OF FAITH IS NOT OURS TO COMMAND, NOR IS IT INTENDED TO SATISFY OUR PERSONAL WHIMS OR AMBITIONS. It is made available at God's discretion to accomplish ends that originate in God's own eternal purposes.

Pictured as a mustard seed, the gift of special faith is similar to two of the revelation gifts, the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge. Wisdom is directive. Knowledge is informative. Fortunately for us, God, who has all wisdom and all knowledge, does not burden us with all of it, but in a situation where we need direction, He supernaturally provides a 'word' of wisdom, or when we need information, He provides a 'word' of knowledge. A little mustard seed out of His total store of wisdom and knowledge.

So it is with the gift of faith. God has all faith, but He does not impart it all to us. In given situations, where we need faith on a higher level than our own, God provides a 'mustard seed' out of His own total store.

The gift of faith is associated with the other two power gifts: The gifts of healing and the working of miracles. In practice, the gift of faith often serves as a catalyst to bring the other two gifts into operation.

Let's look at [Acts 8:5-8](#)

In the first phase of ministry, Philip cast out evil spirits. He did so by the spoken word through the exercise of the gift of faith. In the second phase of his ministry the two associated gifts of healings and miracles came into operation. As a result, miracles were performed and the paralyzed and the lame were healed

In summary, we see that the gift of faith is one of the nine gifts given by the Holy Spirit. Each a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit, dwelling in a believer and operating through him/her. In the gift of faith, the Holy Spirit temporarily imparts to us a portion of God's own faith--faith on a divine level, far above the human. Rather than the quantity, the quality matters, wherein a 'mustard seed' of this kind of faith is sufficient to move a mountain.

The gift of faith often operates through a spoken word, sometimes spoken in prayer, by which Jesus caused a fig tree to wither, calmed a storm, drove out evil spirits, and called Lazarus to life. It was this kind of faith that enabled Jesus and Peter to walk on the stormy waves. God has implanted in man an urge to exercise this kind of faith and He does not reprove us for doing so. As Jesus demonstrated, the initiative must always be left with God. May we always be obedient to Jesus' challenge to 'have the faith of God and wisely and effectively utilize this gift of special faith.