

“The Weapons of Our Warfare”

Part Five

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5/1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Intro: This week we begin our study of the power gifts; the gifts that do something. These gifts are The Gift of Faith, The Working of Miracles, and the Gifts of Healings. Of the three, it seems that the gift of faith is the most challenging to get your head around. However, I believe after this lesson you will be able to understand what it is, how it works, and how to appropriate it in your life and ministry. In this lesson we will deal with the concept of faith and differentiate this from the gift of faith, we will discuss how to appropriate this gift into your ministry, and finally, we will give Biblical examples of the gift of faith in operation.

I. Faith

- A. Hebrews 11:6 stated that *“Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him”* (NRSV).
 1. Faith is necessary for salvation, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God- not the result of works, so that no one may boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9, NRSV).
 2. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God, *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Romans 10:17, NKJV).
 - a. If you want more faith, you need to take in more of the Word of God.
 - b. Let the Word activate your faith.
 3. Everyone is given a measure of faith, *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith”* (Romans 12:3, KJV).
 4. Believers have varying degrees of faith.
 - a. There is little faith.
 - 1) Matthew 6:30
 - 2) Persons who trust Jesus Christ for salvation but do not trust Him for daily provisions could fit in the “little faith” category.
 - b. There is great faith.
 - 1) Matthew 15:25-28
 - 2) Matthew 8:10
 - c. There are different levels of faith, but you can increase your faith (2 Thessalonians 1:3).
- B. This gift of Faith.
 1. The gift of faith is different from other types of faith.
 - a. It is a special faith that supernaturally achieves what is impossible through human strength and abilities.
 - b. Again, it is something, like the other gifts, that the Holy Spirit imparts to the believer.
 2. One important characteristic is that in whatever area the Gift of Faith is operating in, it does so independent of you.
 - a. It is the power of faith functioning amazingly on your behalf.
 - b. You do nothing but God does it all for you.

- II. Biblical Examples of the Gift of Faith.
 - A. Elijah
 - 1. 1 Kings 17 Elijah was hidden in the wilderness with nothing to eat.
 - 2. The Lord caused the ravens to bring meat and bread to Elijah.
 - 3. Elijah did nothing to get his meals.
 - a. There was no labor on his part.
 - b. God supernaturally supplied his need.
 - 4. We also see this with the widow in Zarephath.
 - a. The meal barrel and oil did not run out.
 - b. God supernaturally supplied their needs.
 - B. Daniel
 - 1. Daniel 6 Daniel is thrown in the lion's den because he prayed to God.
 - 2. You will notice that Daniel did not hurt the lions
 - 3. He did not ask God for power to tear them in pieces.
 - 4. The lions simply lied down and Daniel slept among them.
 - 5. Daniel did nothing; it was God who performed this amazing miracle.
 - 6. This is the gift of faith in action.
 - C. Paul
 - 1. Acts 27 Paul was in a great storm. The wind still raged, the waves pounded against the ship, the rain still fell in torrents.
 - 2. Paul stood in the darkness of the hour and proclaimed, "I believe God to spare all the occupants of the ship" (Acts 27:22-25).
 - 3. Paul did nothing, however, every person was saved.
- III. How to appropriate this gift
 - A. First, learn to hear the Lord Speaking to you (Matthew 4:4)
 - 1. Rhema Word
 - 2. The Holy Spirit gives you a divine certainty that triumphs over everything.
 - B. The only action on our part is to speak to the situation.
 - 1. The Gift of Faith deals with being "*More than Conquerors*" (Romans 8:37).
 - 2. A conqueror is a person who meets another person of equal strength and knocks him out. A person who is more than a conqueror just stands and says, "Fall," and down goes the other person.
 - 3. A Biblical example of this is when Jesus spoke to the storm- He just spoke, and the sea became calm (Mark 4:35-41).
- IV. Today we need this gift in operation more than ever.