

The Gift Of Faith

Eph 2:8

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
KJV

Faith in God is a gift from God. We believe in the doctrine of the free will of man. We also believe that our choice to believe God is a gift from God.

Matt 16:16-17

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

KJV

Faith in God enables us to receive the promises of God.

Matt 17:20

20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

KJV

God's plans for our lives are fulfilled by faith. God gives us the gift of faith to receive His plans. Abraham is used as example in Hebrews.

Heb 11:8-9

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

KJV

Others mentioned in Hebrews 11 include Noah, Joseph, Moses, Gideon, and David.

The ministers that have had the greatest impact on earth for the kingdom of God were men or women who received the gift of faith for a ministry.

(I would like pictures from Wikipedia of each one of these people if they are available. As I say their name put their picture on the screen with their name.)

The Reformation-John Wycliffe, Martin Luther, and John Calvin

The Methodists-George Whitefield, John and Charles Wesley

The China Inland Mission-Hudson Taylor

George Mueller of Bristol

Charles Finney

The Salvation Army-William Booth

D.L. Moody

Gladys Aylward

Elizabeth Elliot

The Navigators-Dawson Trotman

Campus Crusade For Christ-Bill Bright

The Billy Graham Ministry Association-Billy Graham
The Institute In Basic Life Principles-Bill Gothard
Reaching Souls International-Jimmy Hodges

Those churches that have had great impact on earth for the kingdom of God have been lead by a Pastor who had the gift of faith.

Jonathan Edwards

R.G. Lee

George Truett

Peter Marshall

Men and women with the gift of Faith are always resisted by the devil.

Matt 4:1

4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

KJV

A Christian man or woman who has a gift of faith is a dangerous threat to the devil!

You can live a moral Christian life without ever being a serious threat to the devil.

If the devil cannot overcome the man with the gift of faith, he will attack him thru his children.

If the devil cannot overcome the man with the gift of faith by attacking him thru his children, he will attack him thru his wife.

If the devil cannot overcome the man with the gift of faith by attacking him thru his wife, he will attack the him thru his friends.

There are many wonderful and beneficial things that boards and committees can do for a ministry. Boards can support men who have the gift of faith. Boards can make wise policies. Boards can help men who have the gift of faith anticipate possible problems. Boards can help choose other leaders. Boards can settle disputes over doctrine. Boards can discipline the unruly. Boards can encourage others to support the ministry. Boards can appoint men who have the gift of faith to lead the ministry. But boards and committees cannot receive the gift of faith for the ministry. Boards that attempt to have the gift of faith for the ministry will never succeed. If they believe this should be their role, they will constantly disagree and limit the work of God thru that ministry.

- **Men who have the gift of faith are never satisfied with the status quo.** The gift of faith prevents them from being satisfied. They are always seeing needs that no one else sees and seeking to lead and inspire others to do more for the kingdom of God than they have ever done before.
- **Men who have the gift of faith are never perfect men and they never have perfect families.** They are not super saints. Their may be other men who are more

mature or more like Christ. They are ordinary men with an unusual gift. They should not be put on a pedestal. But their gift should be recognized and a place of leadership should be made for them.

- **Men who have the gift of faith make errors in judgment.** They will make mistakes in the selection of their subordinates. They will attempt to do things without the right leaders. They will attempt to do things the wrong way. They will be presumptuous. They are creative men who are willing to take great risk. Errors in judgment can be minimized by wise counsel but men with the gift of faith will make errors in judgment.

How does the gift of faith apply to you?

Rom 12:3

3 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.

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: KJV

- **God deals to every man a measure of faith.**
You may never receive the gift of faith for a ministry that requires the cooperation of hundreds of people, but God gives every saint a measure of faith.
- **Your measure of faith will determine your deeds.**
You need to seek God for the gift of faith.
- **You need to think soberly when considering your gift of faith.** Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Do not under estimate what God wants to do thru you. God gifts men as He wills not as we will.
- **You must judge who has the gift of faith that you will follow and support.**
You will make important decisions about how you invest your life and your family in ministry based on this judgment.

How do you make this judgment?

What are their essential beliefs?

Does their mission fulfill the great commission?

Do they have integrity?

Has God called me to join with them to fulfill their mission?

