

Introduction:

- Last Wednesday night we looked at the subject of faith in Mark 11:22-24. I introduced four types of faith:
 - Human faith, saving faith, fruit of faith and gift of faith.

I. What is the Gift of Faith? 1 Cor 12:9-10

- A. Gift of Faith - It is God's faith!
 - 1. It is the seventh gift in this list of nine spiritual gifts. (pneumatikos charismata). These gifts are given by Holy Spirit. They are God breathed, or God's breath.
 - 2. It is the first of the power gifts. (healing and miracles)
 - 3. It is distinguished from the other forms of faith in that it is manifestation, shining forth of the Holy Spirit through the believer.
- B. Mt 21 and Mk 11 Jesus curses a fig tree. The next day as they pass by again they note that the fig tree is dead from the roots up. Jesus uses this moment to teach to teach two things: 1. This is the condition of Israel's religious leaders. 2. With this kind of faith you will be able to accomplish many things.
 - 1. *"Then Jesus told them, ‘I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don’t doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen.’"* (Matthew 21:21, NLT)
 - 2. In Mk 11:23 Jesus extends what he is speaking to who ever making this passage reach to us today. To unlock this passage and walk in opens infinite doors of possibility in Christ!
 - 3. Jesus sets no limit to this kind of faith! *Who ever says! What he says...shall be granted!* There is no restriction as to the person who speaks or the words spoken. What matters is the nature of the faith: it must be God's own faith!
- C. Where's your faith? Luke 8:22-25 Jesus calms the Sea of Galilee.
 - 1. The disciples are panicked! Jesus woke up, and He rebukes the wind and waves and they die down and it becomes calm.
 - 2. Jesus receives a special impartation of God's own faith. Remember He is the perfect picture of a man as God created man. Then by a 'word' spoken with that faith (God faith/gift of faith) Jesus accomplishes only what God could have done-instantly calms the storm. Jesus open His heart to the Father and receives the gift of faith.
 - a) *"Where is your faith?" "Why couldn't you have done this instead of me?"*
 - b) Jesus was leading them to receive the God kind of faith...gift of faith.

II. The Quality of the Gift of Faith

- A. Since the gift of faith is God's faith within us, a manifestation of faith Holy Spirit, that is a faith of the highest quality! In Mt 17:14-20. Jesus, with a word of authority commands the demon to the leave the young boy and he is instantly healed.
 - 1. When asked why they could not do it. Jesus said, "You did not have enough faith."
 - 2. But He does say, "if you had faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mountain...and nothing would be impossible. This speaks of quantity.
- B. But if you go back to Mt 13:32, it tells us that a mustard seed is the smallest of seeds and here Jesus is speaking to the quality of faith. Even if it is small, it will move a mountain. "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed mountains will tremble at your approach!" K Khulman. A mustard seed, battling a mountaint!
- C. John 11:43 Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. Again, He demonstrates the power of the spoken word with this kind of faith. "Who ever says..." POW! A man dead four days comes out of the

tomb alive and well. Ie. This is like, “*The Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born.*” (Psalm 33:6, NLT) A brief command energized by supernatural faith!

- D. When the gift of faith is in operation man becomes for a time the pipeline of God’s own faith! The person who speaks is not of primary importance—the faith is! When a person operates with this divine faith, his words are just as effective as if God himself had spoken them.
 - 1. In all our examples, the gift of faith (supernatural faith) was expressed by word. With it Jesus caused a fig tree to wither, calmed a storm, cast out a demon and raised Lazarus from the dead.
 - 2. In Mk 11:23 he extends this promise to *who ever ...what he says...shall be granted.*
 - 3. This is what James 5:15 is about, *the prayer of faith will restore the one who is sick.* No sickness can stand up against this kind of faith!
 - 4. **The gift of faith has its origin in God and not in man. It is an aspect of God’s own nature.** Have the God kind of faith or Have God’s faith.
 - 5. When Jesus tell His disciple to have God’s faith, He is challenging them to receive faith from heavens level! ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN!

III. Gift of Faith and Evangelism

- A. The need for relationship with Father.
 - 1. Jesus did not curse every barren fig tree nor did he call every dead man out of the tombs. “*So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.*” (John 5:19, NLT) The results, most times, were people getting closer to God.
 - 2. We must keep up to date in our relationship with Father so we know what He is up to, what He is doing and what He is speaking.
- B. Philip the evangelist.
 - 1. The gift of faith is often the precursor to gift of healing and working of miracles.
 - 2. “*Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed.*” (Acts 8:5–7, NLT) The result was that many believed on the Lord Jesus and were saved.
 - 3.

Conclusion:

- In the gift of faith, the Holy Spirit temporarily imparts to us a portion of God’s own faith—faith on a divine level!
- It is not the quantity of faith but the quality of faith...God’s faith that we operate in. A mustard seed amount of this and darkness bows.
- Let’s grow in this gift! When God’s faith is imparted to us the storm dies down and peace settles in.