

# Gift of Faith and Gifts of Healings" (Part 5 of 16)

## 1 Cor 12:7-9

### **1 Corinthians 12:7-9**

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:  
8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,  
9 to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit,

### **Just a reminder:**

**1 Corinthians 12:11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, **distributing to each one . . . individually . . . as He wills.**

1. to each one
2. individually
3. as He wills

### **Gift of Faith:**

- **What is Faith?**

**Hebrews 11:1, 6** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the **evidence of things not seen.**

**6** But **without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- **"The special ability that God gives to some members of the Body of Christ to understand with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for the future of His work."** (C.P. Wagner)

**Romans 12:3** For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as **God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.**

**Hebrews 12:2** looking unto **Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Matthew 17:20** So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, **if you have faith as a mustard seed**, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

- **“The manifestation of the gift assures the maintenance of unswerving belief and trust in God in spite of the most adverse circumstances.”**  
(Holdcroft)
  - Paul’s assurance to ride the ship into the ground and none would be lost.  
**Acts 27:25** Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.
- **“The accomplishment of mighty works of divine power.”**
  - **Men and women of faith that acted in faith of God’s providence.**  
**Hebrews 11:33-34** who **through faith** subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.
  - Faith without doubting:  
**Matthew 21:21** So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, **if you have faith and do not doubt**, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done.

### **Unbelief and lack of faith can hinder the work of the Lord:**

Matthew 13:54-58 When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, “Where did this Man get this wisdom and *these* mighty works?

55 Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?

56 And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?”

57 So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.”

58 **Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.**

### **Faith and love – inseparable partners in ministry:**

**1 Corinthians 13:2** . . . and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

### **If you have the gift of faith these would be the earmarks:**

- Goal centered philosophy

- Undaunted by circumstances in achieving goals.
- Often are highly irritated by criticism – they simply can't understand why someone would criticize them since they have such complete assurance that they are doing God's will.
- Impatience with those that don't persevere.
- Often noted by others as being courageous, and a "risk-taker."
- Visionaries, dreamers, or promoters – they see where God wants them to go, even if they have no idea how to get there.

### Where to use the gift of faith in our church:

- Prayer ministry
- Encourager to leadership and vision.
- Cheerleader for those that have lost heart and faith.
- Notes to leaders to stay the course.

### Gifts of Healings

- ***The special ability that God gives to certain members to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to cure illness and restore health apart from the use of natural means.*** (C.P. Wagner)
- Does not give a person a supernatural power over disease.
- No power to empty hospitals in a single bound.
  - You are simply the channel of the Holy Spirit.
- We don't always understand why and why not God heals.
  - Apostle Paul's thorn in the flesh (2 Cor. 12:7-9)
- Physical healing is never permanent – we all will still die.
- Doesn't put Doctors and hospitals out of business.

**Mark 16:17-18** And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; **they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**"

**James 5:14-16** Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 **And the prayer of faith will save the sick,** and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The effective, fervent (heartfelt, steadfast, and continued) prayer of a righteous man avails much.**

## Both Biblical references to this gift are in the plural:

- “Gifts of healings”
- Technically accurate to refer to the gift as: “The gift of the gifts of healings”

### **1 Corinthians 12:9; 28**

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit,

28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then **gifts of healings**, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

- Seems to imply that there are many manifestations of this gift in its exercise.
  1. **Miraculous healings:**
    - Healings that occur instantaneously, at the moment of faithful prayer.
  2. **Process healings:**
    - Healings that occur over a period/process of time but are no less miraculous and Spirit ordained.
- **A recent survey at a meeting of the American Academy of Family Physicians revealed the following:**
  - **Percentage of family doctors who:**
    - **are convinced that religious belief can heal: 99**
    - **believe the prayers of others can help a patient's recovery: 75**
    - **believe faith-healers can make people well: 38**

(Yankelovich Partners, cited in Parade (12/1/96). Leadership, "To Verify.")

## Use that Gift!:

*I was visiting an elderly woman recently. While there she asked me to get a box of letters from her dresser. As I was getting the letters, I saw a beautiful quilt in the drawer. When I asked about the quilt she said I could take it out and look at it. What a masterpiece! She told me her grandmother had made the quilt as a wedding gift years before. When I asked her why she did not have it on her bed, she said, "Oh, it's too beautiful to use." I thought it sad that she felt her gift was better hidden in*

*a drawer--preserved--rather than used. God gave humanity a beautiful gift, the most beautiful gift in the world. Do we consider this gift something that should be tucked away in a drawer, "too beautiful to use"?*

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 237.