

# The Gift of Faith

## 1 Corinthians 12:7-11c

### I. Intro

#### ● Anecdote

#### • Faiths

- Faith - it's a foundational theme that we find throughout the entire Bible.
- And while I realize that this goes without saying - - what you might not realize is that...
- ...there are several different kinds of faith - described in our sacred scriptures.
- This includes the Christians who were commended for having childlike faith - as well as those who had a great amount of faith.
- This includes those who had a victorious faith - after their faith was put to the test.
- And then there were those who had a dead faith - - which was comparable to the faith of a demon.
- And in light of these things - a proper study of faith should take all of these categories into consideration.

#### • Gift

- I should also point out that Christians have been called to grow in our faith...
- ...and the reason why is because - without faith - it's impossible to please the Lord.
- With that being the case - believers have been called to become diligent disciples...

- ...who are adding to our faith - the virtuous qualities of moral excellence.
- Not only that - but we've also been called to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit...
- ...so that we can produce the fruit of the Spirit - which includes the FAITH that helps us to become faithful believers.
- And what's even more is that - there's a Charismatic GIFT of FAITH which is the focus of our study today.

## II. Outline

### ● Points

#### • Faith

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that...
- ...the Holy Spirit is able to provide the people of God - with a charismatic gift of faith.
- And as we study the scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...
  1. ...The Gift of Faith is Ensuring
  2. ...The Gift of Faith is Empowering
  3. ...The Gift of Faith is Encouraging
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
- ...where we find Paul - presenting a list of spiritual gifts.

## III. Ensuring

## ● Set up

- As we make our way to the twelfth chapter of 1st Corinthians - we should take a moment to put our text - back into it's context.
- It was two weeks ago - when we started our study of the spiritual gifts that Paul presented - here in this chapter.
- And according to the list that Paul presented - we began with a focus on the first gift - which is the Word of Wisdom.
- It was during that study when we learned that the word of wisdom is Beneficial - Rational and Supernatural.
- Then - in our study last week - we considered the second gift on this list - which is the Word of Knowledge.
- And it was during that study when we learned that the Word of Knowledge is Biblical - Correctional and Directional.
- Now - here in our time today - we're going to spend our time considering the gift of faith.
- And so - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians chapter 12 - beginning there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

## ● Text

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

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

- Faith

- As we take another look at this list of charismatic gifts - we must not fail to notice that...
- ...the word of wisdom - and the word of knowledge - is followed by the gift of faith.
- That word - FAITH - found there in verse 9 - was translated from the Greek noun - PISTIS.
- Just to be clear - Greek scholar - Spiros Zohdicates presents us with a subjective definition - - AND an objective definition of this word.
- Subjectively - PISTIS refers to a firm persuasion, conviction, belief in the truth, veracity, reality of something.
- Objectively - PISTIS refers to that which is believed - whether it be a doctrine - or the received articles of faith.
- And in a Christian context - PISTIS - refers to the confident conviction that the doctrines of the faith are true.

- Definition

- I like the way that Paul defined this word - it's in Hebrews chapter 11 - it's verse 1 where he declared...

Heb 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

- From this - we can see that the Christian faith is the confident conviction that the promises of God are true - and trustworthy.
- Faith is the assurance that the hope we have in Christ Jesus has been guaranteed by God.
- Faith is the evidence that ensures us of things that we haven't yet seen.

- And it's by faith in the cross of Christ - that sinners receive the free gift of grace - by which we are saved.

- Gift

- This was precisely the point that Paul was making - in Ephesians chapter 2 - it's verses 8 and 9 where he declared...

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Eph 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- Now - when Paul informs us that sinners are saved by FAITH - he was using that same Greek word - PISTIS.
- That being the case - it's important for us to understand that the faith by which we are saved - should NOT be confused...
  - ...with the charismatic GIFT of faith - that the Holy Spirit pours out on some believers.
  - And just to be clear - the FAITH by which sinners are saved - is the way we receive the free GIFT of Grace...
    - ...while the charismatic GIFT of FAITH - can only be received by those who have already been saved by FAITH in Jesus.
- Hearing
  - In order further grasp the difference between saving faith and the gift of faith - let's consider something Paul wrote to the church in Rome.
  - It's in Romans chapter 10 - verse 17 - where we learn that...
 

Rom 10:17 ...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
  - The faith by which we're able to receive the free gift of God's grace - is found in the hearts of those who HEAR the word of God.

- Those who hear the word of truth - which is the gospel message of salvation - are born of the Spirit - as we believe in the Lord Jesus.
- You see - it's the word of God that becomes the spiritual seed that fills our hearts with the faith that enables us to receive God's grace.
- Then - those who are born of the Spirit by faith in Jesus Christ - receive the charismatic gifts of the Spirit.
  - And listen - this includes the gift of faith - that Paul listed here in our text today.

- Hall of Faith

- Now - in order to understand how the gift of faith provides the believers who receive it - with an extra measure of faith...
- ...we should consider the examples of faith that Paul presented - in the letter he sent to his kinsmen.
- Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to Hebrews chapter 11.
- And as we make our way to the 11th chapter of Hebrews - I should take a moment to point out that...
- ...this chapter is often referred to the hall of faith - and the reason why is because...
  - ...we find a list of Old Testament Saints - who accomplished incredible things - by faith in the Lord.
  - And as we consider these examples - we'll see how the gift of faith will create confidence in the hearts of those who receive it.

- Application

- Examples

- With this as our focus - let's consider these examples of faith - found here in Hebrews 11.
- Look with me - beginning there at verse 7 - where Paul declared...
  - Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.
  - Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.
  - Heb 11:9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;
  - Heb 11:10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
  - Heb 11:11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.
  - Heb 11:12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.
  - Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
- Here in these verses - we find Paul - presenting us with a list of Old Testament saints...
  - ...who accomplished incredible things - according to their faith in the Lord.
  - This includes the faith that led Noah to build an Ark - - and this also includes the faith that led Abraham to leave the land of Ur.
  - Paul referred to the faith of Abraham's wife Sarah - as well as the faith of his son - Isaac - - and his grandson Jacob.

- And while it's true that they were all saved by faith - - it's also true that their faith gave them the assurance to obey the Lord.

- Assured

- Let's consider again how Paul explained it there in verse 13 - where he declared...

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

- According to Paul - these Old Testament saints looked forward to the fulfillment of the Lord's prophetic promises with complete confidence.
  - And having seen them afar off - they were assured of them - - which is to say that...
  - ...they were completely confident that the promises of the Lord would eventually come to pass.
    - In other words - it was their faith based assurance that led them to yield in obedience - to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
      - And in this way - we can see how the confidence of their faith also ensured their steps were in line with the will of God.

- Ensure

- In light of their examples - I believe that this helps us to see how - the gift of faith - helps those who receive it...
  - ...to have a greater level of confidence - which will ensure that we have the faith that helps us to yield in obedience to the will of God.
  - And while it's true that every Christian has been saved by faith the size of a mustard seed...

- ...it's also true that there are times when the Lord will call a Christian to serve our Savior in a way that takes a greater measure of faith.
- With that being the case - we can rejoice in knowing that the Holy Spirit is able to provide us with a gift of faith...
- ...which will ensure our hearts - with the confidence that we need - to accomplish our calling in Christ.

#### ● Transition

#### • Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen...

1. ...The Gift of Faith is not only Ensuring...

2. ...but - the Gift of Faith is also Empowering.

- With this as our focus - let's make our way back to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
- ...where we find Paul - presenting the Christians in Corinth - with a list of charismatic gifts.
- Let's back up and begin reading again there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

#### IV. Empowering

#### ● Text

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9a to another faith by the same Spirit...

- Same

- Now - as we continue to consider this charismatic gift - it's important for us to understand that...
- ...Paul was not referring to a faith that would lead a believer - to believe something that is unbiblical.
- Proof of my point is found in the fact that - the gift of faith is given by the SAME Spirit...
- ...Who also distributes the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge.
  - And seeing how the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge are gifts that are always in line with the word of God...
    - ...then - it only stands to reason that the gift of faith - which is given by the same Spirit...
      - ...is also a charismatic gift that will always be inline with the word of God.
- Confidence
  - What this also means is that - the gift of faith is a charismatic gift that empowers the recipient - to obey the leading of the Lord.
  - And just to be clear - this extra measure of faith is NOT a blind belief that causes the recipient to pursue ungodly goals...
    - ...no - instead - the gift of faith will compel the Christian to accomplish their calling...
      - ...with incredible confidence that the Holy Spirit will provide us with the power we need - to move forward in faith.
      - More simply put - there are times when the Holy Spirit will provide an extra measure of faith...

- ...so that Christians might serve our Savior with supernatural confidence.
- Stephen
  - With this as our focus - I wanna consider one example of incredible faith that we find in the primitive church.
  - Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to Acts chapter 7.
  - You see - it's here in the 7th chapter of Acts - where we find Luke - recounting the death of the first Christian martyr.
  - I'm of course referring to Stephen - whom Luke described as a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit.
  - Not only that - but - Luke also described Stephen as a man who was full of faith and power...
  - ...and as a result - he did great wonders and signs among the people.
  - And it's for this reason that the Synagogue of the Freedmen falsely accused him of blasphemy.
- Faith
  - It's here in Acts chapter 7 - where we find Stephen - presenting his defense - before the council.
  - And with this context in mind - let's consider Luke's account - beginning there at verse 51 - it's there where Stephen declared...

Act 7:51 "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

Act 7:52 "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,

Act 7:53 “who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.”

- Here in these verses - we find Stephen - accusing the men who had called for the crucifixion of Christ Jesus - of murdering the Just One.
  - And knowing that Stephen was a man who was full of faith and the Holy Spirit...
  - ...it seems to me that the Holy Spirit actually gave him the faith that he needed...
  - ...to stand before the religious rulers of Israel - and accuse them of murdering our Messiah.
  - And in this way - the Holy Spirit was empowering him to accomplish this difficult mission.
- Full
  - In order to make my case - let's consider Luke's account - beginning there at verse 54 - where we learn that...

Act 7:54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.

Act 7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,

Act 7:56 and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

- Now - I have no doubt that Stephen was able to read the room - - and we can be sure that he was struggling with fear...
- ...as he watched the religious rulers responding to him - with gnashing teeth.
- But rather than walking it back - - and instead of attempting to deescalate the seriousness of the situation...

- ...Stephen was empowered by the Holy Spirit - as he saw a vision of the Lord Jesus in heaven.
- And with incredible conviction - Stephen testified to the truth of Christ's ascension.

- Saul

- In response to his incredible faith - - the religious rulers of Israel stoned Stephen to death.
- Let's consider how Luke described it here in Acts chapter 7 - look with me - beginning there at verse 57 - where we learn that...

Act 7:57 ...they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord;

Act 7:58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Act 7:59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Act 7:60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

- Here in the final verses of this chapter - we learn about the way that Stephen became the first Christian martyr.
- And we must not fail to notice that Saul was there - serving as an overseer the unjust stoning of Stephen.
- That's right - Saul - the same Saul who would become known as Paul after his Christian conversion...
- ...was there to witness the testimony - and the tragic martyrdom of Stephen.
- And I have no doubt that the incredible faith of Stephen - was instrumental in Paul's conversion.
- Examples

- And listen - there is an ever growing list of Christians - who have been empowered by the Holy Spirit - to make the ultimate sacrifice.
- This not only includes the 12 apostles - who's faith did not fail at the time of their martyrdom...
- ...but - this also includes many church fathers - like Polycarp - the bishop of Smyrna in Asia Minor.
- It was during a period of intense persecution - when Roman authorities ordered Polycarp to swear allegiance to Caesar.
  - With incredible confidence in Christ - Polycarp responded by declaring...
    - "For 86 years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?"
    - He was then burned alive for his faith in Jesus Christ.
- Empower
- Time would fail me to present you with a complete list of Christian martyrs - who were full of faith and the Holy Spirit.
- And yet - I have no doubt that the confidence that a Christian needs to make the ultimate sacrifice for our Savior Jesus...
- ...is a gift of faith that the Holy Spirit uses - to empower those who need an extra measure of faith.
- And in order to prove my point - let's consider the way that Paul explained it - in the letter he sent to the church in Rome.
- Continue holding your place there in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to Romans chapter 12...
  - ...because - it's here in the 12th chapter of Romans - where we find Paul - connecting the dots between the measure of our faith...

- ...and the confidence to use the charismatic gifts that the Holy Spirit has given us.

## ● Application

### • Measure

- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in Romans chapter 12 - look with me beginning there at verse 3 - where he declared...

Rom 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.

Rom 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Rom 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

Rom 12:7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

Rom 12:8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that God has given every believer a measure of faith.
- And just to be clear - the context of this measure of faith has to do with this list of spiritual gifts that we find here in this passage.
- What this seems to suggest is that - the Lord has given every Christian a measure of faith - so that we can use our spiritual gifts.
- It's for this reason that he encouraged those with the gift of prophecy - to prophesy in proportion to their faith.
- And listen - the same principle should also be applied to the rest of the gifts as well.

- Empower
  - To sum it up with simplicity - the Holy Spirit is ready to empower us - so that we can use the charismatic gifts that we've received.
  - And this most certainly includes the gift of faith that He provides to those who need an extra measure of faith...
  - ...so that we might all achieve the ministry that Lord is calling us to accomplish.
  - With that being the case - I encourage every Christian to follow in the footsteps of Stephen - who was full of faith - and the Holy Spirit.
  - Rather than allowing our fears - to keep us from accomplishing our calling in Christ...
    - ...let's move forward with confident faith - knowing that the Holy Spirit is here to help us.

## ● Transition

- Points
  - Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen...
    1. ...The Gift of Faith is not only Ensuring...
    2. ...and - the Gift of Faith is not only Empowering...
    3. ...but - the Gift of Faith is also Encouraging.
      - With this as our focus - let's make our way back to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
      - ...where we find Paul - presenting the Christians in Corinth - with a list of charismatic gifts.

- Let's back up and begin reading again - there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

## V. Encouraging

### ● Text

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

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

### • Profit

- As we take another look at these verses - we must not forget that these charismatic gifts are given - for the profit of all.
- That word - profit - found there in verse 7 - speaks of that which brings people together - for the benefit of one another.
- And when it comes to the gift of faith - those who receive this charismatic gift are not only empowered with incredible confidence...
- ...but - they also become a source of encouragement - to those who are wrestling with fear.
- And those who exercise the gift of faith - become an inspiration to their brothers and sisters in Christ...
  - ...as they demonstrate the confidence that comes from this charismatic gift.

### • Confidence

- I like the way that Paul put it - in Philippians chapter 1 - it's beginning at verse 12 - where he declared...

Phl 1:12 I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,

Phl 1:13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

Phl 1:14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

- Paul probably penned this epistle while he was sitting in a Roman prison.
- And as we consider the incredible faith - by which he assured his audience that his chains were in Christ...
  - ...we must not fail to notice how his chains also helped other believers to become more confident in Christ Jesus.
  - And with this as an example - there should be no doubt that those who receive the charismatic gift of faith...
    - ...will end up becoming a source of encouragement - to those who witness the work of the Lord.
- Enduring
- In order to expand upon my point - let's consider the way that Paul suffered for the sake of the first century church.
- It's in 2nd Corinthians chapter 11 - beginning at verse 24 - where Paul declared...

2Co 11:24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

2Co 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

2Co 11:26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

2Co 11:27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—

2Co 11:28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

- Now - as we consider all of the trials - and the troubles that Paul was enduring every single day...
- ...there should be no doubt in our minds - that Paul was a believer - who was walking in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- I also think it's safe to say that - the Holy Spirit was empowering him with the charismatic gift of faith...
- ...which provided him with the steadfast confidence that enables him to endure the pain of persecution.
- And it's for this reason that he was less concerned about himself - and he was more concerned about the Christian church.
- Encouragement
- That's right - Paul was less concerned about the trials and troubles that he was enduring...
- ...and he was more concerned about the spiritual health of the Christian church.
- It's for this reason that he spent so much time encouraging them.
- And listen - this included the encouraging sermons that he presented in person.
- And this also includes the encouraging epistles that he sent them - when he was unable to be with them.
- And in light of his example - there should be no doubt that those who have the gift of faith...

- ...want to encourage others to grow in their faith as well.

- Examples

- For example - in 1st Thessalonians chapter 5 - verse 11 - Paul declared...

1 Thess 5:11 ...encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- Paul encouraged the Christians in Thessalonica - to continue encouraging one another...

- ...so that they might build one another up - according to our Christian faith.

- Paul also encouraged pastor Titus to encourage the young men in his church - so that they might be sober minded - and self-controlled.

- And let's not forget that Paul challenged his believing kinsmen to continue assembling together...

- ...so that they might encourage one another - and so much the more as they saw the Day approaching.

- Growing

- Let's consider how Paul encouraged the Christians in Thessalonica - in the second epistle that he sent them.

- It's in 2nd Thessalonians chapter 1 - beginning at verse 3 - where he declared...

2Th 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,

2Th 1:4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,

2Th 1:5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;

2Th 1:6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you,

2Th 1:7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

2Th 1:8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Th 1:9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

2Th 1:10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

2Th 1:11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,

2Th 1:12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - encouraging the Christians in Thessalonica...
- ...so that they might glorify the Lord - by fulfilling all the good pleasure of God's will...
- ...according to the spiritual power that enables us to accomplish the obedience of faith.
- And from this - we can see how those who receive the gift of faith - will develop a desire to encourage other believers...
- ...so that their faith might grow exceedingly - according to the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Motivate

- That's right - those who receive the gift of faith - are not only filled with the supernatural confidence that helps us accomplish incredible things...
- ...but - those who receive this charismatic gift of faith also develop a spiritual desire...
- ...to encourage other Christians - so that they might also have a faith that grows exceedingly.
- In this way - the gift of faith is a charismatic gift that encourages every believer to fight the good fight of faith...
- ...as we look unto Jesus - Who is the author - and the finisher of our faith.
- And listen - IF you're a Christian who is struggling to walk by faith...
  - ...then - there's certainly nothing wrong with asking the Lord to increase your faith.
- Father
  - With this as our focus - let's consider the father who asked the Lord Jesus to help him overcome his unbelief.
  - Let's turn in our Bibles to Mark chapter 9 - - you see - it's here in the 9th chapter of Mark's gospel account...
  - ...where we find a father - bringing his demon possessed son to Jesus.
  - And according to Mark - there was some sort of commotion - after the disciples had failed to cast the demon out.
  - And as the scribes started disputing with the disciples of Christ...
    - ...they frustrated father asked the Lord Jesus to set his son free from the evil spirit.

## ● Application

- Help

- With this context in mind - let's consider the account that we find here in Mark chapter 9.

- Look with me beginning there at verse 20 - where Mark tells us that...

Mar 9:20 ...they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

Mar 9:21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.

Mar 9:22 "And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

Mar 9:23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Mar 9:24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

- We should take a moment to consider the humble confession of this father.
  - He was a man who believed that the Lord Jesus could set his son free from the evil spirit.
  - And yet - at the same time - he was still struggling with some unbelief.
    - It's for this reason that he declared - Lord, I believe - help my unbelief!
      - In other words - he was a man who was wavering between his faith in the Lord - and his fearful doubts.
- Examine
  - In light of his struggle - I can't help but to wonder how many of us are wavering between our faith - and our fear?

- How many of us here today - after having received the free gift of grace with childlike faith...
- ...are now struggling to serve our Savior - because of the fear that fills our hearts?
- If this sounds like something you struggle with - then - you might make this your daily prayer - Lord, I believe - help my unbelief!
- Not only that - - but - you should also ask the Lord to give you the charismatic gift of faith...
- ...so that you can become a believer who is fighting the good fight of faith - and all for the glory of God.

## VI. Conclusion

### ● Wrap up

#### • Points

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this study on the gift of faith - it's my prayer that...
- ...we will all become believers who benefit from those who receive this incredible gift.
- And the reason why is because...

#### 1. ...The Gift of Faith is Ensuring...

- ...as the Holy Spirit provides those who receive it - with the confidence they need - to accomplish their calling in Christ.

#### 2. ...The Gift of Faith is also Empowering...

- ...as the Holy Spirit provides those who receive it - with the power they need to serve our Savior.

#### 3. ...And finally - the Gift of Faith is Encouraging...

- ...as the Holy Spirit uses those who receive it - to encourage other Christians - who are wavering in their faith.
- And in this way - the Holy Spirit distributes the charismatic gift of faith to some believers - for the benefit of the entire body.