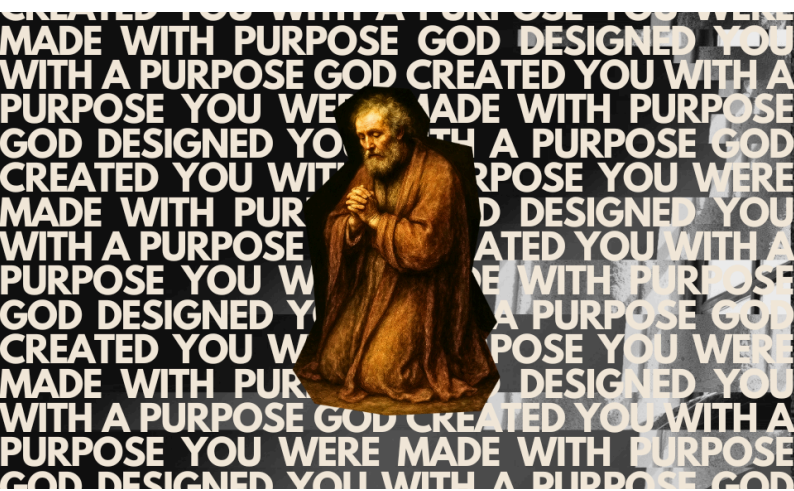




the spiritual gifts

Small Group Guide: **The Spiritual Gifts, Week 7**

Key Takeaways:

1. The gift of faith is a supernatural endowment by the Holy Spirit to believe for something beyond one's normal maturity level.
2. It's distinct from natural faith and is given for a specific time and purpose.
3. The gift of faith is not given at salvation, contrary to what some believe.
4. When given the gift of faith, you know with certainty what the outcome will be.
5. The gift of faith is the rarest of all spiritual gifts.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Pastor Allen's definition of the gift of faith differ from your previous understanding?
2. Reflect on the story of Peter healing the lame man (Acts 3:1-8, 16). How does this demonstrate the gift of faith in action?

3. Pastor Allen's sermon mentions that natural faith develops from hearing God's Word. How has your faith grown through Bible reading and church attendance?
4. Discuss the difference between believing God can do something versus knowing He will do something. How does this relate to the gift of faith?
5. Why do you think the gift of faith is so rare compared to other spiritual gifts?
6. How does the example of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego demonstrate strong faith even without the specific gift of faith for their situation?
7. Have you ever experienced or witnessed what you believe was the gift of faith in action? Share your story.

Practical Application:

1. Commit to daily Bible reading this week to strengthen your natural faith.
2. Practice discernment in distinguishing between your natural faith and potential instances of the gift of faith.
3. Reflect on areas in your life where you need increased faith. Pray for God's strength in those areas.
4. Share with the group next week how focusing on building your natural faith has impacted your spiritual walk.
5. Be open to God's leading if He chooses to give you the gift of faith for a specific situation.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for the gift of faith and ask for wisdom in understanding and recognizing it. Pray for increased natural faith for all group members.

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: The Gift of Supernatural Faith

Reading: Acts 3:1-16

Devotional: Today's passage illustrates the power of supernatural faith. Peter, empowered by the Holy Spirit, performed a miraculous healing that went beyond his natural abilities. This "gift of faith" allowed him to act with unwavering confidence in God's power. As you reflect, consider times when you've felt God calling you to step out in faith beyond your comfort zone. How can you cultivate a heart that's open to receiving this special endowment of faith? Remember, while we can't conjure up supernatural faith on our own, we can prepare our hearts to be receptive to God's empowerment. Pray for opportunities to exercise bold faith, trusting that God can work through you in extraordinary ways.

Day 2: Developing Natural Faith

Reading: Romans 10:17 and Hebrews 11:1-6

Devotional: While supernatural faith is a gift for specific moments, our daily walk with God requires the cultivation of natural faith. Romans 10:17 reminds us that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. This underscores the importance of regularly engaging with Scripture and sound teaching. As you read Hebrews 11, reflect on the "heroes of faith" and how their belief shaped their actions. How can you make Bible study and church attendance a more consistent part of your routine? Consider starting a faith journal, documenting how your understanding of God grows as you immerse yourself in His Word. Remember, small, consistent steps in faith can lead to profound spiritual growth over time.

Day 3: Faith Amidst Uncertainty

Reading: Daniel 3:16-18

Devotional: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego demonstrate a remarkable faith that doesn't depend on guaranteed outcomes. They trusted God's ability to save them but were committed to faithfulness regardless of the result. This challenges us to examine the nature of our own faith. Do we trust God only when we're certain of a positive outcome, or can we stand firm even in uncertainty? Reflect on areas in your life where you're facing unknowns. How can you cultivate a faith that says, "Even if God doesn't deliver me as I hope, I will still trust Him"? Pray for the strength to remain faithful, not because of what God might do, but because of who God is.

Day 4: Salvation by Grace Through Faith

Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Devotional: Today's passage emphasizes that salvation is a gift from God, received through faith. This foundational truth reminds us that our relationship with God is not based on our own merits or works, but on His incredible grace. As you meditate on these verses, consider the profound implications of being "God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works." How does the assurance of salvation by grace impact your daily life and choices? Reflect on ways you might be tempted to earn God's favor rather than resting in His grace. Thank God for the gift of salvation and ask Him to help you live from a place of gratitude rather than obligation.

Day 5: Persistent Faith in Desperate Times

Reading: Mark 5:25-34

Devotional: The woman with the issue of blood demonstrates remarkable faith in desperate circumstances. Despite years of suffering and disappointment, she believed that even touching Jesus' garment could bring healing. Her story encourages us to persist in faith, even when our situations seem hopeless. Reflect on areas in your life where you may have given up hope. How can you rekindle your faith and "press through the crowd" to reach out to Jesus? Remember, sometimes faith requires us to take bold action. Pray for the courage to act on your faith, even when it seems risky or unlikely to succeed. Trust that Jesus is aware of your needs and responsive to genuine faith.