

## **What the Bible says about Faith!**

### **(I Corinthians 12:9a)**

Sunday, February 7, 2016

To be saved, we must have saving faith. After we are saved, we need faith to do God's work. Most Christians do not have the faith they need or want to carry on the Lord's work. We need to develop the art of completely letting God control everything.

#### **I. Three kinds of faith are used in the Bible.**

- A. The first is natural faith.** This is mental recognition and assent, the inborn element of belief. It is the kind of faith mentioned in James 2:19, which notes that even demons believe.
- B. The second is saving faith.** This is committal of the soul to Christ for salvation. Faith that unites a person to God. It is saying yes to God's word as it relates to the soul's salvation.
- C. The third is faith that lays hold of God's promises.** This is the gift of the Spirit. This does not mean that the Spirit does not give saving faith also; rather, it means that to lay hold and act on God's promises is a special gift. All believers have this gift to some degree, but some use it more than others.

Sundays, February 14 & 21, 2016

#### **II. Consider what it means to lay hold of God's promises.**

##### **A. Two biblical illustrations help to explain this concept:**

1. (1 Kings 18:36-39) - "Answer me, O Lord....so these people will know" (v.37 NIV). The strange and daring was done as Elijah laid hold of God's promises in faith. A miracle happened. Many people became believers in Jehovah God as a result.
2. (John 11:41-46) - "Father, I thank you that you have heard me...that they may believe" (vs. 41-43NIV). Jesus is the example of faith here. As a result, one of the most amazing miracles of all time occurred.

**B. Laying hold of God's promises is applicable to all areas of life.**

An individual or a collective group such as the church can claim God's promises. The concept relates to the granting of peace of mind, the performance of a spiritual duty, the provision of economic necessities, and the restoration of physical health.

Sunday, February 28, 2016

**III. Two specific ideas apply to the use of this gift of faith.**

**A. The gift of faith enables believers to better achieve what they could not achieve without it.**

For example, a church can launch a mission project on sheer facts: People need Christ; People are available to start a church; and it is the right thing to do. But faith is exercised in claiming God's promise to supply every need. Then bold action can and will be taken that is not possible without the gift of faith.

**B. The gift of faith enables believers to do things they are unable to do without it.**

The use of this gift makes the impossible – possible. The bible says, "With God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26). Here the human desire must correspond with God's desire. The use of the gift of faith gives hope to a hopeless situation.

Hopelessness is closely associated with helplessness. God helps the helpless. The use of the gift of faith makes an unendurable situation – endurable. Some situations are beyond the human ability to bear but with the gift of faith, these problem situations can be dealt with successfully.

The gift of faith is coupled with prayer. Even though it is God's prerogative to give the gift, when believers desire more faith, as for it, cultivate the use of it, and use it for God's glory, they experience a greater outpouring of it.