



Harvest Warriors NEWSLETTER



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Warring to Harvest

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The Spiritual Gift of Faith

(Third newsletter of teaching on the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit, by Daniel Yoder)

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 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. But one and the same Spirit works all things, distributing to each on individually as He wills.”
1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Verse 7 says, “but the manifestation of the Spirit is given to man to the profit of all.” Verse 8, the gifts of word of wisdom and the word of knowledge were dealt with in the past two newsletters. Today I want to deal with verse 9, “to another **faith** by the same Spirit.”

In Hebrews 11:6 it says that “without faith it is impossible to please God.”

I’ve had a struggle with faith, but to have a *pleasing faith to God* is something I’ve never heard taught. I looked up every verse in the Bible about faith. Faith to walk on water, faith to move a mountain, faith to sacrifice a son, faith for this, faith for that. I was in another one of those nasty conundrums! (i.e. an intricate and difficult problem). After all I did ev-

everything the main line teachers and ministers told me to do, give, give more. Give and claim that my ten dollars would get me 100 in return. I was accused of lack of faith, but what I was doing was trying to build my temple without a solid foundation. Each gift comes as a measure or proportion.



“Having then gifts differing according to the grace [measure] that is given to us . . .” Romans 12:6

When I did a study on Faith (not one you buy at a book store or get from a ministry, my course was out of the word of God), I had to have the kind of faith that *pleases Him!*

The kind of faith that gives glory to God and that shows God as a Father who loves His children. Let us start out as we always do.

What It Is Not

1. It is not simple confidence

Faith is not natural courage or confidence. It is not ambition or natural business ability. These are very important and they keep people going, but they should not be confused with the gift of faith. Even those who deny the Spirit of God may possess courage and confidence. There are many things that a

person can do in the natural to build one's confidence, but the gift of faith is not built up by natural means. It is a manifestation of the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 12:7)

2. It is not saving faith.

It is not saving faith, which every Christian must have in order to truly be a Christian. The gift of faith is a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit given AFTER salvation to help someone who is already a Christian. (The gifts of the Holy Spirit are only given after salvation. Faith for salvation is a free-will choice we have to make.)

3. It is not simply hoping something will happen.

The gift of faith is not simply trying to have faith. It doesn't come from gesturing, screaming, yelling, jumping, or supposing. It is no "guess work" predicting, or positive confession. Simply hoping something will happen may keep a person working towards a goal, but this is not a manifestation of the Spirit of God. A person doesn't necessarily need the Holy Spirit to hope something good will happen.

4. It is not one's theology.

It is not a doctrine, a theory, a dogma, a theological principle, a disciplined prayer life, a conviction, a creed, or any man-made policy. *It is a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit.*

5. It is not a plea for money.

It is not someone up before an audience at a church, or speaking over the radio begging for money and then claim they have a "faith work"! It is not someone who claims the call of God to go but demands a certain amount of money before he will go. That is not the Holy Spirit manifesting a gift of Faith, that is a man who is manifesting the flesh demanding money.

What It Is

1. Definition

The spiritual gift of faith is the supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God that miraculously drops the assurance of the answer to one's prayers into his heart, even *before* he sees it come to pass. It is believing you have it when you pray (Mark 11:24). It is a simple *knowing, dropped into your mind and heart by God*. It is knowing the roots are cursed before you see the tree die. It ceases to be faith the minute you see it come to pass.

2. Old Testament Examples

It was the gift of faith that caused Abraham to know and accept as fact, that God would give him a son, even before he saw the natural evidence. He understood that "... God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did." (Romans 4:17) Through the gift of faith, the Children of Israel marched around the city of Jericho claiming that God had given them the city (past tense) before the walls ever fall. Elijah had the assurance that there would be no rain for three and a half years and told Ahab that there would be no rain nor dew "except at my word." (1 Kings 17:1) By the gift of faith, Elisha had the assurance that the victory would be won in the camp the day before the natural eyes saw it come to pass. No wonder he could tell the man so. (2 Kings 7:1) God had already won the victory for them, and Elisha had the assurance of this in his soul!

3. New Testament Examples

By the gift of faith Jesus rested His head on the pillow and slept *during* the storm. He already had the assurance they were going over to the other side. (Mark 4:35) Ananias had the assurance, even before he went to see Paul, that Paul would receive the Holy Spirit and that his sight would be healed. (Acts 9) Paul knew by faith in a divine revelation that their lives would not be lost in the terrible storm that was sinking the ship he was sailing on as a prisoner to Rome, and he acted accordingly. (Acts 27:33-38) *Faith is an act. Faith without works is dead.* Real faith requires you to walk out on it in obedience. *God always tests true faith by requiring our obedience in the midst of the fire!*

4. Example From Our Own Lives

God worked to build Rebecca's and my faith through the ranch we now live on. Every building and every step taken to build this ranch has been accomplished through a direct miracle from God. But, we had to take a step in pure faith and obedience to God first, then He provided. In the fall of the second year after we bought the land, the Lord spoke to me, Daniel and told me to build our first building – a large machine shed to hold all our equipment. Without telling Rebecca about it, I contracted to have the building built. We left for our speaking engagement in Rhode Island, and it was one of those trips where everything that could go wrong did! Our vehicle broke down two times on our outward-bound trip. After the second breakdown, I told Rebecca, "By the way, God commanded me to build our first building. So I signed the contract just before we left to have it built, and to get the dozer work done for the foundation." When I told Rebecca the amount of money we needed to have on our return she nearly passed out! It was several thousand dollars.

"Daniel!" she exclaimed, "This church we are going to has only 35 people! We'll never get that kind of money! Are you SURE the Lord commanded you to do this?"

My heart nearly stopped! I gulped and said, "Yes, I KNOW God commanded me to do it. Well, it's God who will have to provide us with the money, not the people."

As it turned out, that little church had taken a step in faith and rented a tent that would hold more than 1,000 people and put it up in the parking lot of a grocery store that had gone out of business. It was the end of October, and it was freezing cold and rained constantly. There were no sides on the tent, so we all sat or stood with our feet in a couple of inches of water with the wind whipping through the tent. BUT, the Holy Spirit was there! People filled the tent and several hundred stood outside the tent every night for 6 nights in a row. The city sent fire marshals down to try to shut down the meetings, but each one ended up accepting Christ, and the meetings were never stopped. God did wonderful things in the meetings that week! I don't know that

I have ever been so cold and wet for so long, but it was worth it.

Rebecca and I were afraid to count the love offerings, so we just put them into a brief case uncounted. We had two more small speaking engagements to do after that one. Once again, we did not count the offerings. After we got home, our building was built and we owed a huge bill! In fear and trembling, we finally opened the brief case and started counting. I have never seen so many one dollar bills in my life! We counted and counted, and in the end, we had the exact amount we needed! Once again God provided. I KNOW He multiplied the money in that brief case.

The next year, the Lord spoke to us and told us that He wanted to enlarge our ranch. He told us to go to the top of one of the mountains and walk the property there and claim it for Him. We did so in faith, not knowing who owned the land. A few days later I was in town picking up the mail when I ran into a man who lives near to our valley. We had been acquainted with him for some time. He said to me, "Hey, I hear that you kids bought the place down the road from me." I nodded. "Yes we did."

"Well, I have a nice piece of land that joins with yours on top of the mountain. I think you should have it. It has been in my family since before Arkansas became a state. I wouldn't sell it to anyone else." He named his price, and I said, "Well, we would really like to buy the land, but quite frankly we don't have the money right now."

The man never blinked. "Oh, that's O.K. I tell you what. I will hold it for you for one year. One year from now you bring me the down payment, and I will finance the rest for you myself." Then he pulled a piece of paper out of his pocket and wrote down a number on it. "You come back in a year, and we'll see if the money you have matches what I have written on this piece of paper. If it is, then I will finance the rest of the property for you myself." He refused to tell me what he had written down.

I agreed, but we didn't get the money. We didn't

even know how much money we needed to have! We wondered if we would lose the opportunity to buy the land. One year later, during the month we were supposed to bring him the down payment, we were doing a speaking engagement in San Antonio, Texas. On the last day of the speaking engagement a sister came up to me after the meeting. She handed me an envelope and said, "You're going to think I am crazy, but the Lord told me you are supposed to purchase some land. This is to help you do it." We had not said anything about purchasing land at that speaking engagement! The check that sister gave me was the only money we had to put down on the property. When I took it in to the man, it was the exact same amount as he had written down on the piece of paper! Once again, as we stepped out in faith and obedience to God, He provided.

First God gives you faith for something, then you must act in obedience on that faith, then God will provide or perform whatever He told you He would do. That is how God builds your gift of faith. Each step of the way, as Rebecca and I stepped out in faith to do what God commanded us to do, trusting that He would provide the way, God supernaturally built this ranch AND He supernaturally built our faith.

5. Sometimes God Commands Us to Build Our Faith

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17

"Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?' 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. However this kind [of faith] does not go out except by prayer and fasting.'" Matthew 17:19-21

Please note in these verses in Matthew 17, that the subject of what Jesus is talking about is FAITH, not demons. *The disciples were unable to cast out the demons because of their lack of faith, NOT because of their lack of prayer and fasting.* Jesus instructed

them that it took only a LITTLE faith to accomplish much — only as much as the size of a tiny mustard seed. However, in order to have this kind of mountain moving faith, the disciple would have to spend time and energy building it. They would have to take the time to pray and fast and study God's word. We must do the same thing. This kind of faith, the kind that we build, comes by a pure free-will choice. *We choose to accept as fact, that God always performs His word!*

The problem with faith is that it is unseen, and has no feelings involved. (Hebrews 11:1) Let's take gravity for example. You cannot see it or feel it, but you have faith that it exists. In fact, you live your whole life based on your faith in gravity. That's why you don't try to jump off the top of a ten-story building! *You have chosen to accept as fact, that gravity exists.* Small children have to be protected until they choose to accept the fact of gravity.

"... for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6

In coming to God, *we must first make the free will choice to accept as fact, that God exists.* This is faith that we build, not the gift of faith that is supernaturally given to us by God.

We can most certainly ask God to give us the gift of faith, and we can ask God to increase our faith, but there are also times when we are responsible to build our own faith through prayer, fasting, and hearing God's word.

I, Rebecca, once asked God why faith was such a important thing to Him. To my surprise He answered, "Because your faith involves DAILY free-will choices. Giving human beings the gift of free will was the most expensive gift I could give them.

Through it they chose to sin, and cost Me the terrible suffering of My Son to provide for their salvation."

6. Faith and Money

So much is taught in error about faith and money and

things. People are taught to “claim whatever they want.” They are taught to give so that God will give back to them riches. You may say that you want to get rich to further the kingdom of God, BUT, what are you doing to help the Kingdom now? What steps are you taking to build your faith? What steps are you taking to give, and work, and be righteous, in obedience to God’s current commands?

Unfortunately, too many people simply do not understand how God works. I have seen so many take out their check book, write a check for some amount that they did not have in their account and put it into the offering. They think that if they will just fervently “claim” that God will miraculously put that amount of money into their checking account that He will. This is completely wrong! That is NOT faith! God commands us to give to Him out of what we already have. Of course, their checks always bounce.

Unfortunately, most times people are not taught the principles of money in God’s kingdom.

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s who will give you what is your own?” Luke 16:10-12

People want a graduate degree when they are still in pre-school! We have far too much prophecy in the flesh in the body of Christ! Prophecy in the flesh always side-steps God’s maturing and testing process.

People are told that they will become rich over night, that they can be a success in business without ever having to receive training or work for someone else first – if only they have faith. WRONG! These verses in Luke 16 show how God’s kingdom works. We must FIRST be faithful with little before God will give us more, we must FIRST be righteous with little before God will give us more, and we must FIRST work and be faithful with what belongs to another man before God will give us what is our own! We must FIRST live the life of a giver before God will pour out His blessings. *Faith does NOT sidestep these principles!*

We are first given only a measure of faith, and then there is the maturing and testing process we must work through before God gives us more. God knows us humans through and through. He knows that without these principles, we would fail and only lose what He gives us, or use it in a sinful manner. A good example is studies done on lottery winners. 99% of the lottery winners spend all their money within one year and are then worse off than before.

Love Offerings

(by Rebecca Yoder)

For those of you who are new to our newsletters, recently the Lord spoke to me and told me that His love offerings were so important in our lives that I needed to write about the various types of offerings in our newsletters. This is the second one in the series.

Did you know that God knows that sometimes we need confirmation and help for our faith? He understands that even through we accept that His word is true, that sometimes we need confirmation that He will keep His promises to us. Abraham is held up

for us as a great example of a person with faith. He is the first person listed in that great faith chapter of Hebrews 11. The scripture also says that Abraham’s faith was accounted to him by God as righteousness. However, in spite of his great faith, do you know that there came a time when even Abraham needed some help from God with his faith? So, God made a provision for this need for both Abraham and us. Please look at Genesis 15:

“Then He [God] said to him [Abraham], ‘I am the Lord, who brought you out of the Ur of the

Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it.’ And he said, ‘Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?’” Genesis 15:7

Abraham had faith, lots of it, but at this point in his life, he needed some help from God. Abraham needed confirmation that he would actually inherit all that land. He had been living in simple tents for so long, without even an heir, that the whole thing seemed completely impossible. Abraham needed help with his faith! Instead of getting angry with Abraham, God made a provision, a way, that Abraham could, through a step in obedience, obtain from God the help he needed. Here it is:

“So He said to him, ‘Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtle dove, and a young pigeon.’” Genesis 15:9

God instructed Abraham to bring Him an offering, a love offering. I never understood the significance of this offering until the Lord commanded Daniel and I to build a cattle ranch. This was not a small offering! Firstly, I do not understand HOW Abraham had a three-year-old heifer. In my experience with cattle such a thing simply does not exist! You see, a heifer is a beef that has never had a baby.

We purchased a purebred Beef master bull, and named him Romeo, in hoped that he would live up to his name. I can say that he has. Romeo weighs nearly 3,000 lbs! Believe me, there simply is no fence that can hold Romeo in if he wants to get to a female! All female cattle are pregnant in their second year. They all have calves before or by, their third year. If they don’t there is something wrong with them. I am quite sure Abraham did not have sophisticated metal pipe in cement or electrified fences in those days. How he ever kept his bulls away from his females into their third year I cannot imagine. It obviously would have taken a lot of sweat and hard work!

Next, you never kill the females in your herd because

they are what give you the increase. The average cow, in her lifetime will produce 15 to 20 calves. So Abraham not only lost the heifer, he also lost all her future offspring.

Lastly, a heifer, goat and ram as required by God in this offering really was a sacrifice! Those three alone would have provided more than enough meat for a family of six for one whole year! This was not a small offering.

Unfortunately, when we give an offering to request something from God, we rarely give an actual sacrifice. In the Hebrew, the word **sacrifice** means: “to slay, slaughter, or sacrifice. From this verb comes the noun “*zebach*, “a sacrifice.” Whereas sacrifice in English sometimes suggests merely an inconvenience or the giving of a costly gift, in Hebrew it involves the offering of a life.” (Word Wealth, from *The Spirit Filled Life Bible*.)

We make a request to God, and then throw in the offering whatever is convenient for us, whatever we can comfortably give. That is NOT a sacrifice! Why then should we complain when God does not answer us?

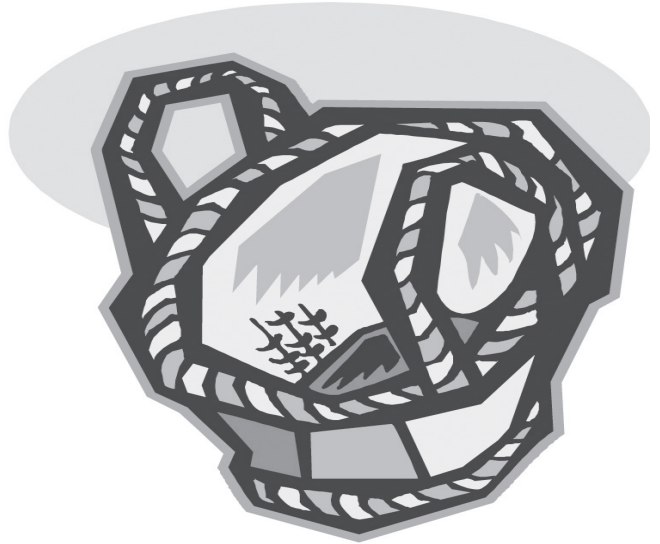
Do you need God to give you more faith? Then I suggest

you seriously pray about and think about bringing a special offering to God with your request. That is the principle He laid out for us in Genesis 15. I suggest you ask the Lord to tell you what would be a pleasing offering to Him – then give it as He directs. You will be surprised at how quickly God will respond by either increasing your faith, or bringing you the confirmation you need in a particular situation. *Do NOT expect God to respond to your request if you don’t bring a true sacrifice to Him.*

Prayer Basket

As we have traveled and ministered, for the past 3 years or so, the Lord has given us a promise. He instructed us to place a basket at the front of the church. People were then to write down their prayer requests over the duration of the meetings and bring them and place them in the basket. Then, at the last meeting, we join together with all the people and lift the prayer requests up to God, anointing them with oil. God promised us that He would personally read every word written in those prayer requests and answer them. He did not promise that the answer would be “yes” to all requests, but that He would answer them. As we have done this, we have received many testimonies from people who have placed their prayer requests into the basket.

Then the Lord commanded us to set up a prayer basket in our office so that people who were not our meetings could send their prayer requests to us. We started this in October of 2004. To our delight, we are receiving nearly every day numerous testimonies from people whose prayers have been answered. We anoint the requests and lift them



up to the Lord on the 10th of each month.

Each day, as I add more and more requests to the basket, I am overwhelmed with thankfulness that I serve an INFINITE God who is both able and willing to read each and every request and answer them. I would be totally overwhelmed if I had to do that! But God is both willing and able. Hallelujah!

If you have a prayer request, you are welcome to write it down and send it to us either via regular mail, or E-mail. I print out all the E-mail requests and place them into the basket. I doesn't matter what language you write them in, God can read all languages. Just be sure to label it “Prayer Basket” in English so that I will know what it is.

We do NOT read your prayer requests. Our job is simply to join our faith with yours as we lift the prayer requests up to the Lord.

Copies

You are always welcome to copy any of our newsletters to give to other people. If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter, if they live inside the U.S., please send their name and address to us. We will be happy to add them to our mailing list.

Love Offerings

We are a faith-supported ministry. That means we are directly dependant on your love and obedience to God to meet our needs and keep the many facets of this ministry going.

We deeply appreciate those of you who do support us. As you send your gifts, we lay our hands on and pray over each one, asking the Lord to richly bless the sender in return. Please send your offering in the enclosed envelope.

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