

THE GIFT OF F A I T H - A SERVING GIFT

TEXT: I Cor. 12:9; 13:2

EXPLANATION

I. WHAT WAS INVOLVED IN THIS GIFT

- A. The gift of faith is the God-given ability to see what God wants done and to exercise unwavering confidence in Him to accomplish it inspite of any obstacles.
- B. Those who possess this gift demonstrate it with desires which are in line with God's desires or will.
- C. This gift motivates those who have it to visualize what God wants done and then encourage others to set out to do it by the Lord's help.
- D. The gift of faith is not to be confused with other areas of faith.
 - 1. Notice to be saved requires the exercise of faith but it's not to be confused with the gift of faith (Eph. 2:8,9).
 - 2. Notice to live the Christian life takes a certain amount of faith but it is not to be confused with the gift of faith (II Cor. 5:7).
 - 3. Notice to please the Lord in certain areas of our lives also requires faith but this is not to be confused with the gift of faith (Heb. 11:6; Gal. 5:22.23; Mal. 3:10).

EXERCISE

II. HOW THIS GIFT WAS EXERCISED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. This gift was demonstrated in the life of the apostle Paul on numerous occasions.
 - 1. Paul could visualize God's desire for others to hear the gospel and be saved (Acts 9:15,16; I Thess. 2:19).
 - 2. Paul could see God's hand even in the worst kind of situations and this strengthened him to persevere in carrying out God's will (Acts 20:24).

- B. Barnabas seems to have demonstrated this gift also in reference to the church at Antioch - he went there with a vision of what God wanted done and seeking others to be used of the Lord to accomplish it (Acts 11:22 - 26).

EXTENT

III. HOW THIS GIFT OPERATES AND APPLIES TO INDIVIDUALS IN OUR DAY

- A. The person who has this gift will demonstrate it in attempting great things for God which are in line with His will. They will be motivated to see a work that God wants done and they will set out to trust God to use them and others to bring it to fruition.

- B. This gift manifests itself today in individuals who are motivated to establish churches, Christian schools, Bible colleges, missionary boards and other works which God wants done. They themselves are visionaries for God and they are not only motivated but they also motivate others to have a part in what God wants done.

ERROR

IV. HOW THIS GIFT MAY BE MISUSED AND MISAPPLIED

- A. Those with this gift may find it hard to have patience with those who find it hard to trust God and with those who fail to visualize what God desires.
- B. Individuals without this gift can become carried away with human ambitions which are not directed by the Lord. What God is in will become evident. Mountains will begin to move!
- C. Those who possess this gift can become discouraged when others don't rally alongside them and give enthusiastic support.