

To endure the cross is not tragedy; it is the suffering, which is the fruit of an exclusive allegiance to Jesus Christ.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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Prayer Study #300

**GIFTS OF POWER (ACT LIKE GOD):
GIFT OF FAITH, WORKING OF MIRACLES,
AND GIFTS OF HEALINGS**

I want to start this study on the Gifts of Power by looking at the Holy Spirit source of this power, that is the *dunamis* of God. We read of this power of God in Matthew 6:13: *And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the kingdom and the power [dunamis] and the glory forever. Amen.* Not only does the Lord want us to walk in this power, but the Holy Spirit through the writings of Paul even admonishes us when we do not walk in the *dunamis* power: “...*having a form of godliness but denying its power [dunamis]... (2nd Timothy 3:5)*

I think that we would do well to look at this entire passage in 2nd Timothy 3:1-5 in a more modern translation, *The New Century Version*, seeing that we are clearly living in the times that this scripture describes: *Remember this! In the last days there will be many troubles because people will love themselves, love money, brag and be proud. They will say evil things against others and will not obey their parents or be thankful or be the kind of people God wants. They will not love others, will refuse to forgive, will gossip, and will not control themselves. They will be cruel, will hate what is good, will turn against their friends, and will do foolish things without thinking. They will be conceited, will love pleasure instead of God, and will act as if they serve God but will not have His power [dunamis]...*

Thus, it is clear that the Lord wants us to walk in power. *Dunamis* is defined as *force, miraculous power, ability, abundance, might, power, strength, violence, a mighty and wonderful work, the resurrection power of God.* In fact, it seems that the Lord limits, in some ways, His ability to work in our behalf according to this *dunamis* power that resides in us: *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power [dunamis] that works in us (Ephesians 3:20).* And we see this power as a gift from the Lord, based on 2nd Timothy 1:7: *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of POWER [dunamis], and of love, and of a sound mind.*

From these scriptures and many others, I think that it very clear that we should ask in prayer for the *dunamis* power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This is something that Jesus walked in, of course: [Jesus begins His

ministry] *Then Jesus returned in power [dunamis] of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region (Luke 4:14). He sent His disciples out with this power: [Sending out the Twelve] Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power [dunamis] and authority over all demons and to cure diseases (Luke 4:36), and we see this dunamis power operating in Stephen, the first Christian martyr: [Stephen accused of blasphemy] And Stephen full of faith and power [dunamis] did great wonders and signs among the people (Acts 6:8).*

I remind you that Paul wrote in 1st Corinthians 4:20: *For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power [dunamis], and in 2nd Corinthians 4:7: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power [dunamis] may be of God and not of us.*

I believe that it is good to pray that the Lord give us the spirit of power in our lives. This power, of course, is behind all of the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit, but it is especially needed in these power gifts of faith, miracles and healing.

I also urge you to earnestly seek these three particular gifts. They are so needed in the Body of Christ today, especially in the American Church where we have been taught to think rationally instead of supernaturally, and these gifts only operate in the supernatural.

THE GIFT OF FAITH

The word *faith* is used only twice in the whole King James' Old Testament: In Deuteronomy 32:20, where the Lord is angry with His people because of their apostasy and sacrifices to demons, He says: *"...I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be; for they are a very perverse generation, children in whom is NO FAITH,* and in Habakkuk 2:4- *Behold, his soul that is lifted up is not upright in him, but the just shall live by his faith.* This latter verse is the central theme of the Bible, i.e. faith in God brings life; pride brings death because it will not accept by faith the grace of God (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38).

Faith is such a powerful concept of the New Testament. Jesus spoke of it often, sometimes because of the consequences of His disciples not having faith, several times mentioning them as ones of *little faith*, and often as praising those who showed great faith.

We know that every saved man has a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). In fact, the main difference between lost men and saved men is, simply put,

faith. We receive Christ only through faith, but that seed of faith grows and growing in faith is a lifelong process and comes by coming to new understanding and revelation of the Word of God (Romans 10:17)

Faith is so important that the Word of God tells us that it is impossible to please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6). Furthermore, Paul writes to the Romans that they are to operate in their gifts according to the proportion of their faith (Romans 12:6). Therefore, we should exercise our faith and ask the Lord to increase it.

Again every believer has faith, but few walk in the Gift of Faith. The Gift of Faith allows the recipient to walk in not only the impossible but also the improbable, neither of which is possible except through God. We would never belittle saving faith, which is so precious to us and allows us to come into relationship with Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit, but we live in a time when we need to see the exercise of, not only saving faith, but also the Gift of Faith so that we have a God-given enablement to believe God for the impossible.

Harold Horton defined the Gift of Faith in this way: *“The Gift of Faith is a supernatural endowment by the Spirit whereby that which is uttered or desired by man or spoken by God, shall eventually come to pass.”* Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, according to Hebrews 11:1. As we walk in faith, we should remember that God is a God who calls things that are not as though they were (Romans 4:17) and also remember the words in Job 22:27-28: *You will make your prayer to Him, He will hear you, and you will pay your vows. You will declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways.* People with the Gift of Faith frequently see the fulfillment of these scriptures.

The Practical Uses of this Gift of Faith

1. **The raising of the dead:** This is happening in many places across the world, except in the Western World countries, at least not with any frequency. You might want to read *Mega Shift* by James Ruiz for specific, documented examples.
2. **Casting our demons:** Discerning of demons does not cast them out. It takes one with a Gift of Faith to command them to be gone.
3. **To continue to stand on the Rhema Words God has given you:** God often gives us promises, but He waits for years to deliver because He is more interested in developing our character than providing for our comfort.

4. **To keep fighting the battle in times of danger and distress:** Those with the Gift of Faith do not quit.
5. **To believe God for the impossible, even when the deck is stacked against you:**

THE WORKING OF MIRACLES

Most of us want to be miracle workers but often for all the wrong reasons, such as popularity, power, men's applause, desire for self-glory instead of His glory. To walk in this gift requires both integrity and humility. When the story becomes about the miracle worker instead of about Jesus and the miracle, something is wrong. We see so many who walk in the Working of Miracles become puffed up with pride and put on a pedestal by men, destroying their anointing and pressuring them to "perform." These ministers then begin to emphasize their own accomplishments instead of giving all the Glory to Jesus and falsely embellishing the number and kinds of miracles. We and those in ministry must remind ourselves often that "*Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall*" (Proverbs 16:18). God will not share His glory with another. Paul wrote to the Galatians in Galatians 6:14: *But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world*, and to the Corinthians: *...no flesh shall glory in His presence* (1st Corinthians 1:29).

Often we mistakenly call *miracles* things that could naturally happen. We might say that it is a miracle that so and so made it out of Iraq alive, for example, or that someone was healed through surgery and treatments of cancer. These are wonderful things, but not miracles. Miracles are supernatural and are impossible in the natural realm. They go against the laws of nature and can come only through God.

Harold Horton defined miracles in this way: "*A miracle, therefore, is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature; a temporary suspension of the accustomed order; an interruption of the system of nature as we know it. The Gift of the Working of Miracles operates by the energy or dynamic force of the Spirit in reversible or suspensions of natural laws. A miracle is a sovereign act of the Spirit of God irrespective of laws or systems. A miracle does not, as some cynical unbelievers say, demand the existence of an undiscovered law to explain it. A miracle has no explanation other than the sovereign power of the Lord. God is not bound by His own*

laws. God acts as He will either within or outside of what we understand to be laws, whether natural or supernatural. To speak of God as though He were circumscribed by the laws of His own making is to reduce Him to the creature plane and impair the very essence of His eternal attributes. When in a sudden and sovereign act God steps outside the circle by which His creatures or creation are boundaried we call it a miracle and so does God in Scriptures."

In my own mind, it is difficult to differentiate between healing and a miracle. There are obviously many areas of miracles that are not related to healing, but are not all supernatural healings miracles? Nonetheless, the Holy Spirit makes the distinction and calls these two different gifts.

Holy Scripture is full of miracles. I will list just a few:

1. The deliverance of the millions of Israelites from Egypt (Exodus 14:16). The number of miracles that took place from Goshen to the crossing of the Jordan by Joshua, and beyond, is staggering.
2. The Bible also has many miracles that brought water and food to hungry people. We remember when Moses smote the Rock in the Exodus, giving water to millions (Exodus 17), and when Jesus fed the multitudes on two different occasions by multiplying the food of one person (Matthew 14:17-21). This latter miracle had a modern day application when Frank Foglio's mother, as told in *Hey God*, had little food but was always able to fill the hungry mouths that came for Sunday dinner.
3. The Gift of Miracles was often used to confirm the Word as it was preached (Exodus 17), and to bring about judgment (Acts 13:11-12).
4. This gift shows forth God's power (John 5:30).
5. Finally, this gift was scriptural used to deliver from circumstances of danger (Matthew 8:23).

GIFTS OF HEALINGS

An unusual thing to notice about the Gifts of Healings is that both nouns are plural. You can verify this by looking at 1st Corinthians 12. The Holy Spirit Studies taught in previous years at High Point Church, a place where healing miracles have taken place, with little fanfare or hype, but with sometimes dramatic results, are excellent on Gifts of Healings:

“...90% of our Lord’s ministry was that of healing the sick. Let’s face it- one sure sign that *‘this same Jesus’* is in the midst of His people will be the healing of the sick. As Dennis Bennett points out, during the 40 days after our Lord’s resurrection and before His ascension we have no record of His healing anyone, but He was teaching and preparing His disciples to carry on the ministry He had begun. Jesus left the Church here, His own body, to stand in His stead and to do the same works that He did: *He that believes in Me, the works that I do he shall do also, and greater works than these shall He do, because I go unto My Father* (John 14:12).

“Spiritual healing or Divine healing is the curing of diseases, injuries, even congenital disease by God’s power without natural or medical means. By the way, we don’t call evangelists *divine saviors*, neither do we call those who pray for the sick *divine healers*. In all spiritual ministry we are ‘laborers together with Him.’ We read in Mark that the disciples *went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, confirming the Word with signs following*” (Mark 16:20). And the Book of Acts (i.e. acts of the Holy Spirit through imperfect men) records some of the things that happened day by day in the young church.

“The gifts of healings are-as all other gifts-supernatural. One with this gift may know nothing of medicine or anatomy. It is true that Luke was the beloved physician, but to think that he carried his medicine chest with him is ridiculous. When Luke and Paul found so many sick on the island of Melita, they were not healed by Luke’s potions but by Paul’s prayers. And to be perfectly honest, though the Bible does not forbid the use of doctors, we are expressly told to pray for the sick, and the sick are specifically told to call the elders for prayer and anointing with oil (a type of the Holy Spirit in consecration). See James 5:14-15. God has not relegated the sick sheep of His flock to the best that men can do. And there would have been no room for “far out” sects who major on healing, if the Church had continued to practice and preach it in Scriptural balance.

“Spiritual healing can take place amongst believers even without the supernatural gifts of healing.

1. Any believer can pray for the sick on the grounds of Mark 16:17-18:
These signs shall follow them that believe...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover....
2. The elders, when called for by the sick, are to anoint with oil. We see the disciples practice this command this many times in scripture, such as in Mark 6:13: *And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them.*

3. Many of the general promises given by Jesus certainly would not prohibit our praying for the sick. E.G., "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my Name..."(John 14:13).

"Just because someone may have a gift of healing, still they are not able to heal indiscriminately everyone. How often a skeptic will say, "If a certain person has a gift of healing, why doesn't he go empty the hospitals?" But as Harold Horton puts it, *"Bethesda's porches were filled with sick folk, all waiting for a heavenly miracle. And the Minister on this occasion was One supremely gifted with power of the Spirit. Yet only one was actually healed-the one who actually got into touch with Jesus' living power..."*

"Faith is needed for the operation of this gift as is needed for all the other gifts. I can be:

1. Proxy faith for another when the person is too sick to believe for himself or too sick to come for help, etc. (Mark 2:5).
2. The combined faith of the sufferer and the elders (James 5:14-15) or the minister (Matthew 9:28-29).
3. The faith of the one ministering to one unconscious, or (God help our faith!), He may call us to raise the dead (Matthew 9:25).
4. The faith of the sick one alone (Luke 8:48)."

Again I so appreciate the balance that these teachings from High Point exhibit, and I can attest to the fact that they have demonstrated, at one point or another, these gifts in action, especially the Gifts of Healing.

ABOVE ALL

Paul Baloche and Lenny LeBlanc

Above all powers, above all kings
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here, before the world began

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure what you're worth

Crucified, laid behind a stone
You lived to die, rejected and alone

Like a rose, trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me
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Thank you Jesus
Hallelujah