

# Gift of Power

## Introduction

The gift of faith, gift of healing and the gift of miracles are categorized under gift of power because these three gifts can cause something to happen. It can also be called dramatic gifts as it attracts everyone's attention.

## Discussion

### 1. The gift of faith

In the New Testament, there are 3 types of faith:

- Faith for salvation (Romans 10:17, Ephesians 2:8-9). Faith comes by hearing the word of God and you are saved through faith.
- Faith as fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). This faith refers to continuous belief, depending on God, faithfulness, can be trusted and committed.
- Faith that will bring about miracles (1Corinthians 12:9). This is divine faith that comes instantly, in a supernatural power given directly by God through the Holy Spirit. This kind of faith is under God's control when we made ourselves ready and prepared so that God express his faith and power through us.

Read Genesis 1:2-3, Hebrews 11:3

What made all things to be created? It's God's words through the Holy Spirit based on God's faith. We can now see how powerful words can be (Ezekiel 12:25). Human are alive because God breathed life to us. When we speak, we breathed out some air. When God's breath is in us, the words we speak out have the same power as God's words. That is the gift of faith; to speak in faith.

Jesus taught His disciples about faith from the fig tree (Mark 11:12-14, 20-22). Faith that can move mountains is when you pray in faith, believe that whatever we ask will come to pass and God will give all those things to us. But, when will we receive it? It's when we pray. Having that things may happen at the later stage, but receiving that things happen the moment we pray for it. In Matthew 17, Jesus also explains that faith as small as the mustard seed is enough to move mountains. It talks about the quality of our faith not the quantity. This faith is God's own faith given to us as the gift of faith.

Examples from the bible:

- In 1Kings 17, Elijah said that there will be no rain and it was true that for 3.5 years there were no rain. 1Kings 18, Elijah prayed for rain and God send the rain. Power and authority are given to Elijah, and the good news is that same power and authority are available for every one of us who has faith in Him.
- It also happened to Joshua when he asked God to make the sun and moon to stand still (Joshua 10:12-14).
- Jesus rebuked the wind and said to the waves to be still (Mark 4:35-41). God able to calm everything as long as we have faith.
- In Luke 7:12-15 ; when Jesus saw the son of a widow was dead, his heart went out to her. That is divine compassion. It shows that God do everything because He has compassion. That also happened to Jairus's son (Luke 8:52-55) and Lazarus (John 11:41-44).

Word of faith that will bring about miracles has power over creation, death and the devil. And it is also a demonstration of authority in all physical and spiritual aspect. It destroys the devil and builds up the good and righteous because of God's own faith.

### 2. The gift of healing

The gift of healing is Holy Spirit power that can bring back a dead person to life (Romans 8:11). Though we do not have the resurrection of our body yet, the power of resurrection is in us through our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And not only is it in us, it can be manifested in our life. We also can see what divine health and divine healing is from the presence of the Holy Spirit who

raises Jesus from the dead. Not only the resurrected life is full of healing, it's also full of health (James 5:14). God wants every one of us to be healthy (3John 2).

From the examples below, we can see that God do not perform healing in the same way

- Mark 5:25-30; Woman who had the flow of blood for 12 years was healed when she touched Jesus' garments
- Luke 4:40; Jesus lay hands on the people to heal them
- Mark 7:32-35; Jesus insert his fingers into a deaf man's ears, spat and touched the man's tongue who had difficulty in talking
- Mark 8:22-23; Jesus spat on the blind man's eyes and put his hand upon him. (But for us, don't spit on a blind man's eyes!)

What I mean is that we have to depend on the Holy Spirit for healing. In the early times of the church, there were also healings. Acts 28:7-9 said that Paul healed Publius' father and those who were sick in Malta. Until now healings still take place. But of course we can't heal anyone without Jesus and the Holy Spirit, but there are times where we can perform healings like Jesus (John 14:12). Jesus commands the 12 disciples (Luke 10:9).

The gift of supernatural healings that can heal many others. This healings will take place when there's healing atmosphere whereby there's healing upon a lot of people or even upon individuals with the power of the Holy Spirit. The gift of healing will make unbelievers to see healings so they too will belief and be healed. It's also a way to bring gospel to many others

### **3. The gift of miracles**

The Hebrew word for miracles is *dunamis* which means power. The gift of healing can also be said as: The work of God, God's ability to show his supernatural power through the work of the Holy Spirit. We can't really reach out to people until we really had the supernatural evidence of God's power that is his miracles. The gift of miracle is also associated with casting out the devils; in Mark 9:38-39 and Acts 8:6,7,13, Jesus define casting out the devils as performing miracles. A lesson we can learn is that when we cast out devils, the miracle healing is also in us.

Manifestation of the gift of miracles:

- John 2:1-8; this is the first miracle Jesus performed by changing the water into wine. Jesus asked the servants to fill 6 water pots with water (that is an act of faith), take the water and serve it to the manager. When they tasted it, the water had turned into wine. That is miracles!
- John 6:4-15; Jesus wanted to feed 5000 people with 5 bread and 2 fishes. What did Jesus do? He gives thanks to God the Father and started to distribute the food. We have to take note that Jesus perform miracles in a systematic and in order way. In Mark 6, Jesus asked the people to sit in groups of 50 and 100 people. Jesus likes people to be neat and obey the authority before He performs the miracles.
- In John 9:1-3, 6-7; Jesus spat on the ground, made clay with his saliva and apply it on the eyes of a blind man. Jesus asked him to go and wash it at the pool of Siloam. When the blind man obeys Jesus, he's doing it in faith and Holy Spirit respond to his obedience and miracle takes place.
- Acts 3:2-8; Peter hold the hand of a lame man and help him to stand. When he began to stand, miracles took place and he was healed.

One thing we have to take note is we should not act passively if we want to receive miracles. We have to do something to t\build up our faith; Faith without action is dead (James 2:20-26). When we began to act, miracles take place. For example when Moses threw a log to the bitter sea of Mara, the water became sweet. Take note that Moses did not put in the log slowly, he threw it! That means Moses is experimenting his faith. Faith is a commitment.

### **Conclusion**

Healings can't be separated from miracles. An instant healing that can be seen is called miracles. Miracles cant be separated from faith.

It's a need in our everyday life that we exercise the gift of faith because through it we can demonstrate to the world the power and presence of God. Let us pray that God give us the church all the gifts of power. All praises and glory only for God.