



The Bible tells us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, but it also tells us there'll never be any peace until Christ is seated on the throne.

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,

1 Corinthians 12:8–9 NKJV

Definition of the gift of faith.

The gift of faith is above and beyond ordinary faith.

The Holy Spirit enables us to believe in something specific; when we lack sufficient faith, we will receive it at a particular time for a specific purpose.

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

Acts 3:1–8 NKJV

Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.

Verse 16

And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

How do we know that?

Peter said, the faith which is by Him

And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Acts 3:16 NKJV

This is a supernatural endowment of faith that God bestowed upon Peter.

And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked.

Acts 14:8–10 NKJV

The second gift: the gift of the word of Knowledge.

How did Paul know that this man had enough faith to be healed?

We observe that there were two gifts at work in this particular story: the gift of faith and the gift of the word of knowledge.

Mark 5:25-29 (NKJV)

25 Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, 26 and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.

27 When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. 28 For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

29 Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.

When the woman touches Jesus, the anointing begins to flow, and then everyone wants to touch Jesus.

28 For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

She knew that if she could only touch the hem of His garment, she would be healed. Now that's strong faith!

In each of these cases, God supernaturally endowed these people with a faith that was above and beyond their natural ability.

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

Mark 9:24 NKJV

Question: What is 'faith that saves'?

Oxford English Dictionary

"a conviction practically operative on the character and will, and thus opposed to the mere intellectual ascent to religious truth sometimes called 'speculative faith'.

Saving faith. Hebrews 11

A nature of faith that saves—what it is and what it does.

Hebrews 11: -1-2

"Now faith is the assurance (substance) of things hoped for, the conviction (evidence) of things not seen, for by it men of old gained approval."

Written to Jews and Hebrews.

You were saved by your religious activities and by moral duties.

Jewish tradition had twisted God's law.

Adam, Abel, Enoch, v7 Noah, v8 Abraham, v11 Sarah, v20 Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses.

Habakkuk 2:4 (NKJV)

"Behold the proud,
His soul is not upright in him;
But the just shall live by his faith."

Now the just shall live by faith;
But if anyone draws back,
My soul has no pleasure in him."
Hebrews 10:38 NKJV

What is faith that saves?

Faith is defined as the assurance of things hoped for, not just a faith like those that are temporary and linked to something happening now.

Genuine saving faith trusts God's promises about the future.

HOPE & ASSURANCE

The word 'assurance' in Greek 'jupostasis' consists of two parts: 'stasis', meaning 'to stand', and 'jupo', meaning 'under'. 'Stand under' refers to a foundation beneath a building.

Faith is the 'title deed' to the future, believing that the promises of God yet, will come to pass.

Believing doesn't make things happen, but saving faith makes things happen.

Faith is believing something God promised will happen, not because we 'will' it to happen. Saving faith is a gift from God; by His grace, we are saved.

When you come to Christ, you place your faith in something you have not yet experienced.

'Saving faith' is always a supernatural conviction based on no experience

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV

Faith is the 'conviction' (substance) of things not seen. Assurance to 'conviction' - a deeper manifestation of conviction.

1 Peter 1:8-9 (NKJV)

"whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls."

Deeper faith is that it is a confidence, an assurance and foundation of things hoped for.

The gift of faith is distinct from natural faith.

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17 NKJV