

Four Faiths

Intro: Faith is vitally important to our salvation, but also to a correct understanding of the Scriptures. There are different ways in which faith is used in the Bible and we need to have an understanding of each.

I. MIRACULOUS FAITH

A. 1 Cor 12:9 ^{“9}To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;”

1. The context is spiritual or miraculous gifts.
2. 1 Cor. 12:1 ^{“1}Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.”
3. Paul lists 9 spiritual or miraculous gifts; 1 Cor. 12:8-10 ^{“8}For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; ⁹ To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; ¹⁰To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues;”

B. How are we to understand this type of faith?

1. Notice how Paul uses it later in this context; 1 Cor. 13:2 ^{“2}And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.”
2. This is confirmed by other times it is used this way:
 - a. Healing of the son with epileptic or seizures:
 - (1) Apostles could not heal him; Mat. 17:14-18 ^{“14}And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a *certain* man, kneeling down to him, and saying, ¹⁵Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. ¹⁶And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. ¹⁷Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. ¹⁸And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.”
 - (2) Apostles ask why they could not heal him; Mat. 17:19-20 ^{“19}Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? ²⁰And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”
 - b. After teaching on forgiveness; Luke 17:5-6 ^{“5}And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. ⁶And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.”
 - c. After Jesus curses the fig tree and it withered away; Mat. 21:21-22 ^{“21}Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this *which is done* to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. ²²And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”

C. This is not a faith we can possess today.

1. The age of miracles has ended.
2. 1 Cor. 13:8-13 ^{“8}Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away. ⁹For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹²For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. ¹³And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.”

3. Eph. 4:7-16 ⁷ But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. ⁸ Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. ⁹ (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: ¹⁴ That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: ¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

II. CONSCIENCE

- A. **Conscience is “to be one’s own witness, one’s own conscience coming forward as witness. It denotes an abiding consciousness whose nature it is to bear inner witness to one’s own conduct in a moral sense”** (Zodhiates).
- B. **Rom. 14:23** ²³ And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because *he eateth* not of faith: for whatsoever *is* not of faith is sin.”
1. Notice the context:
 2. Those weak in faith versus those strong in faith; Rom. 14:1-2 ¹ Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, *but* not to doubtful disputations. ² For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.”
 3. One’s personal estimation; Rom. 14:5 ⁵ One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day *alike*. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.”
 4. One’s personal regard; Rom. 14:6 ⁶ He that regardeth the day, regardeth *it* unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard *it*. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.”
 5. Rom. 14:13-14 ¹³ Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother’s way. ¹⁴ I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that *there is* nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him *it is* unclean.”
 6. Rom. 14:15 ¹⁵ But if thy brother be grieved with *thy* meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.”
 7. Rom. 14:16-17 ¹⁶ Let not then your good be evil spoken of: ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”
 8. Eating with offense (influenced to go against our conscience); Rom. 14:20-21 ²⁰ For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed *are* pure; but *it is* evil for that man who eateth with offence. ²¹ *It is* good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor *any thing* whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.”
 9. Judging oneself; Rom. 14:22 ²² Hast thou faith? have *it* to thyself before God. Happy *is* he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.”

III. THE GOSPEL

- A. **Acts 13:7-8** ⁷ Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.”
- B. **Jude 3** ³ Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

- C. **Eph. 4:4-6** ⁴“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

IV. PERSONAL CONVICTION AND TRUST IN CHRIST

A. How it originates:

1. It does not come by:
 - a. Dreams, visions, etc.
 - b. Not by a direct operation of the Spirit upon the heart.
 - c. Not in answer to prayer.
2. By hearing or reading the Word of God.
 - a. Acts 15:7 ⁷“And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.”
 - b. Acts 17:11-12 ¹¹“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. ¹²Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.”
 - c. Rom. 10:17 ¹⁷“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

B. Because of our hearing God’s Word, we trust what it says to live and obey it.

1. No act is acceptable to God unless motivated by faith; Heb. 11:6 ⁶“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
2. Faith saves and justifies.
 - a. John 3:16, 36 ¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. . . . ³⁶He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth [obeyeth—ASV] not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”
 - b. Acts 16:30-31 ³⁰“And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? ³¹And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”
 - c. Rom. 5:1 ¹“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
3. Illustrated in Heb. 11:
 - a. Noah; Heb. 11:7 ⁷“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”
 - b. Abraham;
 - (1) Heb. 11:8 ⁸“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”
 - (2) Heb. 11:17 ¹⁷“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,”
 - c. Moses;
 - (1) Heb. 11:24-26 ²⁴“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; ²⁵Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; ²⁶Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.”
 - (2) Heb. 11:28 ²⁸“Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.”
 - d. Israelites;
 - (1) Heb. 11:29 ²⁹“By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.”

- (2) Heb. 11:30 ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.”
- e. Numerous; Heb. 11:32-39 ³² And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: ³³ Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: ³⁶ And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; ³⁸ (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:”

Conclusion: Do you have faith that comes from the Faith? You cannot have such without obedience and continued obedience to the Word of God.