



The Gift that Keeps On Giving

Message by Pastor Andrew Kulasingham 8th September 2019

Summary of the previous message in this series

Capernaum versus Nazareth

There is a link between the corporate spiritual atmosphere in a place and the occurrences of the supernatural?

- Capernaum had an environment that encouraged people to believe for their miracles.
- Nazareth created an environment of unbelief that restricted people from seeking after their miracle.
- Capernaum had a spiritual atmosphere that was conducive for “God Faith” to be imparted.
- Nazareth let familiarity breed a contempt for supernatural occurrences.

The difference between faith and belief

“To believe in healing is one thing; but to have faith for healing is altogether something else... We have made faith a condition of mind, when it is a divinely imparted grace of the heart.” – Dr Charles Price

Faith is imparted

Mark 11:22 (Young's Literal Translation)

And Jesus answering saith to them, `Have faith of God.

Mark 11:22 (The Bible in Basic English)

And Jesus, answering, said to them, Have God's faith.

The Greek text has 3 words - “Ἐχετε πίστιν θεοῦ” (echete pistin theou).

They can be translated: have the God kind of faith or **have “God faith.”**

The principle of “God Faith” impartation

The responsibility of the one

Romans 12:3-6

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: ...

Recognise our limitations

Why?

- So that we do not live independent lives but interdependent lives.
“...all the members do not have the same function” (verse 4)
“...individually members of one another” (verse 5)
“Having then gifts differing according to the grace given to us” (verse 6)
- To increase faith by hearing – we can increase our measure of faith

Mark 4:24-25

Then He said to them, “Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

The context is the parable of the sower.

Mark 4:20

But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

- To hear the Word

In the original Greek the word used for hear means more than simply hearing the sound. It includes the meanings: to give audience to, to pay attention, to consider, to attend to, to seek to understand.

- to accept the Word
- to receive it, to accept it, to make it one’s own
- to bear fruit – to bring forth, to allow the Word to carry you to fruitfulness

So every Christian has a responsibility to increase in God faith - by hearing God’s word, nurturing God’s word in their lives and letting God’s word carry them to fruitful obedience.

The responsibility of the many

It is not just the individual Christian who is responsible for the growth of their faith. We, the community of believers are equally responsible to help each other grow in our faith.

- We increase our faith by usage

Romans 12:6-8

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them...

Usage – **in proportion to our faith**

We are not expected to be someone we are not; neither do something we are not equipped to do

When we gather together, each individual operates in their spiritual gifting in proportion to the measure of faith the individual has

We increase our proportion of faith through usage.
use it or lose it

The One/Many Combo

Read Ephesians 4: 7; Ephesians 4:11-16

Ephesians 4:7

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Each of us has been given grace (gifts) based on the abundant resources of Christ.

Grace is not based on our limitations.

We can increase our individual capacity by hearing God's word and by using our gifts to bless others.

Ephesians 4:13 -

...till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

As we grow individually, we also grow as a corporate body.

One cannot grow into the fullness of Christ

We need each other to grow - to a perfect man or woman, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Isolated Christians become stunted in their growth

We must hear it and use it.

Ephesians 4:16 -

...from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

So, in Summary:

1. We are to recognise our spiritual limitations, but endeavour to pursue the increase in our measure of faith.
2. Recognising our limitation takes us to the body of Christ for a top up.
3. We grow in our impartation of “God faith” by using our spirit-imparted gifts in a corporate setting to edify one another.
3. The corporate body sharing God faith among one another grows into the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.