



## Discovering Your Design:

*Preparing Christ's followers to change the world*

# FAITH

**DEFINITION: THE SPIRIT-GIVEN ABILITY TO "SEE" WHAT GOD WANTS DONE AND TO BELIEVE HE WILL ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL, EVEN IF IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE.**

- The gift of faith is not to be confused with saving faith (Ephesians 2:8,9) or the faith that is a fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22), or the virtue mentioned in I Corinthians 13, or the faith which encompasses the doctrine we believe - all these are given to all God's children and are to be developed by them. The gift of faith is only given to some.
- The foundation of this gift builds upon an understanding that our God is a great God who will accomplish all that He desires. "Faith is like a piece of steel to a compelling magnet, it attaches itself to the Sovereign of the universe" (Gangel 80).
- Because it is a gift of God it is not something that we can generate by trying hard or being a "possibility thinker," rather we receive this important gift.
- This gift is often given to those with the gift of leadership or comes alongside of leaders.

**Biblical References:** I Corinthians 12:9; 13:2; see also Matthew 17:14-21 (mustard seed); 21:18-22 (fig tree); James 5:15; Hebrews 11:1 (if it were not mentioned in I Corinthians 12:9 we would not know that faith is a spiritual gift!)

**Contribution:** by keeping a vision of our great God before us the body is edified. It refreshes those who lead, inspires others to follow by strengthening their confidence in God.

**Biblical Examples:** Paul (Acts 27:21-44), Stephen (Acts 6:5; 7:55,56). A negative example is found in Acts 12 - the church was praying for Peter's release from prison but wouldn't believe he was at their front door!

**Characteristics** - People with this gift :

- have a big view of God - "Big Godder"
- have courage to believe God even when others don't
- have a quiet confidence that God is at work and He is going to accomplish His purposes
- have the ability to see beyond the present circumstances to what God is going to do
- believe that all things are possible with God
- are people of prayer, who pray often about these matters

**Cautions:**

- watch out for pride when what you see by faith becomes reality
- be careful not to judge those who find it hard to believe
- make sure what you see is of the Lord and not your own dreams or desires
- be available to God for what you believe He is going to do
- don't presume on God, hold to your gift of faith with complete humility especially if others don't sense God's leading like you do

**Christian Responsibility:** this gift reminds us that we are to live by faith, "for we walk by faith not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7,8)