

# The Gifts of Christmas

## Gift #8: The Gift of Faith

John 3: 1-36

John 3: 15 "Believeth in him"

### Faith, the ability to believe!

Romans 12: 3 *"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."*

Faith – 4102 – pistis – persuasion, being persuaded. The ability to be brought to a specific belief, to be able to believe in something or someone.

**Faith is a household word but is a word of great interest.**

Faith is only mentioned 2 times in the OT.

One positive and one negative...

Negative use is in Deuteronomy 32: 20 *"children in whom is no faith"* – 529

The word Faith is primarily – **A NEW TESTAMENT WORD!**

Negative Old Testament word for faith – 529 – Established stability

Positive use is 530 – Habakkuk 2: 4 *"but the just shall live by Faith."* Said four times in the scripture, Here in Hebrews 10: 38, Galatians 3: 11, Romans 1: 17

530 – Stable beliefs

**Only two times** in the OT **but 246 times in the NT** but only uses three words.

\* Greek word for Faith – 3640 – only 5 times and all having a negative connotation. All 5 stating **"Oh ye of little faith"**

\* Greek word for faith – 1680 – He simply makes a statement in Hebrews 10: 23 **"Hold fast the profession of our faith"**

**But** the Greek word for Faith – 4102 – is mentioned 242 times stating what faith is and giving examples of faith and the faithful; but also giving us the ability to know just how wonderful is this gift of Faith!

As stated in Romans 12: 3, God has dealt to every man the measure of Faith!

But what is this word for faith (4102) used 242 times in the 22 books of the NT?

Faith – Pistis – The ability to be persuaded or the ability to believe! Having confidence in a specific truth!

Here in John 3 he is further introducing this gift/ability to believe. Ch. 1 to all who believe he will give them the ability to become sons of God. Here in chapter 3 he says that “Whosoever believeth should not perish but have everlasting life.” (vs 16b)

### **Let’s discuss this gift!**

- **Faith’s substance** *“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen!”* (Hebrews 11: 1)
- **Faith is what activates the gift of Grace** *“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith.”* (Galatians 3: 24)
- **Faith is the Only Power to Please the Lord!** Without Faith it is impossible to please Him! (Hebrews 11: 6)
- **Faith is the ultimate goal of our church leaders to produce people who are unified in the same faith:** “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 fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4: 13) That we henceforth be no more children! **Therefore, Faith is required for Maturity in Christ!**
- **Faith will quench all the fiery darts of the wicked** *“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”* (Ephesians 6: 16)

We could go on and state what faith does or can do, but the most important thing we must understand is that Faith is a Gift that comes to us by the person of Jesus Christ!

- **However Faith can be weak or Faith can be strong!** What is the key to the strength of our faith?

Faith is strengthened in others by your washing them in the word – Word (Rema) – Ephesians 5: 26

Testimonials! **God testifying to you!**

Romans 10: 17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing the word of God” – Word (Rema) – Testimonials! **Your Testimonials about what God is doing in your life!**

Hence the Power of your story! Another Gift that came to us through Christmas! The ability to have a story and to make more stories we call testimonials. If we want to bring someone along in the faith of Jesus Christ it will come to pass through the testimonials of believers!

**Can anyone give us a testimonial of a time when God stepped in and revealed that He was with you personally?**