

# **Understanding and Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

## **Lesson 11: The Gift of Faith**



With 3 gifts, the Holy Spirit edifies the church individually and collectively.



With 3 gifts, the Holy Spirit gives us the information and guidance we need to do a specific job for the Lord.



With 3 gifts, the Holy Spirit helps us to fully preach the gospel.

The most important reason for the “power from on high” is to be a witness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Acts 1:8**

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.



Our most important work is to preach the gospel.

**Mark 16:15**

And he said unto them,  
Go ye into all the world, and preach  
the gospel to every creature.



But the gospel should be FULLY preached.

**Romans 15:19**

Through mighty signs and wonders,  
by the power of the Spirit of God;  
so that from Jerusalem, and round  
about unto Illyricum, **I have fully  
preached the gospel of Christ.**



The gospel is *fully* preached when it is presented in the power of the Spirit of God with signs and wonders following.

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Signs and wonders confirm the preached word. They show that God is living and powerful, and his word is true.

**Mark 16:20**

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and **confirming the word with signs following.** Amen.



**THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF EVIDENCE:**

There is testimonial evidence.



## THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF EVIDENCE:

There is testimonial evidence.

**John 5:39**

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which **testify** of me.



**THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF EVIDENCE:**

There is physical evidence.



## THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF EVIDENCE:

There is physical evidence.

### **John 20:27**

Then saith he [Jesus] to Thomas,  
Reach hither thy finger, and behold  
my hands; and reach hither thy  
hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and  
be not faithless, but believing.



THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF EVIDENCE:

The gospel is **fully preached** when we present both kinds of evidence.



## THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF EVIDENCE:

Paul came to the Thessalonians with a gospel that was more than words.

### 1 Thessalonians 1:5

For our gospel came not unto you **in word only, but also in power**, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.





That is the purpose of the gifts of faith,  
the working of miracles and gifts of healings –  
they help us to fully preach the gospel.



The Spirit SPEAKS

The Spirit REVEALS

The Spirit MOVES

We will now look at the gift of faith.

By the gift of faith, the Holy Spirit helps you *believe* the revelation you have received from God, no matter how impossible it may seem to your own mind.



So long as we live in these mortal bodies, faith can feel like a key that we know we need but we cannot reach.



The Holy Spirit  
brings faith  
within our grasp.

Faith is not something you have  
to strain to reach.  
It is a gift of God.

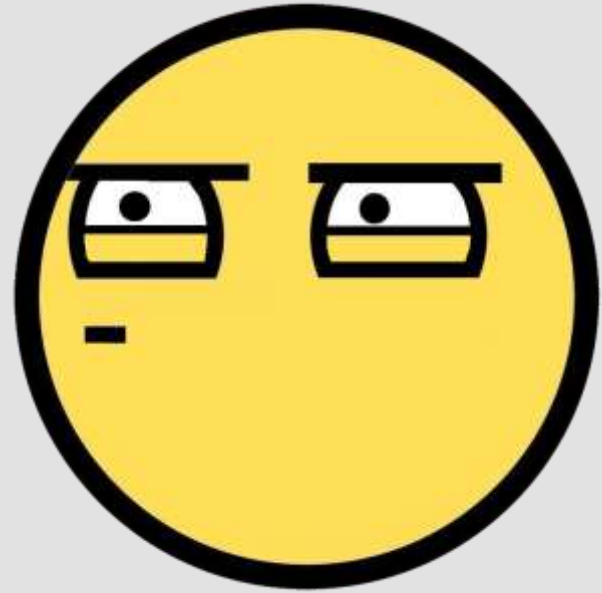


**Ephesians 2:8**

For by grace are ye saved through  
faith; and that not of yourselves:  
*it [faith] is the gift of God:*

### Proverbs 3:5-6

- 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
- 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.



The first time someone showed me these verses, I thought it was the craziest thing I'd ever read in my life. How could I trust in someone I can't even see?

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Today, this is a verse I live by.  
What happened to change my mind?  
Jesus didn't come down from heaven to  
visit me!



One day when I was 19 years old,  
I walked down this exact sidewalk  
thinking about the things a girl had  
been telling me about Jesus.



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With every step, I said to myself  
“It is so stupid. It is so stupid.”





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Suddenly I stopped and said out loud,  
“Oh my God. It is true.”



In less than a second, I was changed from an unbeliever to a believer.

What happened to me?  
The LORD opened my eyes!

I knew that Jesus was the Lord and Savior,  
and I was a sinner in need of salvation.  
Right here on this sidewalk I was born again!



This happened to me in the spring of 1977.  
All these years later, I have never doubted  
what I learned that day.



We cannot believe in what we cannot see.  
But it is the work of the Lord to open blind eyes!



### **Acts 26:18**

To open their eyes, *and* to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.





How did Peter know that Jesus was more than a man?



### **Matthew 16:13-15**

- <sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?
- <sup>14</sup> And they said, Some say *that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.
- <sup>15</sup> He saith unto them,  
**But whom say ye that I am?**



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Some people believe in Jesus and other people do not.  
All that really matters is what YOU believe about Jesus.





### **Matthew 16:16-17**

- <sup>16</sup> And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.



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Peter believed in Jesus because God had REVEALED to him that Jesus was the Messiah!



Peter could believe because his eyes had been opened to a spiritual truth.



Why do YOU believe in Jesus when other people who heard the SAME THING do not believe?

After your eyes were opened, you could see the invisible God. You had eyes to see and ears to hear.

**1 Peter 1:8**

Whom having not seen, ye love;  
in whom, though now ye see *him*  
not, yet believing, ye rejoice with  
joy unspeakable and full of glory:





Elisha gave his servant a lesson on faith that will help us all.



In this story from 2 Kings, Israel was at war with Syria. Every time the Syrians set a trap for the king of Israel, Elisha warned him about it.

How did Elisha know what the Syrians were planning, and what to tell the king of Israel to do? God gave him a word of knowledge and a word of wisdom!



## 2 Kings 6:8-10

- <sup>8</sup> Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place *shall be* my camp.
- <sup>9</sup> And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down.
- <sup>10</sup> And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.





The king of Syria thought one of his men was telling the Israelites his plans!



## 2 Kings 6:11-12

- <sup>11</sup> Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel?
- <sup>12</sup> And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that *is* in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.

The king of Syria sent his armies to Elisha's house to capture him.



## 2 Kings 6:13-14

<sup>13</sup> And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him.

And it was told him, saying, Behold, *he is* in Dothan.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

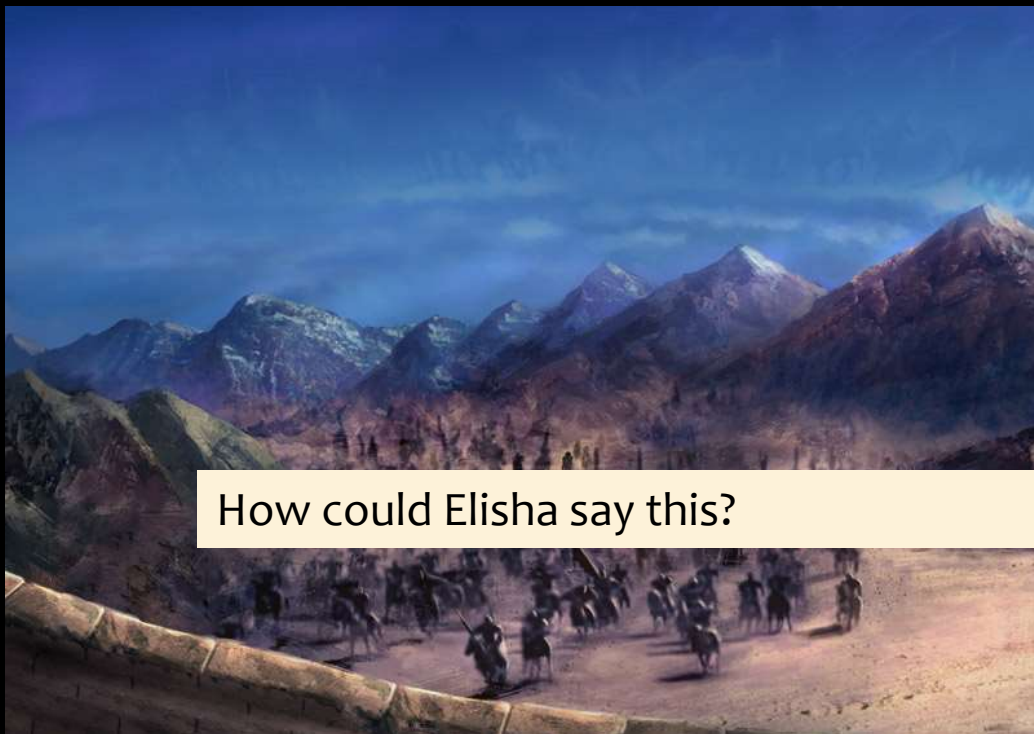


## 2 Kings 6:15-16

<sup>15</sup> And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots.

And his servant said unto him,  
Alas, my master!  
how shall we do?

<sup>16</sup> And he answered,  
Fear not: for they that *be* with  
us *are* more than they that *be*  
with them.



How could Elisha say this?

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## 2 Kings 6:17

And Elisha prayed,  
and said,  
LORD, I pray thee,  
open his eyes,  
that he may see.

And the LORD  
opened the eyes of  
the young man;  
and he saw:  
and, behold,  
the mountain was  
full of horses and  
chariots of fire  
round about Elisha.



Did Elijah's faith cause those angels to suddenly appear? NO! They were ALREADY there. His servant just could not see them.

Faith does not create.  
Faith sees what God has already provided.



You and I do not need more faith.  
We need our eyes opened.

**Psalm 119:18**

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold  
wondrous things out of thy law.





It is never a question of if you have **enough** faith.  
The question is, do you have it or not?

**Luke 17:5-6**

- <sup>5</sup> And the apostles said  
unto the Lord,  
Increase our faith.
- <sup>6</sup> And 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.



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Faith doesn't  
move mountains.

GOD moves  
mountains!

Our faith is in him.  
We believe in HIS  
power.

**Ephesians 1:19**

And what *is* the exceeding  
greatness of **his** power to us-ward  
who believe, according to the  
working of his mighty power,





What gave Noah the faith to build the ark?

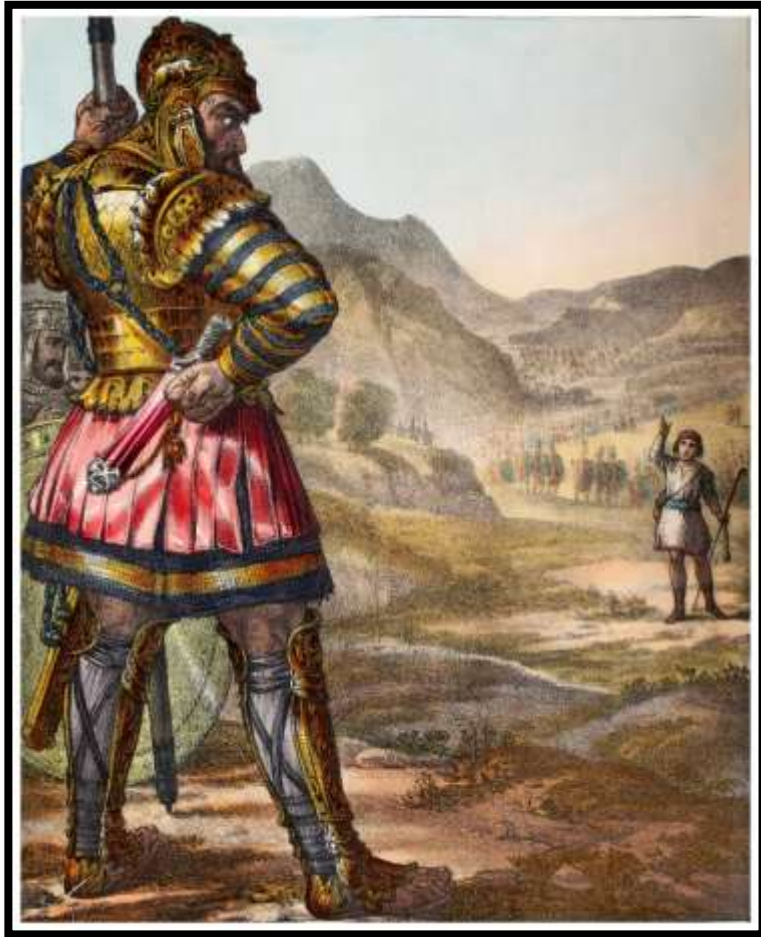
God **opened his eyes** to what was coming!



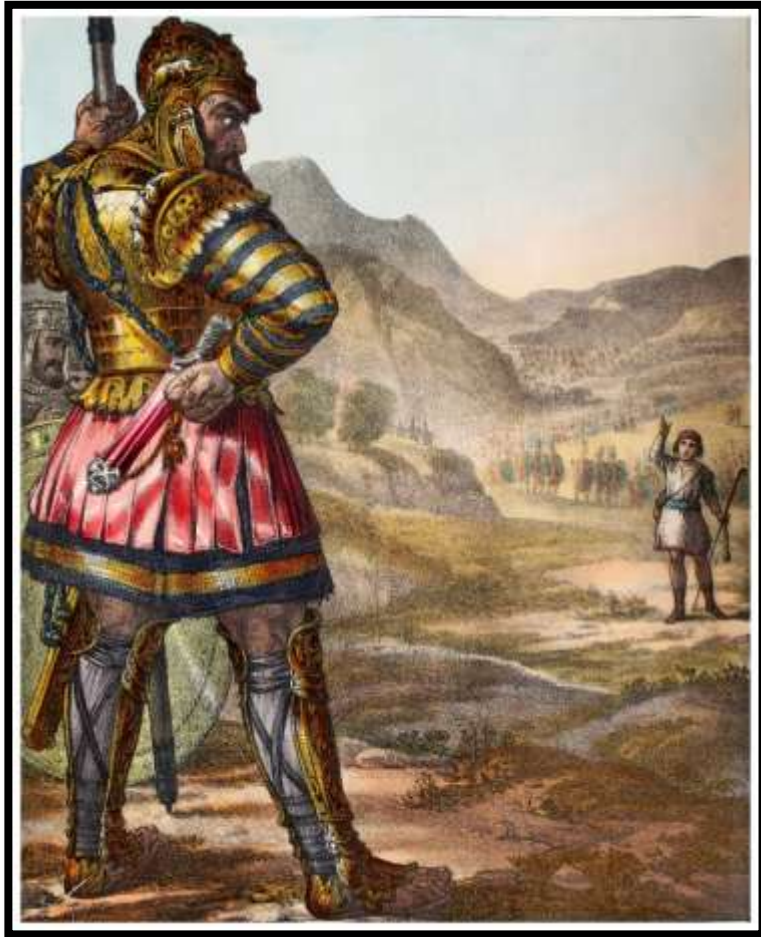
### Hebrews 11:7

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.





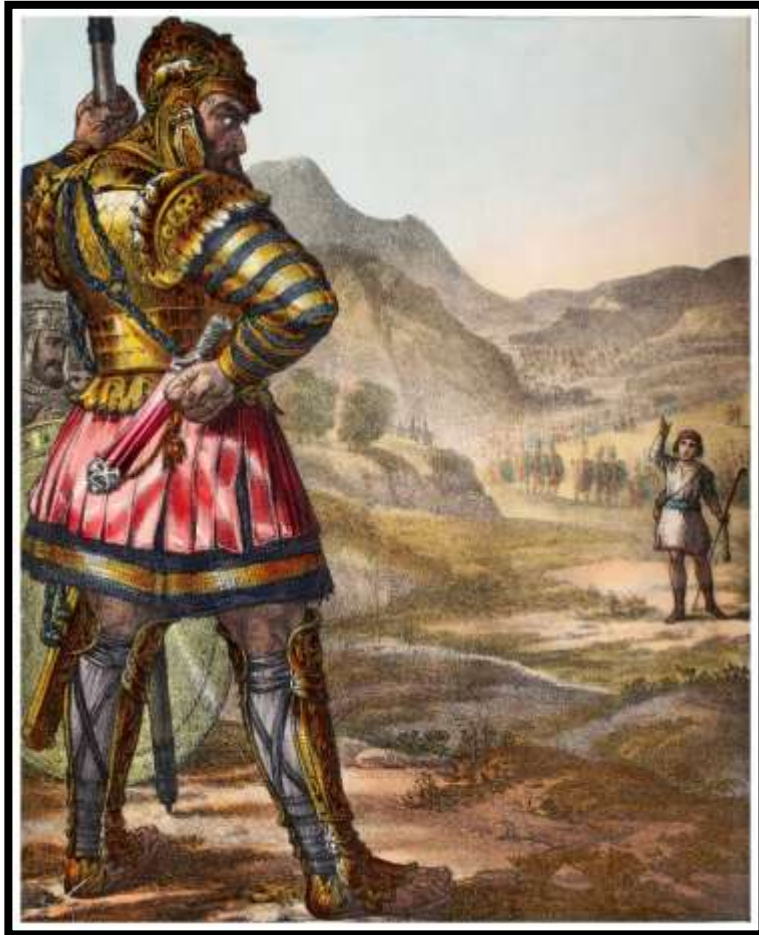
What gave David the courage to face the Philistine giant?



What gave David the courage to face the Philistine giant?

God showed him everything that would happen *before* it happened!





## 1 Samuel 17:45-46

- <sup>45</sup> Then said David to the Philistine,  
Thou comest to me with a sword, and with  
a spear, and with a shield:  
but I come to thee in the name of the  
LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of  
Israel, whom thou hast defied.
- <sup>46</sup> **This day will the LORD deliver thee into  
mine hand;** and I will smite thee, and take  
thine head from thee; and I will give the  
carcases of the host of the Philistines this  
day unto the fowls of the air, and to the  
wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth  
may know that there is a God in Israel.



Where did Elijah find the faith  
to challenge the 450 prophets  
of Baal?

## 1 Kings 18:21-24

- <sup>21</sup> And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word.
- <sup>22</sup> Then said Elijah unto the people, I, *even* I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets *are* four hundred and fifty men.

- <sup>23</sup> Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*:
- <sup>24</sup> And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD:  
and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God.  
And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

## 1 Kings 18:25-29

<sup>25</sup> And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress *it* first; for ye *are* many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire *under*.

<sup>26</sup> And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed *it*, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us.  
But *there was* no voice, nor any that answered.  
And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

<sup>27</sup> And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he *is* a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

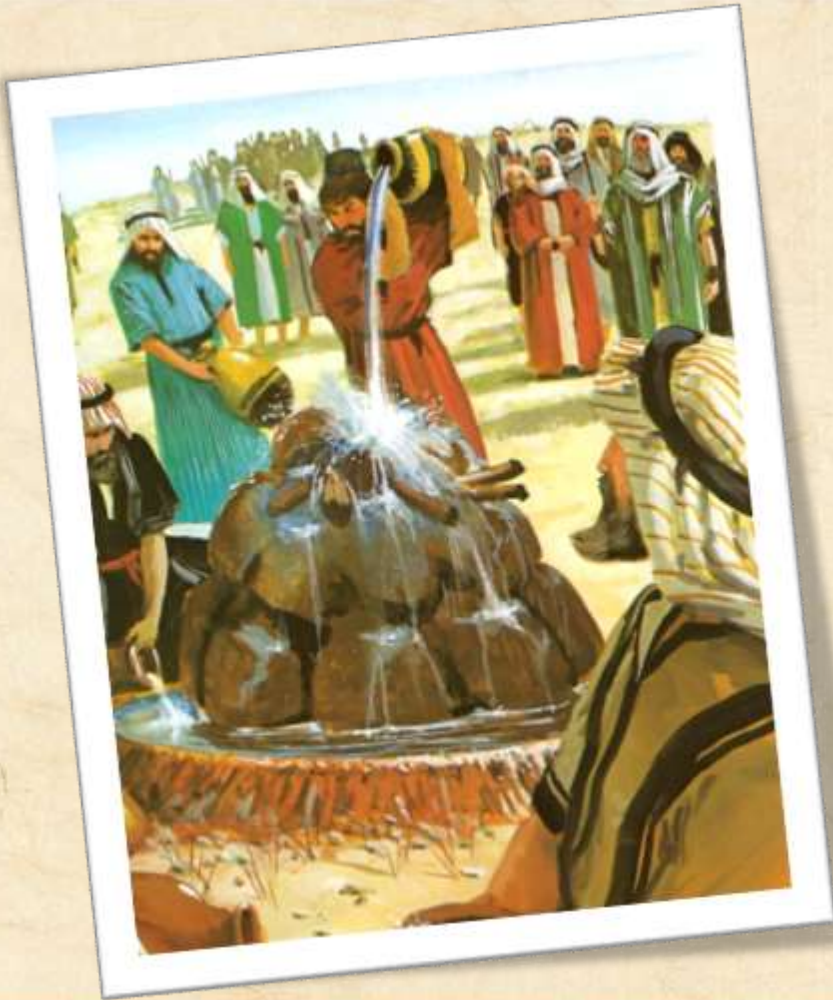
<sup>28</sup> And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

<sup>29</sup> And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the *time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that *there was* neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.



## 1 Kings 18:30-32

- <sup>30</sup> And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD *that was broken down*.
- <sup>31</sup> And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:
- <sup>32</sup> And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.



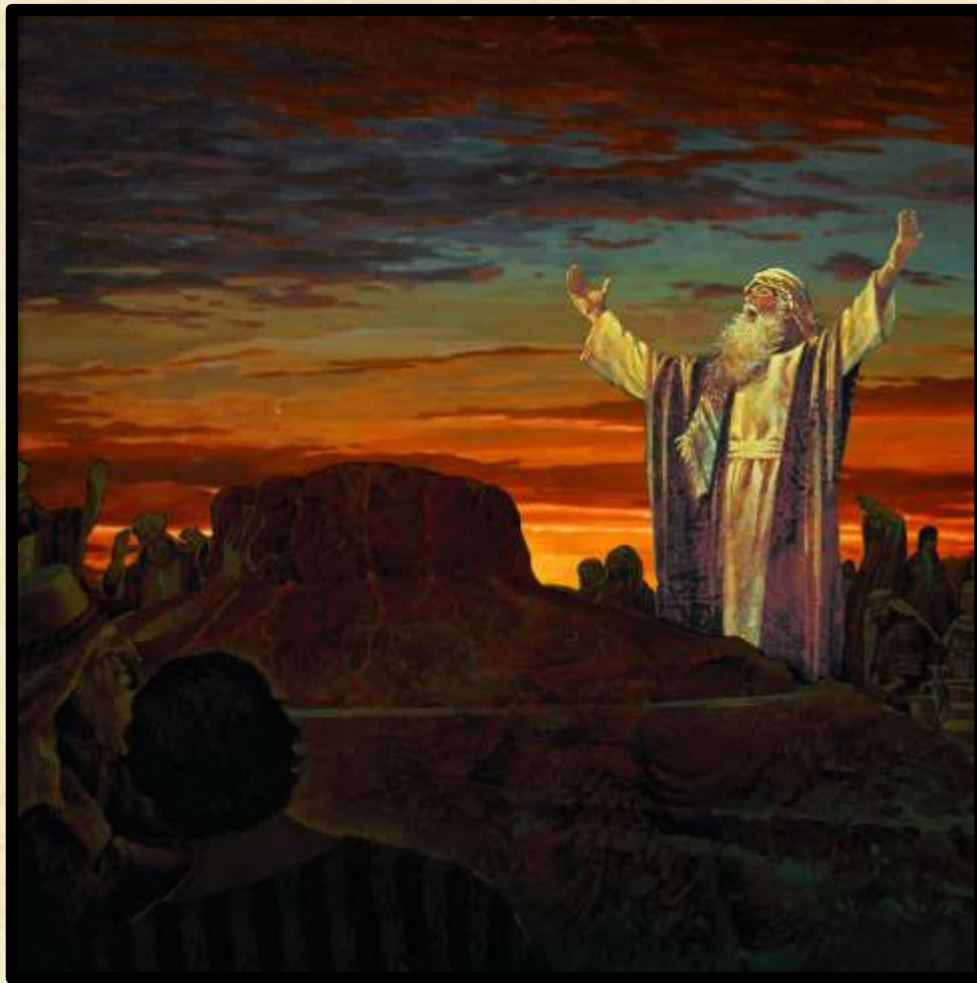
### 1 Kings 18:33-35

33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid *him* on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour *it* on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

34 And he said, Do *it* the second time. And they did *it* the second time.

And he said, Do *it* the third time. And they did *it* the third time.

35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.



## 1 Kings 18:36-37

<sup>36</sup> And it came to pass at *the time of* the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said,

LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou *art* God in Israel, and *that I am* thy servant, **and *that I have done all these things at thy word.***

<sup>37</sup> Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou *art* the LORD God, and *that* thou hast turned their heart back again.



## 1 Kings 18:38-40

- <sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench.
- <sup>39</sup> And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God; the LORD, he *is* the God.
- <sup>40</sup> And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.



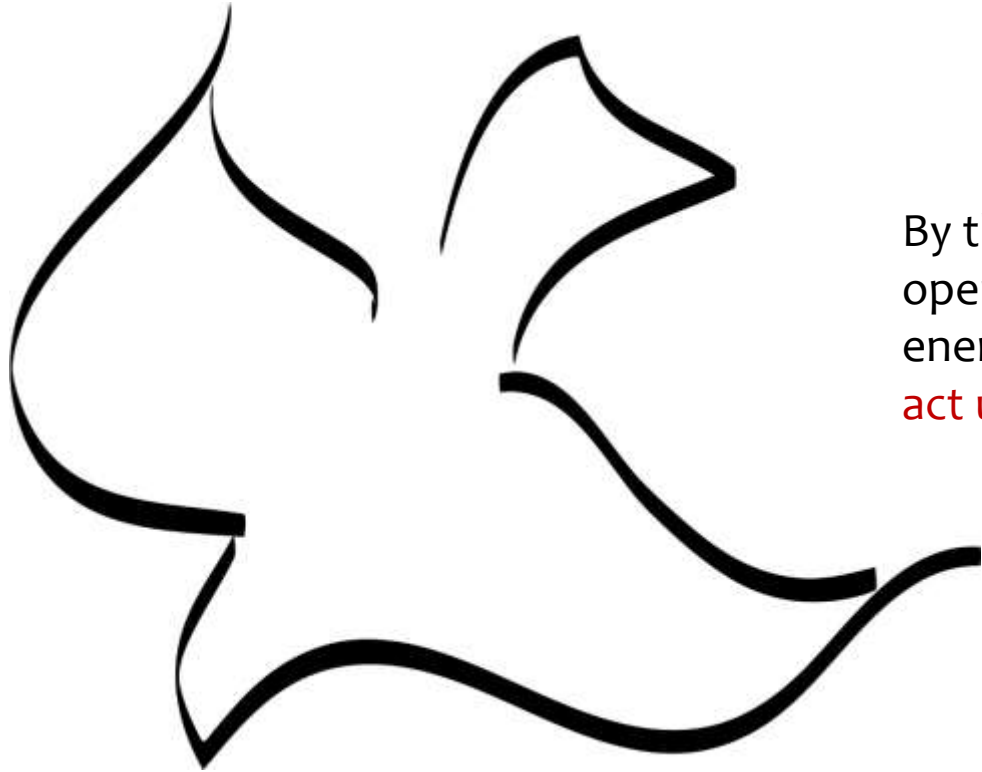


The LORD revealed to Elijah how this contest would end *before* Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal.

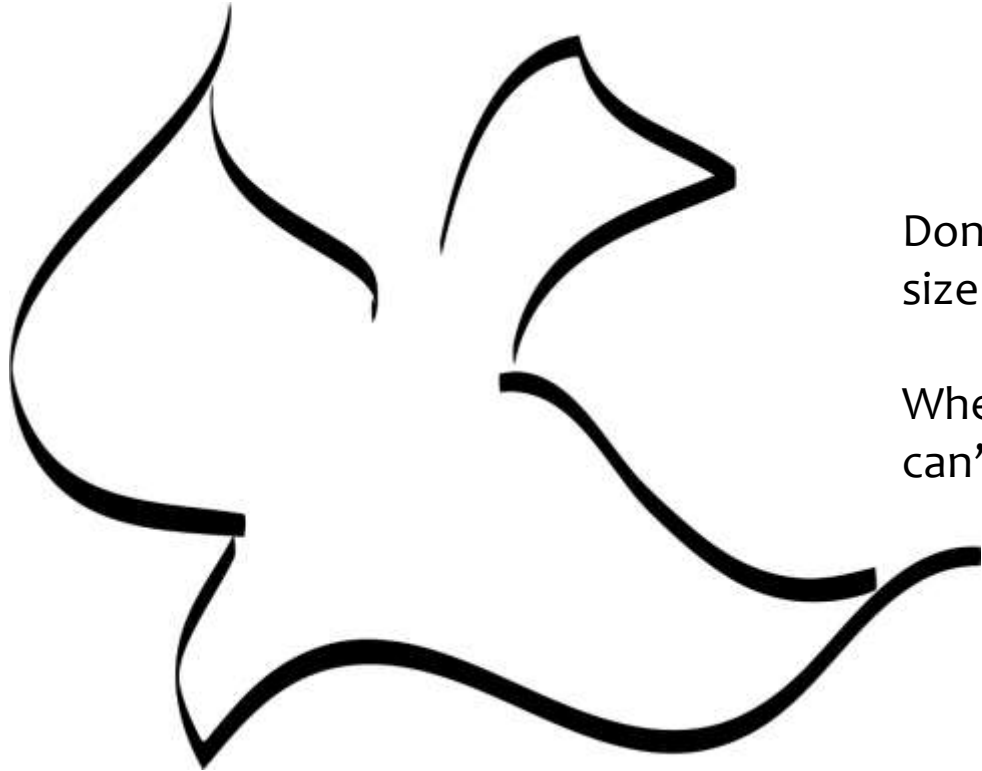
Then God gave Elijah the faith he needed to believe this revelation and carry it out.



LORD God of Abraham, Isaac,  
and of Israel, let it be known this  
day that thou *art* God in Israel,  
and *that* I am thy servant,  
and *that* I have done all these  
things at thy word.



By the gift of faith, the Holy Spirit opens **your eyes to see** and energizes **your heart to believe** and **act upon** a revelation from God.



Don't ask God for more faith. Faith the size of a mustard seed is all you need.

When you are in a situation when you can't see God, ask him to open your eyes!

In our next lesson, we will study the gift of the Spirit called the working of miracles.

## Questions to help you understand the lesson:

1. What is the main reason for the power from on high?
2. What did Paul mean when he said he “fully preached the gospel”?
3. Did the angels arrive at the moment Elisha’s servant believed, or were they already there? What does this teach us about faith?
4. How much faith does a Christian need?
5. How did David know he would defeat Goliath, and how did Elijah know he would defeat the prophets of Baal?

Each question is worth 20 points.



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