

session 3 study guide

adventurous faith

the gift of faith and
the gift of apostle and missionary

dig

In this study, we will look at two spiritual gifts: the gift of faith and the gift of apostle and missionary.

the gift of faith

“To one is given through the Spirit . . . faith by the same Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:8-9, *RSV*).

1. Define the word “faith” in your own words.

2. How does Hebrews 11:1 define faith?

All Christians are believers by faith. However, those with the gift of faith have the ability to trust God even in the most extraordinary of circumstances with a deeper level of faith than most of us exhibit. From biblical days to the present day, we can find examples of those who have demonstrated an unusual ability to depend on God.

3. Hebrews 11 is sometimes called the “Faith Hall of Fame.” This chapter reads like a “Who’s Who” list of the faithful. Read Hebrews 11. As you read, keep in mind the type of individuals on the list and how each demonstrated his or her faith. Look back over the verses. For each person listed, describe how his or her faith was tested or demonstrated.

Abel: _____

Enoch: _____

Noah: _____

Abraham: _____

Jacob: _____

Moses' parents: _____

Moses: _____

Israelites ("the people," vv. 29-30): _____

Rahab: _____

4. What do you notice about the individuals in this list and the acts of faith they were called to?

5. Do you know any modern-day people who could be included in the "Faith Hall of Fame"? List them below and tell why.

6. Have you ever found it difficult to have faith? When?

7. Read another example of great faith in Luke 7:1-10. Why does the centurion explain to Jesus in verse 8 that he is a man with soldiers under him who obey his commands? What is his point in telling this to Jesus?

8. What happened because of the centurion's faith?

9. Matthew 17 tells a story of Jesus healing a man's son. The man had brought his son to the disciples to be healed, but they were not able to heal the boy. After Jesus restores the boy, the disciples ask Jesus why they weren't able to perform the miracle. What is Jesus' response? (See Matthew 17:20.)

10. Jesus then says, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20). What is Jesus saying here?

11. What do you think that you could accomplish with your life if you had more faith?

12. What eternal truth is found in Hebrews 11:6?

the gift of apostle and missionary¹

“His gifts were that some should be apostles” (Ephesians 4:11, *RSV*).

1. Have you ever gone on a missions trip? Where did you go and what did you do?

apostle (n): one sent forth; messenger

To best understand the meaning of apostleship, we must look at the first apostles. They were the commissioned “messengers” of the Early Church. The apostles took the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world. In many ways, they led the way for new territory to be charted for Christ.

A modern-day apostle is one who feels God’s call to take the same message of Jesus Christ to the world. Many of these people may work as missionaries. Some people may presume that in order to be an apostle or missionary, you must travel to a distant land, but this isn’t true. God may be calling you to be a missionary in your own country, state or city.

In Jesus’ time, Paul was one of the most important apostles. In his letter to the Ephesians, he attempts to explain the richness and joy of a life in Christ. Read Ephesians 3:1-13. Go slowly, as it is a wordy passage.

2. What was Paul trying to communicate to the Gentiles? (See Ephesians 3:6.)

3. What title did Paul give himself? (See verse 7.)

4. Because of his title, what was Paul able to do? (See verse 8.)

5. What was the goal of his missionary work? (See verses 9-12.)

6. From what you know of Paul, did he accomplish this goal?

7. While some may have a special calling to be apostles or missionaries, as Christians, we are all called by Jesus' Great Commission. Read Matthew 28:16-20. What are we all called to do?

8. What is the importance of having members of the Body of Christ who have the gift of apostle?

9. Do you think you have the gift of apostle or missionary? Why or why not?

10. How would you feel if you sensed that God was calling you to be a missionary?

- ☐ I wouldn't want to go.
- ☐ I'd be nervous.
- ☐ I'd be willing to go if God calls.
- ☐ I'm ready to go today.
- ☐ I'm not the missionary type.
- ☐ I'd be excited about adventure.
- ☐ I'd only want to be a missionary in certain places.

I feel _____

_____ about missionary work.

11. What are the benefits of going on a missions or service trip for you personally?

12. What are the benefits for the people you are serving?

reflect

1. Why is it difficult for some to have complete faith in God?

2. Author and theologian C. S. Lewis once said, “Faith is the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted in spite of your changing moods.” Explain what this means.

3. How are you living a life of faith right now? How are you putting your faith into practice?

4. What areas of your life could use a real “faith lift”?

5. When it comes to being a person with a strong faith in God:

- ☐ I feel very weak. (Read 2 Corinthians 12:9.)
- ☐ I keep trying. (Read Psalm 37:24.)
- ☐ I know God is using me. (Read Philippians 1:6.)

6. What are you doing to be obedient to the Great Commission in Matthew 28?

7. Do you feel that you and the others in your group are interested and willing to go on a missions trip? Why or why not?

8. If you do not have the gift of apostle or missionary, what can you do to support the work of Christ around the world?

meditation



Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

HEBREWS 11:1-2,6

Note

1. Some scholars would say that “apostle” and “missionary” are two separate gifts, yet they are in the same “gift mix.” We have chosen to combine them for the sake of simplicity.