

THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF **FAITH**

Faith can be considered the foundation of all the other spiritual gifts – the soil that allows them to flourish. Along with words of wisdom, discernment, and generosity, it is one of the gifts that every Christian can cultivate as part of their spiritual life. It is a quality you develop, not an action you perform.

As with all the spiritual gifts, however, the Holy Spirit gives this gift to some of us in greater measure. For example, the Bible describes the martyr Stephen as someone who was “full of faith” (Acts 6). People with the gift of bold faith are prayerful and look for God to act and provide in everyday life.

People with this gift...

- Are confident and trusting in God’s character and faithfulness
- Are hopeful and encouraging (but not blindly optimistic)
- Are not easily overcome by doubt and fear
- Are patient and persevere in times of hardship or difficulty
- Make a habit of talking with God, spending time regularly in prayer and Scripture
- Are drawn to worship and feel a desire to praise God
- Have a sense of the transcendent and look for the hidden spiritual realities beyond the physical world
- Are humble, open to God's guidance, and willing to do what he says

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

- Hebrews 11:1

Putting your gift into action...

Those with the gift of faith have a profound impact in strengthening and encouraging the people around them. Here are a few ways to exercise your gift within the church, your home, and your community.

People with this gift can:

- Offer to pray for someone – and commit to following through consistently
- Walk with people through hard times and be present with those struggling, in a crisis, or feeling despair
- Say grace at meals
- Lead bedtime prayers or Bible stories for your children or grandchildren, helping them to cultivate their own daily practice of faith
- Help with nursing home services
- Help and encourage others to grow in their faith
- Lead a Bible study or prayer group
- Befriend someone newer in the faith and help them to develop it
- Serve in worship-related ministries like eucharistic ministries, music, or prayers of the people

To get involved in using your spiritual gifts as part of our parish, or to learn more about spiritual gifts and stewardship in the life of the church, please talk to any member of the Stewardship Team: Mark Stalter, Tracy Albert, Francis Christensen, or Kristen VanderHoek; or email us at stewardship@stpaulshk.org.