

THE SPIRIT OF FAITH

What Is The Spirit Of Faith?

I. What is the spirit of faith? – 2 Corinthians 4:13

A. The Spirit of faith is not referring to the Holy Spirit

1. We having the same spirit of faith as it is written or as the one who wrote it – David didn't have the Holy Spirit because He wasn't yet available because Jesus hadn't yet been crucified
 - a. Although the Holy Spirit obviously is The Spirit of Faith, this verse is referring to disposition or temperament when it says "spirit" and we have the same spirit (disposition, temperament) of faith as David who wrote this
2. Translations
 - a. *CEV-In the scriptures it says, "I spoke because I had faith. We have that same kind of faith. So we speak."*
 - b. *ERV-Our faith is like that too*
 - c. *GNT-In the same spirit of faith we also speak because we believe*
 - d. *GW-We have that same spirit of faith.*
 - e. *NLT-We have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke."*

B. Spirit-The disposition (temperament) or influence which fills and governs the soul of anyone

1. **Disposition**-A person's inherent qualities of mind and character; Natural constitution of the mind; The temper or frame of mind
 - a. Disposition Synonyms-Temperament, Character, Nature, Make up, Mentality (EX: A nervous disposition)
 - b. Disposition Synonyms (His disposition to generosity)-Inclination, tendency, proneness, propensity
 - 1) EX: This person who's has a disposition to generosity and this generous spirit has this inclination, this tendency, the proneness and propensity to be generous
 - 2) EX: If you said they have a generous spirit what you are saying is that generosity has filled their soul and is governing their thoughts, their feelings and their actions
2. To have the spirit of faith is to say that faith has filled your being to the place where it is not governing your thoughts, your feelings, your actions, your decisions, everything do, everything you say; you now look at the world from the perspective of faith
 - a. A person with the spirit of faith has this inclination, this tendency, this proneness and propensity to always choose faith, go the way of faith, think and talk in line with faith

- b. The spirit of faith is this mentality of faith, this make up of faith that I'm filled with and it governs my soul so that everything I think, everything I feel, and everything I choose is all approached and engaged from this perspective of faith
 - c. Faith is my makeup so it governs me, faith is my mentality so it governs me; Faith is my inclination, it's my tendency, I'm prone to faith and have a propensity to faith; So much so that when people start talking unbelief I immediately go to faith
 - d. **Something in you is governing you (and it's your trust, your confidence, your total dependence on God)**
 - 1) When you have the spirit of faith, faith has predominate influence in everything you do, think, say and feel; that means you're being influenced by your faith in God more than you are anything else
 - 2) EX: It's like the person with a generous spirit; Generosity influences everything you do, think, say, and feel
- C. *****Faith is not what we do, it is who we are*****
- 1. Acts 5:14, 1 Timothy 4:12-We are believers; it's not just what we do, it's who we are
 - 2. When you are operating by the spirit of faith and through the spirit of faith, faith is not something you do, it's who you are
 - 3. When you have the spirit of faith, faith affects how you think, how you act, and what you say; you're not trying to think right, to act right, and to talk right to display your faith you're just so full of faith that it's governing your thoughts, words, and actions to the point that faith is not something you do it's who you've become
 - 4. Faith isn't something I do when I get in troubled; faith is what I live by and who I am everyday
- D. Faith is an attitude, it's a way of thinking that pays no attention to any other voice, but only to the voice of God's Word
- 1. Faith is reliance on, dependence on, confidence in, trust in God
 - a. What does his word say so I know what to trust?
 - 2. The spirit of faith has no time for voices that disagree with the Word
 - a. The spirit of faith is built on this foundation: The Word of God is the final authority and has the final say regarding everything
 - b. Faith in one of it's simple forms is agreement with God
 - c. **If faith is the predominant influence in your life then the Word of God is final authority**
 - 3. The spirit of faith always looks from God's perspective and to do that you have to look from the perspective of God's Word
 - a. To respond in faith is to respond in a way that is in agreement with the Word
 - b. EX: The grieving process-1 Thessalonians 4:13

- c. EX: People come in sad and heavy after the election or because some law got passed – That's not the spirit of faith

II. Phoniness of the letter vs. Genuineness of the spirit

- A. 2 Corinthians 3:6-Faith is more than a bunch of principles or rules, it's an attitude, it's a way of thinking, it's a way of life
 - 1. In the old covenant they had rules and they did a bunch of righteous stuff, but it wasn't who they were because their nature was sin and even though they were doing some righteous stuff they still weren't righteous
 - a. So even though they did some right stuff it wasn't who they were it was just what they did; That type of life kills
 - b. In the OT they had rules to change what they did, but they still had the old nature
 - c. In the NT he wrote his law on their hearts and minds and changed who they were; They didn't have a bunch of rules, they didn't have the letter, they had the spirit and now the right stuff they did was not just what they did it was who they were-Hebrews 8:12
 - 2. There are principles of faith that can work like the letter and kill
 - a. You can apply faith principles and never develop the spirit of faith
 - 1) The letter where faith is concerned will kill, but the spirit of faith gives life
 - b. Great you've learned how to say the right things and put on the right face, but is it who you are or is it just something you do
- B. There are principles of faith laid out in the Word of God that are good, but the danger is doing the principles of faith according to the letter, but developing the spirit of faith in your life (You know to act to look like you're in faith, but the spirit of faith is never developed)
 - 1. Many think they are living by faith because they are a worker of the principles, but while they work the principles of faith they never develop the spirit of faith
 - a. You can do good things with the wrong approach and see no results from those things
 - b. You can apply faith principles with a "letter mentality," but if you don't obtain the spirit of faith you'll never see results
 - 2. Thinking about how you need to act and what you need to say to get something to happen is not the spirit of faith it's the letter
- C. 1 Timothy 1:5-When you try to live by faith when you don't have it in your heart it will come off forced and phony with no conviction
 - 1. **Unfeigned**-Sincere --- **Feigned**-To impersonate anyone, play a part, To simulate, To pretend, To make a show, To assume a false appearance, To counterfeit, To represent falsely

2. You can make some confessions and apply some principles of faith and play a part, but that doesn't mean your faith is genuine, that doesn't make you a faith person, and that doesn't mean you'll get results
 - a. Phony faith is like phony money, it don't work and you can have all your ducks in a row and put on the right show and learn how to talk and how to act to create a faith front, but that all you have then is legalistic faith that won't produce
 - b. For faith to work it cannot be what we do, but rather it must become who we are
3. You can fake the principles of faith, you can't fake the spirit of faith
 - a. 2 Cor4:13-A lot of times we're trying to say something in faith to prove we believe; He says I'm say something in faith because I am in faith
 - b. We don't speak to prove we believe, we speak because we believe

III. Verse 13, "We having the same spirit of faith," is him explaining and why and how he can have the attitude he has in verses 8 through 12

- A. How can you have this attitude that you have (in verses 8 through 12)? We have the same spirit of faith
 1. When you're attitude about pressure and affliction and distress is one like this, you have to explain yourself; And what's the explanation? – We have the same spirit of faith
 2. How could a person have this type of attitude in a time of pressure? They have the spirit of faith
 3. The spirit of faith is the explanation of this attitude towards pressure