



BAPTIST CHURCH

Many Gifts But One Body

The Gift of Leading with Diligence Part Four

Romans 12:6-8, Numbers 13-14

Introduction

In **Romans 12:6-8** Paul identifies seven Spiritual Gifts that have been given to us according to God's grace and the proportion of our faith.

The Spiritual Gifts are:

- 1. Prophecy**
- 2. Service**
- 3. Teaching**
- 4. Exhortation**
- 5. Giving**
- 6. Leading**

Today we are continuing to discover and examine the Spiritual Gift of Leading with Diligence.

So far we have discovered:

Diligent Leaders are Called
Diligent Leaders have Purpose
Diligent Leaders have Influence

Scripture

Romans 12:6-8

“According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one’s faith;

7 if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching;

8 if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; **leading, with diligence**; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.” CSB

Quotes of the day

"Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times."
—**Martin Luther**.

“In faith, there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don’t.” —**Blaise Pascal**

Last week we examined the negative report from the ten spies to the twelve tribes of Israelites.

Report #1

A Negative Report Motivated by Fear and Unbelief

Numbers 13:31-33 “But the men who had gone up with him responded, “We can’t attack the people because they are stronger than we are!”

32 So they gave a negative report to the Israelites about the land they had scouted: “The land we passed through to explore is one that devours its inhabitants, and all the people we saw in it are men of great size. 33 We even saw the Nephilim there—the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim! To ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers, and we must have seemed the same to them.” CSB

Warning— The most popular, those who seem to be best suited, or those who look the part may not be the best leader or have positive influence.

Fear that leads to unbelief overlooks the promises and power of God.

Fear that leads to unbelief magnifies every problem, every difficulty and every danger.

Fear that leads to unbelief fills the mind with deception and discouragement which becomes “The We Can’t Do That” mindset.

Citation: Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary Numbers 13

Those who are motivated by fear and unbelief will always have more excuses than positive solutions.

When we see opportunities through the lens of fear and unbelief our fear overcomes our faith.

When fear overcomes our faith: Fear leads to excuses, excuses turn to deception, which leads to disbelief, disobedience, rebellion and ultimately death.

The call to trust God and live without fear is one of the Bible’s most persistent and powerful principles.

Report #2

A Positive Report motivated by faith in God’s Promise v.30

Then Caleb quieted the people in the presence of Moses and said, “Let’s go up now and take possession of the land because **we can certainly conquer it!”**

Caleb “quieted the people” in the presence of Moses.

The word translated “**quieted**” comes from the Hebrew word “**Has**” meaning to silence the people so they can hear the words motivated by faith, words of wisdom, words from God.

The phrase translated “**certainly conquer**” comes from the Hebrew word “**yakol**” meaning to have power, to prevail, well able to overcome.

Belief in the Promises of God leads to confidence in the Presence and Power of God to accomplish His plans and advance His Kingdom on the earth.

God blesses everyone who trusts in Him by faith!

Isaiah 41:10-13 “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand. **11** Be sure that all who are enraged against you will be ashamed and disgraced; those who contend with you will become as nothing and will perish. **12** You will look for those who contend with you, but you will not find them. Those who war against you will become absolutely nothing. **13** For I am the Lord your God, who holds your right hand, who says to you, “Do not fear, CSB

Ten Steps We Can Take To Strengthen Our Faith:

1. Mediate on God’s Holy Word

Faith grows when we regularly receive Scripture through reading, hearing and studying God’s Word.

Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”

God’s Word is meant to live deeply in us, not merely be heard or read briefly.

Joshua and Caleb listened to Moses the servant of God, they believed the Word of God and Obeyed the Word of God.

Joshua 1:8-9 describes the importance of meditating on Scripture. God told Joshua— “This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever

you do. 9 Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." CSB

Deuteronomy 6:4-6 "Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart." CSB

Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ." CSB

Ten Steps We Can Take To Strengthen Our Faith:

2. Pray honestly and consistently

In times of prayer we not only speak to God He speaks to us.

When we pray to God we confess our sin, we can repent, we can share our doubts, fears, needs, and gratitude to God openly and He hears us and helps us.

Matthew 6:5-8 "Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you., 7 When you pray, don't babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they'll be heard for their many words. 8 Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him." CSB

Don't babble when we pray!

Prayer keeps us close to God and helps us depend on Him.

Ten Steps We Can Take To Strengthen Our Faith:

3. Remember The Moments in Our Past Where We Experienced the Presence and Power of God at Work in Our Life.

The Bible calls God's people to remember what He has done.

Psalm 77:11-14 "I will remember the LORD's works; yes, I will remember your ancient wonders. 12 I will reflect on all you have done and meditate on your actions. 13 God, your way is holy. What god is great like God? 14 You are the God who works wonders; you revealed your strength among the peoples." CSB

Ten Steps We Can Take To Strengthen Our Faith:

4. Obey what God has revealed in His Word

Faith is strengthened through obedience, not just knowledge.

James 1:22 says, "But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." CSB

James 4:17 "So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it." CSB

If we want our faith to grow stronger we must be obedient doers of the Word place in the normal rhythm of our daily life.

Ten Steps We Can Take To Strengthen Our Faith:

5. Develop Community with Other Followers of Christ

1 Thessalonians 5:11 ". . . encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing." CSB

Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, 25 not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

God utilizes Christian community to encourage and strengthen us. Join worship, Bible study, fellowship, or prayer with other believers.

Ten Steps We Can Take To Strengthen Our Faith:

6. God is Worthy: Praise and Worship His Holy Name.

Psalms 95:1-3 “Come, let’s shout joyfully to the LORD, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation! 2 Let’s enter his presence with thanksgiving; let’s shout triumphantly to him in song. 3 For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods.” CSB

Worship shifts our focus from our struggles to God’s love, His Grace, His Compassion, His Majesty and His Greatness.

When we are experiencing adversity, testing, trials and pain— praise and worship can be a powerful moment that shifts our perspective and strengthens our faith.

When we praise and worship God through difficult times it reflects our trust in God’s faithfulness. Personal praise and worship declare that we believe in His sovereignty, His Grace, His Love and His Goodness inspire of our circumstances.

Praise and Worship not only lifts our spirit but it also serves as a testimony to those around us, that our foundation of our hope is rooted in our faith in God.

Isaiah 40:31 “but those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not faint.” CSB

Ten Steps We Can Take To Strengthen Our Faith:

7. Trust God In Our trials

James 1:2-4 “Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.” CSB

Adversity, trials and testing develop our faith and lead us to be more mature in our walk with Christ.

Instead of asking Why me? We should be thinking . . . God what are you teaching me and let me grow in my faith.

Ten Steps We Can Take To Strengthen Our Faith:

8. Focus on Jesus

Colossians 3:1-2 “So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

It can be harmful to lose focus!

Our Faith is strengthened when our focus is on Jesus not ourselves or the lesser things of this world.

Ten Steps We Can Take To Strengthen Our Faith:

9. Confession and repentance of sin

Psalms 51:9-12 “Turn your face away from my sins and blot out all my guilt. 10 God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not banish me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore the joy of your salvation to me, and sustain me by giving me a willing spirit.” CSB

Unconfessed sin erodes our relationship with God. Unconfessed sin weakens our confidence, disturbs our spirit, steals our joy and displaces our peace.

I John 1:9 restores all that sin has disturbed “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Ten Steps We Can Take To Strengthen Our Faith:

10. Ask God to Develop and Mature Our Faith

Hebrews 11:6 “Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” CSB

Mark 9:22-24 A man from the crowd told Jesus— “many times the demon has thrown my son into fire or water to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” 23 Jesus said to him, ‘If you can?’ Everything is possible for the one who believes.” 24 Immediately the father of the boy cried out, “**I do believe; help my unbelief!**”

When we are faced with adversity and seemingly impossible odds pray to God and ask Him to help our unbelief and give us faith to trust Him.

People who advance God’s Kingdom on the earth are those who practice faith their faith in the normal rhythm and pattern of life.

Those who practice their will faith in real life situations will experience opportunities to influence others and make a positive difference in the world we live in.

