

given a measure of faith (Rom. 12:3), but not everyone has been given the gift of faith. Everyone may believe God, but this cannot be the same as possessing the gift of faith -- otherwise there would be no significance to its being listed as a separate spiritual gift."

Sanders (p. 119) states:

Saving faith is not in view here, for though it is the gift of God, it is not a special gift of the Spirit. It is rather wonder-working faith, the faith that can remove mountains. The context supports this view. It is the special gift of faith bestowed in order to enable its possessor to carry out a special ministry. George Muller, for example, possessed this gift to a unique degree, but many less known people have possessed and exercised this gift -- the faith that turns vision into fact.

Michael Green, in *I Believe in the Holy Spirit* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975), pp. 180-181, writes:

All commentators are agreed that Paul is not speaking of the saving faith by which a man believes in Christ. True, this is a gift of God, if only in the sense that without the God-given capacity to trust, faith in Christ would be impossible for any one of us. Clearly, Paul is not thinking of that here. He is referring to the special ability to trust God in the dark when all the odds are against you: the ability to hold on to God in prayer over many years for the conversion of some loved one: the sure perception of the will of God on a particular matter in the future which enables you to act as though it had already happened. Noah had this gift of faith, in believing God, against all the odds, that there would be a flood, and acting on that belief by building an ark, despite the laughter of his fellows. Abraham had this gift of faith, in believing that God was calling him out of Ur even though it was economic madness to leave his expensive home in that prosperous city and entrust himself to God and to the desert. Hudson Taylor had this gift of faith in founding and maintaining one of the world's biggest missionary societies on a complete absence of financial backing, a refusal to ask for funds, and an unshakeable conviction about the will of God.

#### G. Giving

Romans 12:6, 8 -- "We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is . . . contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously"