





SISTERHOOD LOUNGE ROOM

From our lounge room to yours

FAITH, HEALING, & MIRACLES Part one: The Power Gifts: Faith




Welcome to a special edition of The Sisterhood Lounge Room. This month joining Nicola to unpack the topic of faith, healing, and miracles, is her mother, Rachel Hickson who is a missionary, teacher, theologian, author, and complete powerhouse. Below we have highlighted the key scriptures and thoughts, as well as some questions you can use in discussion with your group, or in your own personal devotion. Enjoy!




“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”

1 Corinthians 12 v4-11



Nicola began by asking Rachel to explain the nine spiritual gifts from 1 Corinthians 12. These can be categorised into three distinct groups.

Rachel explained the three groupings and their function:



Communication or speaking gifts:

Tongues, and interpretation of tongues. This is supernatural power coming through our ability to speak and communicate, where we get to “speak the secrets of heaven.”

Revelation gifts:

Words of knowledge, words of wisdom, and the discerning of spirits. The ability to know something through supernatural intervention, such as what to say, what to do, or understand what is happening around us beyond our world.


The Power gifts:

Faith, miracles, and healing. These are engagement gifts, they come to us on the move, or in the moment.

For all these gifts there is a natural counterpart such as medicine for healing, or intuition for distinguishing between spirits. It is good to operate in both the natural and the supernatural, giving God the opportunity to do His will in both realms of life.


Q- Do you feel like you actively function with any of the above giftings?

Q- If you feel like you know what giftings you have share an example of how God manifest this through your life? If you are yet to experience these gifts, what gift would you like to see expressed through your life?




“God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”
Hebrews 2:4






We are going to focus on the power gifts. Nicola shared her heart to see an increase of the miraculous happen this year, and reminded us that wherever Jesus went, signs and wonders followed. The same is true for the disciples in the early church and the Holy Spirit hasn't changed so we should hunger and be expectant to see signs and wonders in our lives and those around us. Nicola asked Rachel to explain the gift of faith.



Rachel said there are three types of faith. The first is commonly called saving faith, which is when you make your confession of faith, and you receive the inner witness of the Holy Spirit where you know that you are a child of God. The second is the spiritual fruit of faith or faithfulness - when you are committed and steadfast. The third is the credo (I believe) faith in God - your belief and understanding of God and his plan for humanity. Rachel explained that none of this is the gift of faith mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12. The gift of faith, unlike the others that manifest over time, is an immediate impartation of faith that something will come to pass. It is the "I know that I know" and there is no cognitive process. Rachel referred to Mary as example of the gift of faith that she accepted that she was with child: Be it unto me according to thy word (Luke 1:38)



Nicola and Rachel spoke about the legacy of faith they have in their family. Nicola's grandad, Alan Vincent prayed for the dead and they came back to life. He spoke to cancer and tumours, and they disappeared. Rachel has prophesied to infertility and seen women become pregnant.

Q- When was the last time you experienced the gift of faith in action?

Q- What stood out to you about the distinctions between the three types of faith and the gift of faith?

Q- Who is someone you know that has this gift of faith? How do you see it in their life?

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

Romans 12: 6-8

Nicola asked Rachel how we grow to become women of faith. Rachel shared some practical actions we can all build into our lives:

1. Train yourself to look beyond the possible. Remember you are supernatural, so look beyond the natural. Ask God what He wants to do within a situation, and what He wants you to do. It takes practice.
2. Have a go. Faith has to go to work, it isn't passive. You never know unless you have a go. Step out, release a word, stretch out your hand towards others in prayer.
3. Do what the Holy Spirit tells you to do. Your obedience could release a miracle.

Nicola ended this episode by asking Rachel to outline the pitfalls that could hinder us from becoming women of faith. Rachel encouraged us be confident and simply act on the first nudge - to just do it. And to choose to sharpen your faith with the right atmospheres through reading books or having conversations with people of faith, that can help transform the internal narrative of doubt and fear.



Q-Do you think you naturally see the supernatural possibilities in situations or is this something you have to cultivate?

Q- Have you ever stretched out your hand and prayed for someone in faith? What happened?

Q- What might you do to change the internal narrative of doubt and fear that inhibits your faith?

Rachel concluded with the encouragement to be courageous and kind. To keep a hunger for God and His will, expecting that miracles, signs, and wonders flow wherever Jesus is.

Prayer:

Lord I want to live with an awareness and faith for the supernatural. Please show me how to live with mighty faith that can move mountains for your glory. Teach me to rely on you and be obedient to your promptings. Thank you that you are a God of the impossible and that you are still very much at work here on earth as in heaven.
Amen