

**A Riverside Christmas**  
**A Gift of Faith**  
**12/21/24**  
**Newport News**

**Opening/Introduction**

-anyone else as you are getting older realizing you can't pick up heavy...

- Helping others move
- Guy who came to get church bookcase
- Splitting wood in Varina growing up (Atlas stones!)

**Sometimes the heaviest things in life can't be picked up with your hands...it requires a gift of faith.**

**Gift of Faith**

**-Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)**

- Substance – also translates assurance, upholds, and confidence
- I like the idea of “ingredient”
- Evidence – to prove something...conviction
- (peaches and cream pie illustration)
- Vanessa AND ingredients...
- God AND faith!

-Faith that is grown

- virtues/character
- 1 Corinthians 13 talks of faith, hope, and love
- same root word as believe (Praxis book)
- spiritual maturity...

**So what is a gift of faith?**

-1 Corinthians 12:7-9a

**A gift of faith is needed when something in life is too heavy to carry alone...and according to Paul, that gift of faith is primarily given to us so we can help each other.**

**Relationships, addiction, patterns of behavior, finances, infertility, health, emotional debts...**

**Band**

*-Would you ask God for a gift of faith today for someone you know?*