

Principles of Faith Teachers Syllabus

Edited by Jesse Eggman 2017

FOUNDATION SCRIPTURES: Habakkuk 2:4; Mark 11:22

Introduction to Faith

A. What is Faith?

The commitment of trust one person places in another - especially a person putting their trust in God; to lean with one's whole personality and being on God. Faith is the basic concept of Christianity, and is the characteristic that qualifies a person to be called a Christian.

1. We are called '*believers*' and we're supposed to be 'believing' believers!
2. **Romans 1:17** "*the just shall live by faith...*" – it should be a lifestyle.

B. A Biblical Overview

In the Old Testament faith is more described than defined. It has been described as:

- A. the "*fear of God*" (Gen. 20:11; Ps. 111:10; Eccl. 12:13; Mal. 4:2) **Psa 11:10** NIV *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.*
- b. *Trust* (2 Chron. 20:20; Ps. 4:5, Isa. 26:4) **Psa 4:5** NIV *Offer right sacrifices and trust in the LORD.*
- C. *obedience* (Ex. 19:5; 1 Sam. 15:22, Jer. 7:23) **Exo 19:5-6** NIV *Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, {6} you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.*

(1) Despite the lack of an English equivalent for the word *faith* in the Old Testament that does not mean that faith is not important for the Old Testament. **Habakkuk 2:4** "*but the righteous will live by his faith*"-- was properly taken by Paul as the center of Old Testament religion. (Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:37-38)

New Testament

In the New Testament "faith" is used in a number of ways, primarily with the meaning "trust" or "confidence" towards God.

- a. The Gospels emphasized faith as one of the central themes of the sermons of Jesus.

Mark 1:15 introduces and summarizes the Gospel with Jesus' charge to his hearers to "*repent ye, and believe the gospel.*" (The word commonly translated "believe" in this verse, the verb form of "faith", has no English equivalent. The call is repeated as "*Have faith in God,*" using the noun form, in Mark 11:22.) In this way Jesus challenged His hearers to place their trust in God. Jesus often said after healing someone, "*thy faith hath made thee whole.*" (Matt. 9:22; Mark 5:34; Luke 7:50; 8:48). Trusting in God makes one whole.

- b. Outside the Gospels, faith is discussed as being necessary for the basic Christian doctrines such as salvation, sanctification, justification and purification. As in the Gospels, ***faith is the nature of our relationship to God through the work of Christ Jesus.*** It is to acknowledge and accept the gift of righteousness in Christ, that which cannot be earned or achieved in our own strength.
- c. Faith is among the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22) - something God creates in a person. **Gal 5:22-23 (KJV)** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*
- d. Faith is also described as a gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:8-9). Special gifts of faith refer to the ability to do great acts for God, what Jesus called moving mountains (Matt. 17:20; 1 Cor. 13:2). **1 Cor 12:8-9 NIV** *To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, {9} to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,*
- e. Faith is used to designate Christianity itself, or a union of that which we believe (our belief system or our creed). (Acts 6:7; Eph. 4:5; Col. 1:23; 1 Tim. 1:19; Jude 3). **Acts 6:7 NIV** *So the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became **obedient to 'the faith.'*** Here it is clear that belief is essential to the personal relationship with God we are calling "faith." Further note **Hebrews 11:6** *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for him that cometh to God must believe that he is....* "In this verse also the word translated "believe" is the Greek verb form of "faith." Right relationship with God requires us to "believe" that God is, that God has revealed Himself in Christ, and to accept the fact that God has accepted us.
- f. Faith is also the living out of our Christianity; It is Christianity in action. "*We **walk** by faith, not by sight*" (2 Cor.

5:7). "Walking" represents the lifestyle and actions of the believer. Paul wrote that faith - the trust and confidence one puts in God - directs our actions in life. Faith changes the standards and priorities of life. In describing a soldier's armor, Paul demonstrates the importance of faith, comparing it with a shield against sin and evil in our lives (Eph. 6:16; 1 Thess. 5:8).

- g. If Christianity itself may be called "*the faith*," then the verb form of faith can also designate Christians. This form is often translated "*believers*" (it occurs most often in the plural) or "*those who believe*" (Acts 4:32; Rom. 1:16), "*those who have faith*" or "*those who faith*". (Acts 4:32 NIV) "*All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.*"
- h. Faith as THE Way to Salvation
 - 1. The scriptural concept of faith is a personal relationship with God that determines the priorities of one's life.

Faith is:

- (a) A relationship of trust and dependence that is based on love.
- (b) Received by trusting in salvation through Jesus.
- (c) The basic Christian experience, the decision for Christ Jesus.
- (d) The acceptance of Christ's Lordship (i.e., His God-given, absolute authority).
- (e) Repentance: it denotes a turn in lifestyle, and one's removal from sin, and it is one's removal from all other religious allegiances. (1 Th 1:9 NIV) *For they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,*
 - (1) As a break from the past, faith is the beginning of relation to God in which one continues to grow and develop.

Faith is what we believe, it is Christianity itself. Primarily it is our relationship with God through the work Jesus accomplished in His death and resurrection.

C. The Implication of Faith (WHY DO WE NEED FAITH?)

The implication of faith is that we will not have everything under our own control. Faith implies that we do not understand everything and that we are not able to do everything. If we could control, understand, and do all things then we would not need faith. But it is not like that. WE NEED FAITH. However, sometimes the way of faith does not seem like the best way. It may not make sense or we may not understand. The life of faith is not easy, but life without faith is impossible.

Example:
A man was climbing a mountain. He fell. He grabbed a branch. He desperately hung onto the branch and yelled for help.

Man: Is there somebody up there?
Voice: Yes...I am here.
Man: Who is it?
Voice: It is the Lord.
Man: Lord...help me!
Voice: Do you trust me?
Man: Yes Lord. I trust you completely.
Voice: Now...let go of the branch.
Man: What?
Voice: I said let go of the branch.
Man: (after a long pause) Is there somebody else up there?

A. BIBLE DEFINITION OF FAITH

1. Read Heb 11:1
(Heb 11:1 NIV) *“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”*
(Heb 11:1 KJV) *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*
 - a. (“being sure”= “hupostasis” in Greek) The meaning of “hupostasis”- *being sure, confidence, **substance**, essence, foundation, guarantee, right of property. In the amplified translation, it says “a title deed”*
 - b. Faith is your right of property with respect to your place in eternity and inheritance in Christ.
 - c. There are two different realms or realities: the natural realm and the supernatural realm; the seen and the unseen realm **(2 Cor 4:18-5:1 NIV)** *“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.*

For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. {1} now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.”

Faith is looking into the unseen realm where the kingdom of God is. All the resources of God, the provisions of the Cross and every benefit of redemption are already available for us and they are in the supernatural realm.

- d. The invisible realm is superior to the natural. The reality of that invisible world dominates the natural world we live in, both positively and negatively. Because the invisible is superior to the natural, faith is anchored (or attached) in the unseen.

Unbelief is anchored (or attached) in what is visible or reasonable apart from God. It honors the natural realm as superior to the invisible. Unbelief is faith in the lesser or lower realm. The natural realm is the anchor of unbelief.

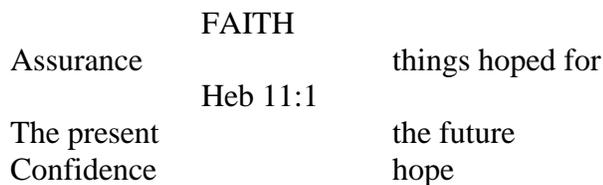
- e. Faith lives within the revealed will of God. Faith is the belief in God without questions (Heb 11:6)
- f. Faith is both substance and evidence.

Substance is something that is tangible - that which you can hold on to. The substance of our faith is the Word of God, the unseen realm where the Kingdom of God is.

Example: If you go to a restaurant and order pizza (any food), they will give you a number and a receipt. As you find your table to sit down, you place that number in a place where it can easily be seen. Someone may walk in and announce that they won't give you any pizza. But you will just point to the number and tell him, "*When pizza number 33 is done, it's mine.*" That number is the substance of the pizza hoped for. If that guy tells you that your number isn't any good, you'll point to your receipt. It verifies the value of the number. When your pizza is done, the waiter will walk around looking for your number

How does the product or benefits of heaven know where to be delivered? God looks for FAITH - the substance, the validity which is contained in the Word of God. It verifies our right to receive the promise.

- g. Faith is knowing and believing the truth in **Rom 8:28**. NIV *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*
 - (1) Faith understands that the process may not be perfect.
 - (2) At times the process may include things that are not "good".
 - (3) However, the end result will be good.
- h. Faith must come from the commandment of God. It must be based on obedience. Faith that is not based on the commandment of God is presumption or guess work.
- i. The direction of faith is toward the future, but the action of faith is in the present. NOW FAITH IS... If it's not now, it's not faith.
- j. Faith is the combination of confidence and hope because faith is the combination of the present and the future.
 - (1) Confidence is in the present (the now part)
 - (2) Hope is in the future.
 - (3) See the following diagram.



Faith= confidence +hope

- k. Through faith the following things happen:
 - (1) the mind trusts in God
 - (2) the heart responds to the love of God
 - (3) the will submits to the commands of God
 - (4) the spirit obeys in the service of God
- l. Faith is a paradox...it goes beyond reason.
 - (1) Faith believes without understanding "Why?"
 - (2) Faith sings in the jail (**Acts 16:25** NIV) *“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”*
 - (3) Faith rejoices in tribulation (**Rom 5:2-4** NIV) *“through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. {3} Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; {4} perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

- (4) Faith chooses to endure ill treatment (**Heb 11:25** NIV) “*He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.*”
- (5) Faith accepts that God is working all things together for us who believe. (**Phil 1:12** NIV) “*Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.*”
- m. Faith is a perception - a belief - ***it is to perceive as reality*** that which is not revealed to the senses (“*the conviction of things not seen*” -- (Heb 11:1 and 2 Cor 4:18)
- n. Sin is the opposite of faith: (**Rom 14:23** NIV) “*But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.*”
 - (1) FAITH is natural according to the plan of God (**Heb 11:3** NIV) “*By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*”
 - (2) SIN is not natural according to the plan of God (**Rom 1:26-27** NIV) “*Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. {27} in the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*”

II. WHERE DOES FAITH BEGIN?

I had faith that when I sat down that this chair would not break, and if it had I would have been surprised. That trust and confidence came from never having a chair break before. This is natural faith. We see that we all have a form of faith. I believe that when we are born God imparted faith as part of our character. Faith can be broken, and mistrust will take its place when we are let down, lied to, and deceived. This is why we are to place our faith in God, not in man. Christian faith is imparted to us by the Holy Spirit when we are born again.

A. HOW DO WE GET IT?

Spiritual faith comes from God. God gives faith. Man receives faith.

(**Rom 12:3** NIV) *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.* ©

Phil 1:29 *For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him,*

Eph 2:8 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--*

There is no relationship with God apart from faith...no praying successfully without faith...we cannot even initiate the faith process without God's help.

Example: Man is totally helpless, dead in sin. God has many gifts for man, from salvation through eternity. We do not even have the ability to receive them; God comes to us with the gift that enables us to receive all other gifts...The Measure of Faith.

(Gal 3:22-23 NIV) *"But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. {23} Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed."*

(Rom 5:8 NIV) *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Therefore, God is the beginning of salvation. From Him comes faith also enabling us to believe.

Faith doesn't struggle, it rests... in God.

True faith rests in the promises of God in the face of contradicting circumstances. If you are fearful or in panic, it's not real faith. You can tell if you are operating in faith, that is, if you are at peace.

1. FAITH AND THE WORD

God uses several different ways to impart faith to us. One is the Word of God.

a. We gain faith by hearing God's Word:

(Rom 10:17 NIV) *"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." It does not say that it comes from having heard. It is the listening heart, in the present tense, that is ready for heaven's deposit of faith.*

The whole nature of faith implies a relationship with God that is current. The emphasis is on hearing, in the now. We need to have ears to hear what God is speaking to us today.

b. Wherever the Word is preached, it causes man to have faith:

(Acts 6:7 NIV) *"So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith."*

(Col 1:5-6 NIV) *"the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel {6} that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth."*

- c. The faith filled preaching of God's Word produce faith:
(**Heb 13:7** NIV) "*Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.*"
- d. The Word of God cannot fail to produce faith:
(**Isa 55:11** NIV) "*so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*"

2. FAITH AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

The means by which God imparts faith is through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit imparts faith to our spirits... How? By the seed that is planted in our hearts. He will cause it to reproduce after its own kind.

The Holy Spirit lives in our spirit. That is the place of communion with God. As we learn to receive from our spirits, we learn how to be Spirit led.

Most of you had this experience- you've been reading the Bible and a verse comes alive to you. There is great excitement over this verse that seems to give so much life and encouragement to you. Yet, initially you couldn't understand or explain the verse. Your spirit received the life-giving power of the Word from the Holy Spirit. When we learn to receive from our spirit, our mind becomes the student and is therefore subject to the Holy Spirit. Through the process of revelation and experience our mind eventually obtains understanding. That is Biblical learning – the spirit giving influence to the mind. Faith comes from a relationship.

(**John 3:6** NIV) "*Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*"

(**John 14:26** NIV) "*But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*"

(**John 15:26** NIV) ""*When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.*"

(**1 Cor 12:8-9** NIV) "*To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, {9} to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,*"

Acts 11:24 *He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.*

3. FAITH AND YOUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS

God also uses your brother and sister in Christ. That's why fellowship is important.

(Rom 1:11-12 NIV) *"I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong-- {12} that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith."*

a. The Biblical role of believers with one another:

Loving:

(2 Th 1:3-4 NIV) *"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. {4} Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring."*

Call others to faith:

(Rom 1:5 NIV) *"Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith."*

Speak to encourage one another:

(1 Th 3:2 NIV) *"We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith,"*

(1 Cor 14:31 NIV) *"For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged."*

Pray for one another:

(Luke 22:32 NIV) *"But I have prayed for you, Simon that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."*

(1 Th 3:10 NIV) *"Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith."*

b. Some people will NOT encourage our faith

(2 Tim 4:14-15 NIV) *"Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. {15} You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message."*

c. Even other believers will let us down:

(1 Tim 1:19 NIV) *"Holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith."*

d. Our faith is in God (it is not in a concept, a cause, a movement, an experience, or a human). Our faith is in God, not in man. This is why we never look to men; their faith or their deeds. Men fail. Only God never fails. This is why our faith never rests in men, but only in God.

(Mark 11:22 NIV) *"Have faith in God," Jesus answered."*

(Eph 3:12 NIV) *"In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."*

(Jer 29:11 NIV) *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the*

LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

- e. He assures us of his goals for our lives; that they are positive and uplifting, they are for our good. God cannot lie! We place our faith in the character that he displays.

(Num 23:19 NIV) "God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?"

B. HOW MUCH FAITH DO WE GET?

You have all your Attributes when you are Born! You have the same hands, feet, ears, nose, eyes that you were born with!

When you were born your body had the capability of increasing to maturity!

Rom 12:3 *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*

We have all been given the "Measure of Faith" when we got Born Again! Did you get more faith than I did? Did I get more faith than you? We all received the same measure, the same level and same God-kind of faith to begin with when we got saved. But we know that all seeds grow, no matter their original size. Jesus said, "if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed" meaning if you have even the smallest measurable portion of faith, even that is enough to grow, and perform mighty miracles. ***You have personal responsibility to develop your faith.*** Some have done more with their "Measure of Faith." They have cultivated it according to God's directions in His Word.

C. HOW DOES FAITH FUNCTION?

"Faith is the law of the new covenant." Faith is a law.

(Rom 3:27-28 NIV) "Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle (or Law in the KJV)? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith.(the Law of faith KJV) {28} For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law."

1. Jesus our example

- a. Jesus established the New Covenant, complete with his life walk of faith as a demonstration for us to follow. He established the precedent of "walking by faith"; how, when, why, and the source of it all -God. Jesus functioned according to that law, the law of faith, by obedience to God, and by doing just as the Father did. He looked to God as the standard by which he chose his own actions, and as the source of his own character. He demonstrated to us how to walk in faith.

Here is the secret to the supernatural realm that we want restored to the Church. Jesus told us that *he only did what He saw His Father do*. Such an insight for those who want more. The power of His action is rooted in His ability to see the invisible.

Faith sees. It brings His kingdom into focus. All of the Father's resources, all of His benefits, are accessible through faith.

(John 5:19 NIV) *"Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."*
- Jesus depended completely on the Father.

2. Faith function

- a. The Christian life is a life of war. It is a life of spiritual conflict. Therefore all of the armor of God is essential. Nevertheless, faith is of critical importance. Because faith is the shield, if you truly believe and trust God then none of the lies of the enemy can harm you.
(Eph 6:16 NIV) *"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."*
- b. Salvation is impossible without faith
(John 3:36 NIV) *"Whoever **believes** in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."*
- c. Victory over the world is impossible without faith
(1 John 5:4 NIV) *"for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith."*
- d. It is impossible to please God without faith
(Heb 11:6 NIV) *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*
- e. It is impossible to pray effectively without faith
(James 1:6 NIV) *"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."*
- f. It is impossible to have peace with God without faith
(Rom 5:1 NIV) *"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"*
- g. It is impossible to have joy without faith
(Phil 1:25 NIV) *"Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,"*
(1 Pet 1:8 NIV) *"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, **you believe** in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,"*

- h. Justification is by faith
(Gal 2:16 NIV) *"know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified."*
- i. We live by faith
(Gal 2:20 NIV) *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*
- j. Our righteousness comes by faith (Rom 10:1-4)
(Rom 10:1-4 NIV) *"Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. {2} for I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. {3} since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. {4} Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes."*
- k. Christ lives in us by faith
(Eph 3:17 NIV) *"So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,"*
- l. We receive the Holy Spirit by faith
(Gal 3:2 NIV) *"I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?"*
- m. Whatever is not faith is sin
(Rom 14:23 NIV) *"But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin."*
- n. The rule for all the functions of faith is that everything we do must be by faith.
(Heb 11:6 NIV) *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*

3. Faith is the currency of heaven.

Heaven is not moved simply by the needs of man. It's not that God doesn't care. It was out of His great compassion that He sent Jesus. When God is moved by human need He seldom fixes the problem outright; instead He provides Kingdom principles that correct the problem when they are followed. If God was moved solely by human need then countries like India and Haiti would become the wealthiest nations in the world. It doesn't work like that. **Heaven is moved by faith.** Faith is the currency of heaven. If you need anything from God, you need to receive it by faith. Through the prayer

of faith, for example, we are able to pull the reality of the invisible realm into the visible – that is how faith functions.

Real faith is anchored in the invisible realm and is connected to the authority given in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The nature of faith is violent. That doesn't mean it has to be loud, but knowing the authority of Christ. It is active; aggressive by nature. Faith grabs hold of the reality of the kingdom of God and won't let go until what we are believing for finally manifests in the visible realm. (Matthew 9:27; Matthew 9:20-22)

4. Read and meditate on Heb 11 (focus on people of faith)

- a. **Abel**--His life shows us that it is by faith and obedience that we offer our *lives as a more excellent sacrifice* to the Lord. The name of this first man cited in faith means sorrow. His brother Cain killed him in what was probably the first religious dispute. Abel's blood still speaks.
- b. **Enoch**--His life shows us that we please the Lord by walking with God daily in *intimate communion* with Him. In Jude 14 we learn that Enoch prophesied concerning the second coming and future judgment.
- c. **Noah**--His life shows us *how to receive grace* to escape judgment and how to fulfill the tasks that God gives us to do, even standing alone at times, if necessary.
- d. **Abraham**--His life shows us the *obedience* of faith and how to be wholehearted for the Lord because when Abraham was tested he was willing to sacrifice his only son, Isaac.
- e. **Isaac**--From Isaac's life we see the *blessing* of faith as he pronounced the future of his 2 sons, Jacob and Esau.
- f. **Jacob**--His life shows us the *development* of faith in God's sovereignty, provision and prophetic word. From deceiver to Prince.
- g. **Joseph**--Joseph's life shows us how to *obtain our inheritance* and how to enter into things beyond our age, waiting with patience for God to fulfill our vision and bring His fruitfulness.
- h. **Moses**--His life shows us the *decision* of faith and *endurance* of faith.

4. MEDITATE ON THESE OTHER EXAMPLES OF FAITH:

Old Testament

Gen 22:8
Josh 14:12
1Sam 14:6
1Sam 17:37
2Chron 20:12
Job 19:25
Dan 3:17

New Testament

Acts 27:25
Mt 8:5-10
Mk 5:25-34
Acts 6:8
Mt 9:28
Mt 15:28
Mk 10:46-52

D. HOW FAITH DEVELOPS

(Mark 11:11-14 NIV) *Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve. {12} the next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. {13} seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. {14} Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.*

(Mark 11:19-22 NIV) *When evening came, they went out of the city. {20} In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. {21} Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" {22} "Have faith in God," Jesus answered.*

1. Jesus is saying,
The way that I caused this natural manifestation in a physical tree is by faith in the unseen creator, God!
 - a. Notice he did not say “*have faith in Peter, John, Caesar, Matthew.*”
 - b. Why? Because we are only to have Faith in God!

2. Faith has substance! It is just not substance in this World (what is seen)!
(Heb 11:1 KJV) *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*
(Heb 11:1 NIV) *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*
 - a. When you believe God’s Word in your heart and confess it with your mouth, you produce substance in the Spirit World.
 - b. With this substance God molds and shapes the things for which we have asked.

3. How much faith do we need to accomplish miracles?
 - a. A mustard seed worth connected to the Source.
(Mat 21:21-22 NIV) *"Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. {22} If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.""*
(Mat 17:20 NIV) *"He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.""*
“*God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.*” It grows and grows on the inside of you until it starts to manifest on the outside.
(Mat 13:31-32 NIV) *"He told them another parable: "The kingdom*

of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. {32} though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

You don't receive a child full grown, your faith doesn't start out full grown.
"Faith is the ability to conceive"

The kingdom grows inside you...**FAITH DEVELOPS IN YOUR SPIRIT**

b. What is our part

(Mat 13:3-8 NIV) *"Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. {4} as he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. {5} some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. {6} But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. {7} other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. {8} Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop--a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."*

(Mat 13:19-23 NIV) *"When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. {20} the one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. {21} But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. {22} the one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. {23} But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."*

We must plow the ground, till the soil, get rid of the rocks, beat back the birds of the air. **WE MUST TAKE CARE OF THE SEED!** Guard the Word and don't allow the enemy to steal it from you.

(Jude 1:19-20 NIV) *"These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. {20} But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit."*

(2 Pet 1:5-8 NIV) *"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; {6} and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; {7} and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. {8} for if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and*

unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

From this passage we see **8 steps to perfection and power:**

1. **Faith**--This is the first step, because faith is necessary for salvation. This faith is a gift, and not the product of our emotions, thinking or will.
2. **Virtue**--This is moral purity, gained by faith when we receive a clean and pure heart. Virtue and the next 6 are actually all products of faith.
3. **Knowledge**--Not a product of our intellect, but an understanding which comes by faith, as we diligently study the Word.
4. **Temperance**--This self-control is the ability to possess and properly control our vessel (body) in sanctification and honor.
5. **Patience**--This is endurance and inner strength of character that never gives up, but plods on straight ahead, hurdling every obstacle along the way. Faith sustains us in our trials and brings victory.
6. **Godliness**--Being like God. We must have a continually growing revelation of Christ. To the degree the Lord is able to reveal his character to us, to that degree we=re changed within, so we must seek Him.
7. **Brotherly Kindness**--Loving others as we love ourselves. We must have the humility of heart to accept ourselves as He made us. We=ll accept and love others only as much as we do ourselves.
8. **Love**--To love and cherish the Lord above everything else in life. Love is not the goal, but enables us to descend downward into the realm of ministry to others.

Peter describes for us the path of sanctification; a demonstration of the results that faith will have in our lives. By this path he shows us the result of building on the foundation of faith, the result will be an effective life in Christ.

When Jesus was talking about seed that fell on Good Ground he said, some produced 30, some 60, and some 100 fold. And in **Mark 4:28** He said; *the seed produces the blade, then the ear, then the full corn.*

(Mark 4:28 NIV) "*All by itself the soil produces grain--first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.*"

How do we move from the blade, to the ear, to the full corn in the ear?

How do we move from the 30, to the 60, to the 100 fold return?

It is by the Renewing of Our Mind!

In the parable you have seed falling on hard ground, thorny, rocky, some on

good ground. You have all these types of ground in you! Some parts of you are hard, thorny, rocky, and good. We are not 30 in all areas, 60 in all areas, or 100 in all areas.

III. Renewing the Mind

(Rom 12:2 NIV) *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

(2 Cor 10:5 NIV) *"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."*

In this scripture Paul gives a clear picture of the aggressive nature of the struggle we have for our minds. There is nothing passive about the phrase "take captive." It is a militant, active thing. The spiritual battle for the life of every believer is in their mind. It is where the enemy will bring every attack, and where God calls us to active battle. If the enemy can defeat us here, he can keep us from advancing on his territory. His plan is to occupy the time and attention of the believer until they are useless in the battle. God calls us to make use of the Word, allowing him to "renew" our mind with his Word, until we no longer struggle with our flesh, until our responses are his responses. This is faith.

(Heb 12:2 NIV) *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

We can have confidence in the Lord to bring to completion the work of renewing our mind, if we just do that part that he has called us to. In fixing our eyes on Jesus, we not only see that he is the "author and perfecter," but also the supreme example of walking in faith. He saw none of the circumstances surrounding him, but had his eyes firmly fixed on the goal; the call that God gave him to complete salvation for all mankind!

(Psa 19:14 NIV) *"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."*

A. So what is our job?

What is that portion of renewing our mind that God has placed in our hands?

(Mat 15:19-20 NIV) *"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. {20} these are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'"*

1. This scripture shows us our condition before we are born again, so we see the need for renewing.

(Prov 4:20-21 NIV) *"My son, pay attention (attend - KJV) to what I say; listen closely to my words. {21} Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart;"*

a. "attend" - to wait, to expect, to tend a garden

(1) this is an active verb, not passive. It implies that the person

listening is not hearing by accident, but they are listening closely to gather information.

- (2) God has provided all that we need in his Word, it is our job to dig it out, seek it, search for it; to be sure we get what the Lord has for us.
 - (3) We are to use the senses to train ourselves in the Word of God.
 - (a) Ears - Why? - Devil wants to fill your ears with something other than God's Word.
 - (b) Eyes - Read the Word, promises of God, don't keep your eyes on circumstances, etc.
 - (c) Word of God is like Buried Treasure. It Doesn't Find You, You Go Find it.
2. **(2 Pet 1:3 NIV)** *"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."*
 - a. We have all the pieces. We have all the machinery (tools)
 3. **(Heb 11:6 NIV)** *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*
 - a. God is a Rewarder. We will diligently seek Him in the principles of Faith. What does God reward? Diligent Seeking!

B. Abraham learned this principle of faith.

1. Faith simply means you believe God's Word despite what you see or hear. **(Rom 4:17-18 NIV)** *"As it is written: 'I have made you a father of many nations.' He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. {18} Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.'"*
 - a. What did God say? "I have made you" (Past tense verb, it's already done)
 - b. When did he become a father of nations? The moment God said it.
 - c. Notice – "just as it had been **said** to him" - not seen, not felt, not heard, but **said - spoken.**
 - d. The basis of faith has not changed from the Old to the New Testament. It is simply believing God's Word over circumstances. Believe the Word and stand on it and you will see your circumstances line up according to the Word.
2. Abraham was fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. (Romans 4:21-22) That's why it was credited to him as righteousness.
3. He did not deny the fact that his body was as good as dead. He even faced that fact. Yet, he did not waver through unbelief and was strengthened in faith as he stood on God's promise. (Romans 4:19-20) He chose to believe

the Word over what he saw in the natural.

IV. What Is a Sure Word of Prophecy? The Bible!

(2 Pet 1:19 NIV) *"And we have the word of the prophets (sure word of prophecy - KJV) made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."*

(Isa 55:7-9 NIV) *"Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. {8} "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. {9} "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

A. God's Word illuminates our path - shows us (how we should walk) until we get the full revelation of God's plan for us.

1. What you hold in your hand (God's Word) is more important than what you see (your circumstances)
 - a. And more important than what you hear
 - b. "pay attention" - to what? The more sure Word of prophecy, not visions, not voices!
 - c. Don't seek visions, signs - the devil will accommodate you.
 - d. Many of you are waiting for the time when you walk in faith to its fullest.
 - (1) How do we walk in faith to the fullest? God is waiting to see us walk according to his Word. This is renewing the mind, and is the first step in learning to recognize His voice. He will not speak his plan to us until he can trust us to know his voice, until we have a sure ear. When Satan tempted Jesus, Jesus' quick response was with the Word. He had a sure ear for God's voice.
 - e. The more we honor the Word of God, the more we become guided by it - the more it will become a part of us. It will just become natural to believe God.
 - (1) Circumstances won't rule us, we will rule them - We will doubt them and believe God.
 - (2) The life of faith will override/overcome circumstances; we will be moved only by the Word of God.
 - (3) The Natural World will never change the Supernatural World
 - (4) When our faith is set on the Supernatural, it will change this natural world, and our circumstances

B. Decision - A choice between two options.
It is up to us to choose God's Word....

1. Over what you see, hear or feel.

(John 20:25 NIV) *"So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.""*

 - a. Why did Thomas find it hard to believe Jesus was alive? - His Physical Senses-
 - b. If you have to see it, handle it, and feel it, it is faithless or without faith. Jesus said, *"Be Believing"*; believing then must be different from seeing, handling, and feeling
(Rom 4:18 NIV) *"Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be.""*
 - c. Notice that Abraham focused on the Word of God, not physical circumstances. This is the difference!
 - (1) Abraham was not in denial, or pretending he was not old. He chose to believe God. Thomas looked at the circumstances and believed them; Abraham looked at the circumstances and believed God anyway.
 - d. Don't focus your attention on the wrong things - focus on the Word of God.
 - e. Real faith is built on the Word.
 - f. What does the Scripture say? *"Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."*
 Faith is so important that it is compared with righteousness!
(Mat 8:8-10 NIV) *"The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. {9} For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." {10} when Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."*
 - g. Why did Jesus marvel? Because the centurion immediately recognized how faith functions; that it is a matter of recognizing the proper authority; and that authority of the spiritual realm is preeminent over (surpasses) the physical realm.

- C. Be TRANSFORMED--Romans 12:2
"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is his good, pleasing and perfect will."
 Transformed = Greek "Metamorpho" = Metamorphosis - That which is changed from the inside. Metamorphosis causes us to think of a caterpillar; it starts out

crawling on the ground and ends up flying through the air as a butterfly.

1. **(Eph 5:25-27 NIV)** ". . . *just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her {26} to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, {27} and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*"
 - a. Day by day as you are filled with the Word of God, your mind is renewed.

EXAMPLE:

Whatever country we came from and live in, we obey the laws of that country. They were the only laws we had to know. The laws of other countries will not affect us at all. But when we go to another country, even for a visit, we need to be familiar with the laws of that country we are going or moving to. We would no longer be affected by the laws of the previous country we came from. Now we will be affected by the laws of the new country. In the same way, when we are born again, we have changed countries. We have moved from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. Therefore we obey a different set of laws. We don't always know all the new laws right away, they have to be learned, so our minds have to be "renewed."

D. Lets find out the type of Believing that God wants us to operate in:

1. **(Rom 10:9-10 NIV)** "*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. {10} For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*"
 - a. Faith follows a plan of action
 - (1) believe in your heart
 - (2) confess with your mouth
 - b. Jesus was not your Lord until you confessed it. His lordship was available to you, but it didn't belong to you before the confession.
 - (1) You had to believe in something your eyes had never seen; God raised him from the dead.
 - (2) You had to speak it before it was in existence
 - (3) Speaking resulted in righteousness
2. God's kingdom operates under principles.

We learn these principles as our mind is renewed, as we absorb more and more of the Word. By walking according to these principles, by doing them, spiritual laws must work for us. Just as the natural law of gravity always works when the conditions are fulfilled, so spiritual laws will work when the conditions are fulfilled. By knowing the Word of God, we walk according to his conditions (obedience, asking, tithing, etc.) and healing and prosperity

follow.

3. Put light and Darkness together - Which one disappears?
 - a. Darkness is the absence of power, there is no power in darkness.
4. Same is true of Truth and Lie - Put them together - the lie will always change.
 - a. Truth will always change a lie; a lie will never change the truth

IV. Faith works with other things

Faith is the power generator in God's kingdom. It is the raw force that causes results. But God has not given that power without controls. He gives us power in his kingdom in unlimited quantities, as long as it is used within the guideline that his character requires. A system of checks and balances are built into the function of faith, so that man cannot take the power of the Godhead, and use it according to the sin nature. For this reason faith has no purpose without hope; hope defined and given by God in his Word. Faith works by patience; protecting us from hurried and impulsive decisions. But most of all, faith works by love, which is the law of the kingdom, the great protection from our using God's power in a way that contradicts his character. With hope, through patience, and tempered by love; we can by faith do "these and greater works than these."

Faith, hope, love and patience; these are fruit of the Spirit that we acquire through God's grace toward us. In renewing the mind He sanctifies us. Grace is what *He* works in to minister these things to us. Faith, hope, love, patience, these are **our** spiritual tools; **grace** is God's spiritual tool.

(Eph 2:8 NIV) *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--"*

All faith, and all that we do through faith, is by God's grace, not through any merit of our own.

A. Faith and Grace

(2 Pet 1:2 NIV) *"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."*

As we renew our minds, and grow in the knowledge of God, grace increases in our lives; increasing all that we attain through grace.

Faith Is Our Foundation. Grace is God reaching out to you, faith is you reaching out to God. Faith receives of the grace of God, faith is useless without Grace.

(Rom 4:16 NIV) *"Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all."*

"Offspring," meaning to all who call on his name, there is no lack for all time and eternity. There is plenty to go around, sufficient for every need. It is "by grace" not of works, that no one is fooled into believing they have earned their place in the kingdom.

Grace and Faith go hand in hand. What God gives in grace, we must appropriate by faith.
(2 Pet 1:3 NIV) *"His divine power (Grace) has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."*

We can count on God to provide us with all that we need to fulfill his call on our lives, AND to walk according to his Word. We need not look at the scripture and say, "this is too hard, I am not able." Not only does he call us to walk, he gives us the legs to walk on!

B. Faith and Knowledge

...through the knowledge of him. It is up to you to gain knowledge of how to receive. Where do we get the knowledge from? God's Word!

(2 Pet 1:5 NIV) *"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;"*

1. Add to your faith what? Notice faith is the foundation: Where did we get faith? Back in Verse 1

(2 Pet 1:1 NIV) *"Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:"*

We start building on that foundation. Faith Is the foundation

2. Faith Always Works in Combination with Something.

- a. (Gal 5:6 NIV) *"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."*

Love is the qualification, the legal right to use the power of faith in the spiritual realm. It is the protection God puts on faith to ensure it functions according to his character.

- b. (Rom 4:18 NIV) *"Against all hope, Abraham in **hope** believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be.""*

Hope gives faith a goal, a purpose to function.

- c. (Heb 6:12 NIV) *"We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and **patience** inherit what has been promised."*

Patience works through faith to complete the goal. It keeps faith from stalling in the natural realm.

We are traveling on a spiritual journey in the kingdom of God. The Word of God (the Bible) is our map. Faith is our car. Love is the key, patience is the accelerator pedal, and hope is the destination. The map (Word) teaches us the way to our destination (hope), and without it we would not know the way. Hope is our destination; it is our reason for getting in the car. Without hope,

faith has no place to go, no purpose. Our transportation is faith, the car that carries us along the road. This is what gets us to the destination. In order to start the car, we must use the key. We only have the key to the car if we have the legal right to use the car. Without the key, we are stealing the car! The key to the car (faith) is love. Without the love of God, we are not qualified to use faith. Once we start the car, we must continue to push the gas pedal to travel down the road, which is patience. If we remove our foot from the pedal, the car will stop. Faith used with patience is the only way to complete the journey.

C. Faith and Love

(Galatians 5:6) *“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”*

What are circumcision and uncircumcision? They are the proofs by which the Jews judged a man. Those who were circumcised were righteous, those who were not were unrighteous. In this way man could judge, and man could do a work to fulfill the law . . . it was by the work of man that he was saved. In contrast, “in Jesus Christ”- meaning in the laws of the kingdom of God, these proofs are no longer valid. There is a new set of rules and regulations, and they are not what a man does in the outward, but they are written on his heart, they are faith working with love. These laws are spiritual, man cannot earn or do his salvation, it is given to him by grace. Even the doing in the kingdom is only through God’s grace, and not based on any merit that a man has.

Why then does faith work by love? Why does God put this balancing force to our faith? Why don’t we have a free reign with the force and power that faith has in the spirit realm? God knows the heart of man. He could not give us the power of his Spirit without the nature of his Spirit. Without the love of God operating or steering our faith, we would soon fall into sin by operating in a faith that glorified ourselves; fulfilled our selfish ambitions.

(Rom 5:5 NIV) *“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”*

We will have the fulfillment of our hope when the love of God is present in our hearts to qualify us to use faith.

(Mark 11:23-24 NIV) *“I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. {24} Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”*

How many times have you tried praying “God move that mountain and cast it into the sea.”? Has it ever happened? Have you ever heard of anyone doing this by faith? Why? What is the motive behind such a prayer? Is it love? Or is the motive self seeking personal glorification? Or is it to test God, without first learning his nature and heart in the matter? Church history has shown that even Christians have not walked perfectly in the love of God. Their natural works often have not been balanced by the love of God. Will God answer the prayer of the man who does not have his heart and motives aligned with God’s heart and motives? Can he

answer when the motivating force in the faith is not love? When Jesus said “and does not doubt in his heart,” he knew that the believer who prays for the Lord to cast a mountain into the sea, must doubt in his heart. He knows deep within himself that his heart is not with the Lord, it is focused on selfish ambition, and self glorification. I believe that when there is a man who has his heart so pure before the Lord, he could pray “Lord cast this mountain. . .” because the thought was not his thought, but God’s.

In this way God will fulfill our prayers as we believe. When we believed in Christ Jesus, our faith was according to the Word, not our own idea. Likewise, our believing must continue according to the Word of God. As we renew our minds, our heart lines up with God’s heart, our motives are in his love, he can give us whatever we ask. If our heart is following after God, we will have *NO* doubts, *because we have no reason to believe that God will not agree with us.*

(Mark 11:25 NIV) *"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."*

Notice that Jesus attached these two portions of faith; answered prayer and forgiveness. Forgiveness is the proof of our having a heart of love. If we cannot forgive we have not allowed God’s love to take over our heart, and direct our lives.

1. Faith and forgiveness

It takes Faith to forgive, because we are acting on the “laws of the kingdom of light,” contrary to the laws of this world which say we must get revenge now in this life. To forgive we are trusting God to make all things equal, whether in this life or the life to come.

Of course we cannot forgive in our own strength. No one can. But we usually try to do so. God called us and we accepted his salvation by faith. God said to pray for the sick, and we do so by faith. Why would God expect us to forgive without the use of faith? He doesn’t. He expects us to come to him and ask, “God, I don’t have the forgiveness I need, please give me yours!” He gave us salvation, love, grace, peace, forgiveness; He gives us the ability to forgive supernaturally. It is not natural to forgive, or why would God have to tell us to do it? Whatever he calls us to, He also equips us for.

(Eph 4:32 NIV) *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

You have to let the love of God that is in your heart express itself. When you walk in love, your faith will work. You release the love of God from your heart in the same way you release faith--through actions and Words. Because faith and love are of the heart, faith works by love.

(Mat 22:35-40 NIV) *"One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: {36} "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" {37} Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' {38} This is the first and greatest commandment. {39} And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' {40} All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two*

commandments."

(Rom 13:8-10 NIV) *"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. {9} The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." {10} Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."*

As we walk in this commandment, God can trust us to have a like heart with his, to have like motives with him. We have no doubts, our faith has nothing holding it back, because we know our heart is right with God. We know He will agree with our faith.

(1 Cor 13:13 NIV) *"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."*

Why is Love the Greatest? The Bible never said that "God is Faith or Hope."

God's character is Love. Through it He draws you into His presence.

Our faith depends on the love of God!

Without the love of God we would have nothing to put our faith in.

Our faith reaches out and takes hold of what God has offered us---love!

D. Faith and Hope

There are two types of hope...

(Rom 4:18 NIV) *"Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."*

Against all *natural* hope Abraham found a *supernatural* hope...natural versus supernatural.

Natural hope is like a dream or a wish, it has no substance and no chance of being achieved.

There is nothing in it that you can get hold of.

There is a difference between hope and wishful thinking. Wishful thinking is a mistaken identification of one's own wishes with reality.

Supernatural hope are the promises of God.

(Heb 11:1 NIV) *"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."*

(Heb 11:1 KJV) *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

Faith must give substance to hope because in and of itself, hope has no substance, it is merely a goal or destination. It is future tense. Add faith to hope, and hope will begin to take

on substance. To achieve a goal, or get to a destination there must be some action taken. To get there we must start on the journey. Faith is the action that takes us on the journey.

(Mark 11:24 NIV) *"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."*

(1 Th 5:8 NIV) *"But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet."*

Faith and Love are products of the spirit (breastplate). Hope is the helmet, what does it

cover? Your mind, Satan attacks in the thought life.

(2 Cor 10:5 NIV) *"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."*

By renewing the mind, and through all that God has provided for us by his Word, we have the authority to bring every thought into subjection, to keep them under our conscious control. In this way we are not victimized by thoughts implanted by Satan to destroy our hope in God.

(Phil 4:8 NIV) *"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things."*

(2 Pet 1:3 NIV) *"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."*

Remember- when he calls us to do something in his Word, he has provided us with the ability to do it.

(Prov 13:12 NIV) *"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life."*

Pursue your hope by faith! If God has given you a hope, he certainly means for you to attain it.

(Prov 29:18 NIV) *"Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law."*

Revelation is the hope given by God. Without God's goals in our life, we perish. Your vision is your hope. Don't give up hope.

(Heb 10:23 NIV) *"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."*

1. Hope is a Partner to Faith

(1 Cor 2:12 NIV) *"We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us."*

Through the Spirit of God we have understanding of the hope that God has given us, and therefore know where to place our hope.

Natural things reflect spiritual things. Example - An air conditioner is an active unit, with the goal set by the thermostat. We are the air conditioner, the spirit of God sets the thermostat, or gives us our hope (destination).

Thermostats have no substance. Someone who has never seen a thermostat before may expect it to do the cooling, however the thermostat is only the goal-setter. Faith

is the substance like the air conditioner when it does the work.

The A/C unit will not work without the thermostat, as faith without hope will not work.

(Prov 18:20-21 NIV) *"From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. {21} the tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."*

When we speak we are activating the "thermostat." If we turn the thermostat to 70/95/60 we will blow a fuse. People do this with their confession. The unit doesn't make its own decisions, if you dial for cold, it sends cold.

(Gal 6:7 NIV) *"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."*

By our words we sow, either in agreement with God's Word, or not, we will reap what we sow.

(Mark 4:26-27 NIV) *"He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. {27} Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how."*

Seed to a farmer is a goal-setter; if you want to know what goal he has, check out his seed. If the farmer wants corn he plants corn. We don't always know how faith accomplishes its goal, but nevertheless, it does.

(Mark 4:26-29 NIV) *"He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. {27} Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. {28} All by itself the soil produces grain--first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. {29} As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.""*

We need to speak our desires and hopes, plant the seeds in our spirit man, and God will cause it to grow.

2. The Distinction between Faith AND Hope

Hope is always in the future, Hope is never now, while faith is always now. Hope gives a goal, a purpose to function.

(Rom 4:18-20 NIV) *"Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." {19} without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred year's old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. {20} yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,"*

Abraham abandoned natural hope, and in its place took supernatural hope, that which God promised him. He then took the action of believing it, and through that faith

received the promise. Faith is always based on something that is past.
We are born again because of the cross, which has already happened in the past.
We are filled with the Spirit because it has already been poured out.
We are healed - **1 Peter 2:24b**... "By whose stripes ye were healed."

. . . **Vs 18** "who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, so shall thy seed be."

"*Might become*..." This is future tense, hope is always future tense. It's not wrong to talk about the future, not wrong to express or speak of your hope.

E. Faith and Patience

Patience works through faith to complete the goal. It keeps faith from stalling or dying in the natural realm.

(Rom 5:1-5 NIV) "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, {2} through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. {3} Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; {4} perseverance, character; and character, hope. {5} And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

We see in the Word the cycle of faith-hope-perseverance (patience)-character-hope-love-
The foundation is faith on which we build God's character.

Hope is the goal of faith, love is the protector of faith, and patience is the power of faith.

Patience is the power to reach the goal.

Satan attacks you the hardest in your patience.

The only thing that he can attack your patience with is tribulation or trials.

Whenever you step out in faith, get ready, tribulation will come.

Until you step out in faith you are no threat to the devil, once you do you are a threat!

"...tribulation worketh patience..."

Tribulation only offers the opportunity for patience to be manifested!

How can we measure patience without tribulation to show whether it is worked in us?

(James 1:2-4 NIV) "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, {3} because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. {4} Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

(Heb 6:12 NIV) "We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised."

In every promise there is an inheritance:

Faith and patience acquire it.

(2 Th 1:4-5 NIV) *"Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. {5} All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering."*

Faith and patience make us worthy to attain the hope that God has given us.

Remember we are citizens of two worlds. We are of the Spirit World, though we are in the Natural World. Jesus showed us how to get things out of the spirit world - by faith! Faith is the link; the doorway between the natural and the spiritual realms. Faith causes your prayer to go up to God, also the manifestation to come back to you!

Remember the Fig Tree? "It withered from the roots!" Faith attacks the unseen world. The roots of problems are not in outward manifestations, they are in the unseen spirit world! Speak faith-filled words, they attack the roots and kill it, though it takes time for a manifestation! Here is where patience works with faith. When we don't yet see the manifestation, patience keeps us from changing our confession and giving up on the answer.

1. JOB AND PATIENCE

Job is a scriptural example of faith and patience working together.

- a. Job, the greatest man in the east, lives a righteous life. He is blessed with the greatest wealth, and God has put a hedge of protection around him. He not only lives in righteousness, he covers his children to be sure that they have no sin before God.

(Job 1:1 NIV) *"In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil."*

- b. Satan approached God and argued that Job's righteousness was due to the protection that God gave him, and that if the protection were gone, Job would no longer serve God. God gave him permission to destroy Job's wealth, family, and eventually his health. Why would God do such a thing to a righteous man? Was he playing games with Job for entertainment?

(Job 1:9 NIV) *"Does Job fear (Trust) God for nothing?" Satan replied."*

- (1) No, God was proving the righteousness of Job to Satan.
- (2) God was not the source of the disaster, Satan was.
- (3) God was glorifying himself through Job.
- (4) God was using this opportunity to show Job his sin.
- (5) Job lived with perfect works, but trusted in his own righteousness before God.
- (6) Job had pride in his heart.

- c. When disaster struck Job, he did not curse God, rather he acknowledged that there will be trouble in life, and that we must not fault God that we have trouble.
(Job 2:9-10 NIV) *"His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" {10} He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said."*
- (1) At first Job's friends comforted him.
(Job 4:6 NIV) *"Should not your piety be your confidence and your blameless ways your hope?"*
 - (2) Job claimed that he was without sin.
(Job 7:20 NIV) *"If I have sinned, what have I done to you, O watcher of men? Why have you made me your target? Have I become a burden to you?"*
 - (3) Eventually Job's friends accused him of hiding secret sin, that he must confess for God to restore him.
(Job 8:20 NIV) *"Surely God does not reject a blameless man or strengthen the hands of evildoers."*
 - (4) Continuing to mourn his destruction, and his life, Job still denied that he had sin in his life. But he does acknowledge that he needs help approaching God.
(Job 9:33-34 NIV) *"If only there were someone to arbitrate between us, to lay his hand upon us both, {34} someone to remove God's rod from me, so that his terror would frighten me no more."*
 - (5) Often when Christians are experiencing difficulties, those around them insist they need to repent of secret sins, or are living in sin.
- d. God addressed Job with the answer.
(Job 38:33 NIV) *"Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up God's dominion over the earth?"*
(Job 40:1-2 NIV) *"The LORD said to Job: {2} "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!""*
(Job 33:16-17 NIV) *"He may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, {17} to turn man from wrongdoing and keep him from pride,"*
- (1) Pointing out his own glory, God showed Job his weakness.
(Job 41:11 NIV) *"Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me."*
 - (2) Job finally saw that he was not glorifying God for his own righteousness, but rather was crediting himself with righteousness due to his works.
(Job 40:4 NIV) *"I am unworthy--how can I reply to you? I*

- put my hand over my mouth."*
- (3) Job repented of pride and self righteousness.
(**Job 39:37** NIV) "*My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. {6} Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.*"
- (4) Immediately God used him to free his friends of their sin. (When we have a truly pure heart, God will quickly use us.)
(**Job 42:8** NIV) "*So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.*"
- e. Even righteousness that is perfect in works must have faith in God to be righteous before God.
(**Job 31:23** NIV) "*For I dreaded destruction from God, and for fear of his splendor I could not do such things.*"
- (1) Job's confession (the words of his mouth) acknowledged that God is righteous in all his works, no matter what Job's circumstances.
(**Job 13:15** NIV) "*Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.*"
(**Job 16:16-21** NIV) "*My face is red with weeping, deep shadows ring my eyes; {17} yet my hands have been free of violence and my prayer is pure. {18} "O earth, do not cover my blood; may my cry never be laid to rest! {19} even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high. {20} My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; {21} on behalf of a man he pleads with God as a man pleads for his friend.*"
(**Job 19:25-27** NIV) "*I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. {26} and after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; {27} I myself will see him with my own eyes--I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*"
(**Job 42:7** NIV) "*After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has."*
- f. Through the example of Job's life we see the grace of God. Job lived a perfect life in works, according to the law. But the righteousness God requires is the righteousness we receive through faith in God's grace. Because Job did not look to God's grace, he had pride due to

self righteousness. Despite his failings, Job obtained grace. His confession was faithful to God, even when he was mistaken.

(Job 42:12-17 NIV) *"The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. {13} and he also had seven sons and three daughters. {14} the first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. {15} nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers. {16} after this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. {17} and so he died, old and full of years."*

V. Faith and Confession

Gen 1:3 *And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.*

Light came into existence at the **spoken** Word of God. It existed in hope form in God's heart. He had faith that it would appear at the moment he spoke, and so he spoke. He made a confession according to the Word that was in his heart.

We have believed unto salvation, our mind is being renewed, to our faith we have added - by God's grace - hope, love and patience. When we are ready to begin the "doing" of faith, the first step is confession.

What does confession mean? It means the words we speak about what we believe, what we are going to do, and what we are expecting God to do for us. They are the words we speak while we are teaching or preaching, while we are praying, or while we are having a casual conversation. Their source is our heart, or the basic beliefs that we hold to. We will find out what God's Word says about the basis for confession, why we must be careful about our confession, and what we can expect to achieve by Biblical confession.

We will find that confession is part of the laws of the kingdom of God. As we learn what 'The Word' teaches concerning our words, we can begin to walk according to the Biblical pattern. We will begin with:

A. Knowledge and confession

1. Jesus agreed in Matthew 22:36-38 that this was the most important text in Deuteronomy.

(Deu 6:4-9 NIV) *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. {5} Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. {6} these commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. {7} Impress (**shanan**) them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. {8} Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. {9} write them on the doorframes of your houses*

and on your gates."

(Mat 22:36-40 NIV) *"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" {37} Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' {38} this is the first and greatest commandment. {39} and the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' {40} All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

These texts explain the fundamental concept of the Bible, including the instruction in Deuteronomy to study the Word, and diligently teach it to our children. This is where we must start, for without the Word in our hearts, there is no basis for making confession, or speaking in faith.

SHANAN - to pierce or sharpen or teach diligently, "listen in the sense of obeying." Moses here was trying to teach Israel where her priorities lay and how to guarantee that she would never forget them. Unfortunately, the people did forget and national tragedy resulted. Hosea put his finger on it. The problem was Israel did not teach ("Shanan") her children. **Hosea 4:6** *my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge...because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.*

2. Lack of knowledge of God's Word is what keeps many Christians in bondage. Lack of knowledge of our redemption and of our rights is often the reason for unbelief. Heaven is a Legal place, held together by God's Laws - His Word. What we do and do NOT know makes all the difference!
(Mat 4:4 NIV) *"Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*
(Isa 5:13 NIV) *"Therefore my people will go into exile for lack of understanding; their men of rank will die of hunger and their masses will be parched with thirst."*
3. First get the Word of God into your heart. (Renewing the mind)
(2 Pet 1:1-2 NIV) *"Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: {2} Grace and peace be yours in abundance **through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.***
4. Sometimes lack of knowledge will hinder us from making a bold confession. This Word describes the proper relationship between God and a man who truly obeys Him. Hosea here is referring to the "Shanan."
(Hosea 4:6 NIV) *"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge."Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children."*

5. Faith is the assurance that the dream God gave you is real, the proof of its reality to come to pass. Lack of knowledge of God's Word, and not having a vision go hand in hand.
(**Prov 29:18** NIV) *"Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law."*
6. In order to have a vision we need to look at the Word of God to acquire the knowledge of who we were, who we are, and where we are going. God himself tells us he has called us to do good works, we can have confidence and agree with his Word in our words.
(**Eph 2:10** NIV) *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

God calls us to search his Word, and know it. From that basis we can make confession.

B. Confession is in a relationship with God

1. All confession must be based on our previous relationship with God. Without a salvation experience, we have no right to confess "in Jesus name." We must be born again to have Jesus name.
(**Mark 16:17-18** NIV) *"And these signs will accompany those who believe: **In my name they will** drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; {18} they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."*
2. Jesus based all his works, and his confession on the fact of his relationship with his Father. Every healing that Jesus performed was brought about through His Father's Word. Notice Jesus' message was positive. He always confessed who He was.
(**John 12:49-50** NIV) *"For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. {50} I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."*
(**John 7:29** NIV) *"But I know him because I am from him and he sent me."*
(**John 7:38** NIV) *"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."*
(**John 8:54** NIV) *"Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me."*
(**John 4:25-26** NIV) *"The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." {26} Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."*

(John 5:30 NIV) *"By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me."*

(John 8:29 NIV) *"The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him."*

WHAT A PICTURE OF THE MASTER!

Jesus knew who He was, he knew who his Father was, and he spoke his Father's words and fully rested in it because he knew his Father would back up His Word. Jesus had confidence that what he said would come to pass, because he had confidence in the relationship with His Father.

3. We are to base our confession on our relationship with Jesus.

(Heb 4:14 NIV) *"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess."*

(John 14:13-14 NIV) *"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. {14} you may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."*

(John 15:16 NIV) *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."*

(John 16:24 NIV) *"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."*

4. We are not called to mindless repetition, to chanting a formula without involving our hearts and minds. Rather we are to live a lifestyle of continually using God's words as the expression of what we are believing and thinking.

(Mat 6:7 NIV) *"And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words."*

C. What to confess

1. Confess the promises of God.

Your faith will never rise any higher than your confession. Your confession, the words you speak, are powerful.

(Heb 10:23 NIV) *"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."*

2. Our hearts are the source of what we speak.

If our hearts are filled with evil, our speech will be evil. If they are filled with the Word of God, they will bring forth life.

(Prov 12:13-14 NIV) *"An evil man is trapped by his sinful talk, but a righteous man escapes trouble. {14} from the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him."*

(Prov 13:2 NIV) "From the fruit of his lips a man enjoys good things, but the unfaithful have a craving for violence."

(Prov 4:20-23 NIV) "My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. {21} do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; {22} for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. {23} Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."

(Mat 12:34-35 NIV) "You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. {35} the good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him."

3. The heart is where our faith resides in hope form.

In order to release it into the spiritual realm, to give it substance, we speak it out. Whatever is in our hearts is what we speak. Whatever we speak will take form, because we don't speak without faith in what we say, whether according to God's Word, or according to a lie. Your heart will condemn you if you are not obedient to the will and Word of God!

(John 15:7 NIV) "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."

(1 John 3:21-22 NIV) "Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God {22} and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him."

4. Our supreme example is God.

God spoke! Can we do any thing less? He used confession as a vehicle to carry his faith from the unseen realm to the seen world.

(Heb 11:3 NIV) "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

(Eph 5:1 NIV) "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children"

a. God and Jesus both are our example that all things that come to pass do so through the Word of God. We follow their methods.

(Heb 1:3 NIV) "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."

b. There is no authority exercised without words. Spiritual authority is carried on the vehicle of the spoken word. The Gospel is the written Word of God, the source of our power in faith is confessing the Word.

(Rom 1:16 NIV) "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."

5. God's method is to change the things that are seen (temporal or temporary) by the things that are not seen (eternal) - faith. Faith must be released through the work of the tongue. This is to take action.
(2 Cor 4:18 NIV) *"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*
(James 2:17 NIV) *"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*
(Heb 10:23 NIV) *"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess (hope we speak!) for he who promised is faithful."*

D. God's Word cannot fail to produce

1. As we follow the scriptural pattern of implanting the Word in our hearts, and then speaking the Word, God is faithful to act. Indeed, even God's Word cannot fail, as it is the essence of God's character.
(Josh 1:8 NIV) *"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."*
(Rom 10:8 NIV) *"But what does it say? 'The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,' that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:"*
(Isa 55:8-11 NIV) *"'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the LORD. {9} 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. {10} As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, {11} so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."*
2. They overcame Him with the Word of God that was in their testimony. This is spiritual warfare.
(Revelation 12:11) *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony;"*

E. From the heart to the mouth

1. Now it is time to see the pattern move from the Word in our hearts, to action - speaking the Word. When we first believed we completed the process by speaking it. What we believe we must speak in order to bring it to pass.
(Rom 10:6-10 NIV) *"But the righteousness that is by faith says: 'Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' '(that is, to bring Christ down) {7} 'or 'Who will descend into the deep?' '(that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). {8} But what does it say? 'The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,' that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: {9} that if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your*

heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. {10} for it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

2. The tiniest measure of faith is enough to do very difficult things, if we first believe, then speak. Remember; if our hearts are pure before God we have no reason to believe he will disagree with us!

(Luke 17:5-6 NIV) *"The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" {6} He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."*

3. This verse does not teach that you will have whatever you say. It teaches you have whatever you say "if you believe it." What do you believe with your mouth? NO! Your heart.

(Mark 11:23-25 NIV) *"I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. {24} Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. {25} and when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."*

(Rom 10:10 NIV) *"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."*

4. Everybody has faith, the ability to believe something. Faith will not work if the mouth and the heart do not work together. That's how we got our first miracle, being born again. *Keep your mouth and your heart together.* Whether for good or evil, our heart is the source of our speech. First we guard our heart, then we speak what the Word says. Don't say "I don't know what I am going to do", say "I believe and trust in God".

(Mat 12:34 NIV) *"You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks."*

- a. All of the mighty achievements that came by men of God have been accomplished by faith in the written Word. The Word on my lips becomes the living, life-saving, soul inspiring voice of God. There is no possession without action, "courageous action." There is no believing that does not climax in confession.

(John 12:49-50 NIV) *"For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. {50} I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."*

5. We follow Jesus example when we speak what the Father has given us to

speak, his Word. Confession comes before possession; first -believe, second- confess, third- possess.

(Rom 10:10 NIV) *"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."*

(Prov 18:20-21 NIV) *"From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. {21} the tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."*

a. We always use the words of God, spiritual words, to work in the kingdom of God.

(John 1:1-3 NIV) *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} He was with God in the beginning. {3} through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."*

(1 Cor 2:13 NIV) *"This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words."*

F. Words transmit images

1. By his words God formed the world, his words created images, which then existed in the natural realm. The image or desired results that we have in our mind is expressed by our words.

(Jer 33:2 NIV) *"This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it--the LORD is his name:"*

(Heb 11:3 NIV) *"By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."*

(2 Pet 3:5 NIV) *"But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water."*

2. When we speak God's Word, we are transmitting that image of what God has for us into our spirit. It is important to agree with God. Words can transmit fear, or they can transmit faith. Abraham saw the natural circumstances, yet with his mouth he spoke only what God had promised.

(John 6:63 NIV) *"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."*

(Rom 4:20-21 NIV) *"Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, {21} being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised."*

G. Your faith will never rise above your confession...

1. Confession of God's Word builds faith. The confession brings the manifestation, whatever we confess.

(2 Cor 4:13 NIV) *"It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.'" With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak,"*

2. Without God's Word in you, there will be no faith. The wrong confession will destroy faith. If you shut off the Word supply, you can coast awhile, but you will come down. Confessing God's Word is a principle that must be developed. It is not just a formula. It has to be a way of life. You have to speak it and speak it until faith comes. Wait on God.
(Mat 4:4 NIV) *"Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*
(Eph 3:20 NIV) *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,"*

H. Danger of negative confession

1. Be careful to guard against hasty, or careless words, they have the same power to affect our faith as when we agree with God's Word. If we can't speak in agreement with God's Word, then don't speak at all.
(Eph 4:29 NIV) *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."*
(Psa 141:3 NIV) *"Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips."*
(Psa 19:14 NIV) *"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."*
(James 1:19 NIV) *"My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,"*
2. We are warned in God's Word not to take lightly the things we say. Often we think of confession in the sense of prayer, or naming what we want God to do for us. Confession is also made by idle or thoughtless speech, and God clearly teaches us to be careful; "slow to speak," "guard over my mouth," "words of my mouth . . . pleasing."
3. Here is where we see that our hearts must be pure before God. Without the love of God, our faith will not work. It is God's desire to fulfill what we ask, to bring glory to his own name through our faith.
(1 John 3:21-22 NIV) *"Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God {22} and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him."*
(John 15:7-8 NIV) *"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. {8} this is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."*

I. 7 reasons why the confession of God's Word works.

1. The Seed must Be Sown! Can't reap a crop unless we sow seeds!

(Mark 4:26-27 NIV) "He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. {27} Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how." Confession is sowing the seed in the kingdom.

2. It Causes Faith to Come.

(Rom 10:17 NIV) "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

“Not” by having heard, a single instance; but by hearing and hearing, continual repetition. When we ‘speak’ we also hear.

3. It Renews the Mind.

(Rom 12:2 NIV) "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Confession of God's Word, speaking in agreement with what God says, causes your mind to be renewed to think like God thinks, talk like God talks, and walk like God walks - in victory over defeat. (We hear what we say!)

4. Keeps the Answer Before You.

(Phil 4:6 NIV) "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Confessing God's Word keeps the answer before you. If you are always speaking, praying, facing the problem, you will have faith in the problem. When you begin to confess the Word, some might say you are ignoring the problem, on the contrary you are doing something about it.

5. Changes Your Heart.

(Prov 4:20-21 NIV) "My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. {21} do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart;"

Confessing God's word changes your heart. Having our heart in line with God's Word makes our confession in line with God's Word.

6. Sets the Law of Faith in Motion.

(2 Cor 4:13 NIV) "It is written: "I believed; **therefore** I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak,"

Confession sets the law of faith in motion. It's like starting the engine of your vehicle. Confession DEMONSTRATES that we have faith. ACTION.

7. Guards you against attack.

(Isa 54:17 NIV) "No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD."

(Psa 107:2 KJV) "Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath

redeemed from the hand of the enemy;"

VI. THE ROLE OF WORKS

Though we are part of the kingdom of God, and we live by faith - which is a law of the kingdom - we still live in the physical world. We have faith, but it must have a manifestation in the physical realm to be shown. Our faith has accomplished nothing if there are no works as a result of it. We are not saved by works, nevertheless, they are a natural result of our having faith. In a sense, we have works because we are saved.

A. Faith without works is dead!

(James 2:26 NIV) *"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."*

1. Faith and works go together.

A house is on fire. There is a little girl on the second floor who cannot escape. A big man yells: "Jump...I will catch you." It is one part of faith that the girl knows that the man is there. It is another part of faith that the girl believes that the man is strong and that he is able to catch her. Nevertheless, the essence of faith is that the girl jumps! Had the little girl not jumped there would have been no faith.

2. Faith and works cannot be separated.

They are like the sun and the light of the sun. Faith is the sun. The works are the rays. True faith produces works. Living faith produces works. The sun produces rays. When there are no more rays then the sun is dead

(James 2:14-26 NIV) *"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? {15} suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. {16} If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? {17} in the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. {18} But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. {19} you believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder. {20} you foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? {21} was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? {22} you see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. {23} and the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. {24} you see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. {25} In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? {26} As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."*

A man says: "I have faith without works." He is like a man who builds the foundation but never builds his house.

A man says: "I have works without faith." He is like a man who builds his house upon the sand. The house does not have a foundation.

Doctrine (faith) and action (works) are like the two chemical ingredients in salt. Salt consists of sodium and chloride. Both sodium and chloride are poisons. Sodium will kill me. Chloride will kill me. However, when sodium and chloride are combined they produce life and flavor. The same is true with faith and works. The one without the other is like a poison, but together they produce life.

FAITH	WORKS
Intellect	the will
Theory	practice
Doctrine	action
Belief	obedience
Believe	repent
Faith	works
Salvation	sanctification

B. What are the works of faith?

1. Renewing the mind
2. Obedience
3. Confession
4. Sanctification
5. Walking in righteousness / avoiding the works of the flesh.

C. Building our faith

(Rom 8:6 NIV) *"The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;"*

1. We can build faith.
 - a. Through prayer and fasting (Mt 17:20,21)
(Mat 17:20-21 NASB) *"And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you. {21} "But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."*
 - b. By reading the bible (Rom 10:17)
(Rom 10:17 NIV) *"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."*
2. Our faith can be made stronger when we study, understand, accept, and believe in the sovereignty of God and the promises of God.

- a. To believe that God is able to do it (sovereignty)
- b. To believe that God wants to do it (promises)

D. Obedience

(Mat 14:28-32 NIV) *"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." {29} "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. {30} But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" {31} immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" {32} and when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down."*

We do not say: "Now I will walk on water. I will have the faith of Peter." We must receive our own words from God. Nobody can walk in the faith of another person. Our faith must be connected directly to our personal relationship with God. (Note: there are many commands in the Bible that do not apply to all Christians at all times.)

(Mat 15:8-9 NIV) *"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. {9} they worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."*

When we lose sight of Jesus and we focus on other things (like the strong wind and the big waves), we begin to sink. Doubt leads to fear. Fear leads to a lack of faith. We must keep our eyes on Jesus.

1. If we have a lack of faith, then we need to call to Jesus (verse 30b)
2. Jesus will give a second chance to walk in faith (the implication of verse 32 is that Peter walked on water again when he went back to the boat)
3. Obedience is based on Faith; faith is proven by obedience.
 - a. Faith must be based on the Word of God.
 - b. Peter did not walk on the water. He walked on the Word of God ("Come"--verse 29)
 - c. Faith is different than presumption.
 - (1) Faith - based on a personal word received from God to obey
 - (2) Presumption - based on a word given to another to copy
 - d. How to distinguish between faith and presumption:
 1. A man may receive a vision from God, but his own efforts could bring him into presumption. Faith does NOT put you on the throne, but takes hold of God's will.
 2. Faith must fit into a relationship, but when faith loses the character of dependence on your Father, it becomes presumption.
 3. Imitating another man's faith may put you into presumption. You may be moving outside God's will and purpose for you. God is not obligated to do what you say; if you reach for that which is not given. When you exercise your will through the use of laws and formulas, it becomes presumption.
 4. The exercise of faith on a certain verse that meets a need could be presumption if the voice of God is ignored. We need

to hear from God every time.

5. Faith can easily become presumption if we ignore completely the physical senses. Don't ignore the problem, face it. Abraham recognized that his physical body was useless, but faced it in faith.
6. The carnal Christian will enter into presumption through greed. (Thinking that desire and faith minus doubt = miracles). God's view is that the exercise of faith to fill one's own greed will bring leanness of soul--Psalm 106:13. Greed adopts the standards of the world and 'uses' faith as a tool. Some teaching on faith is filled with a worldly standard (how much you have). Faith must operate within kingdom principles—*“seek ye first the Kingdom of God.”*
7. Faith and grace are formed in holy union--once you separate them, you get presumption. In 'trying' to make their faith work, some people are simply having Faith in their faith. Many people try to bake bread in the bread truck, but the truck only delivers the bread. Don't try to make faith out of faith.
 - a. Faith reaches out to receive what **grace** has provided.
 - b. Faith keeps us dependent on God, but presumption makes you independent of God.

4. Conclusion:

- a. Faith begins with your relationship with God.
- b. Within that relationship God gives personal words of direction.
- c. By faith we must obey that direction.

We often want to receive the entire plan before we are willing to take the first step. God wants to see us prove our faith by taking the first step, before he gives the whole plan. He wants to know that he can trust us with even those parts of the plan that we don't understand in the natural, which seem strange or impossible. If he knows we can be trusted with each step, he will continue to unfold the plan as we obey.

E. Confession as a work of faith

(Rev 19:15 NIV) *"Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations." He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty."*

Jesus had the sword in his **mouth**, not in his hand. With the sword in his mouth, he is powerful, the ruler of all.

Rome didn't last long with the sword in its hand. The Roman soldier's sword was in his hand. It is the same with a Christian, we won't last long with the sword in our hand only, but in our mouth, speaking the Word.

Don Sims, founder of Calvary Bible Institutes of Asia, made a practice of leading the

students each day with the following confession:

I am **who** the WORD OF GOD says that I am!
I can **do** what the WORD OF GOD says I can do!
I can **have** what the WORD OF GOD says I can have!
I can **be** what the WORD OF GOD says I can be!
I can **go** where the WORD OF GOD says I can go!

Because I am:

CHOSEN
JUSTIFIED
GLORIFIED
REDEEMED BY HIS BLOOD
FORGIVEN
HOLY & BLAMELESS
PREDESTINED TO BE LIKE JESUS
ADOPTED FOR HIS PLEASURE
LAVISHED WITH ALL GRACE, WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING,
MERCY & TRUTH

I am MORE THAN CONQUEROR.

I have ALREADY WON.

I have ALREADY OVERCOME.

GOD ALWAYS--ALWAYS--CAUSES ME TO TRIUMPH IN CHRIST.

BECAUSE:

It's no longer I that lives, but Christ that lives in me.
The law of the Spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin and death.
Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.
Greater is the fire that's in me than the fear that's in the world.
Greater is the Jesus that's in me than the sickness that's in the world.
Greater is the Jesus that's in me than the poverty that's in the world.
Greater is the power that's in me than the devil that's in the world.

WHAT'S MINE IS HIS

WHAT'S HIS IS MINE

THE DEVIL CAN'T WIN AND I CAN'T LOSE. **AMEN!**

F. Sanctification as a work of faith

(Acts 26:18 NIV) *"To open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."*

(1 Th 5:23-24 NIV) *"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through? May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of*

our Lord Jesus Christ? {24} the one who calls you is faithful and he will do it."

What is sanctification? It is to be set apart for God's purpose, particularly the work of the ministry, including the anointing that God gives to accomplish his call. As we grow in the Lord we are called to do the work of the ministry. God gives anointing to accomplish his work.

1. What is the anointing?
The impartation of God's ability (Power) into our lives to do His Work
(**Luke 4:18** NIV) *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed. Jesus worked in the anointing of God.*

2. The purpose of the Anointing
(**Luke 24:49** NIV) *"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been **clothed with power** from on high."*
(**Acts 1:4-5** NIV) *"On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. {5} For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*
Jesus made it essential for the church to receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit, because the world cannot be evangelized without the anointing and power of God.

3. The Anointing produces Power, Conviction and Change
(**Acts 10:38** NIV) *"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him."*
(**Eph 1:19** NIV) *"And his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,"*
The Anointing of the Holy Spirit Always Produces Power
 - a. Dunamis - Ability: God's Ability Is Imparted Through the Anointing
 - b. The Anointing Produces Compassion in the Believer
 - c. The Anointing Contains God's Power
(**2 Cor 4:7** NIV) *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."*
Like Paul we can say that "We have this treasure in earthen vessels that the power may be of God and not of ourselves."

4. Two areas of the anointing
 - a. Believers' anointing
(**1 John 2:27** NIV) *"As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real,*

not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, remain in him."

b. THE ANOINTING TO MINISTER

(Isa 61:1 NIV) *"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,"*

(1) Anointing Is Proportional to Our Faith

(Rom 12:6 NIV) *"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith."*

(2) Faith Activates the Grace of God

(Acts 6:5-8 NIV) *"This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit. . . {6} they presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them." (8) "Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people."*

(3) Faith receives the Anointing

(Mark 5:30 NIV) *"At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?""*

(Luke 7:6-9 NIV) *"So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. {7} that is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. {8} For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." {9} When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."*

5. How to receive the anointing:

a. Asking

(2 Ki 2:9 NIV) *"When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what I can do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied."*

b. Transference

(Deu 34:9 NIV) *"Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses."*

(Acts 4:13 NIV) *"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and*

realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."

6. How to affect the level of anointing:
 - # 1. Hunger Acts 10:1-2
 - # 2. Prayer Acts 4:31-33
 - # 3. Love & Unity Acts 1:14; 2:1, 46; 4:24; 5:12
 - # 4. Word & Faith Mark 5:28-31
 - # 5. Worship 2 Chronicles 5:13

7. How to increase the anointing:
 - # 1. Asking Exodus 33:18; 2 Samuel 12:8
 - # 2. Obedience Luke 16:10; Acts 5:32
 - # 3. Humility Galatians 2:8-9; Acts 4:33
 - # 4. Transference Exodus 24:13; Deuteronomy 34:9
 - # 5. Worship John 4:23; Acts 16:25-26
 - # 6. Exercise 2 Peter 1:15; 2 Timothy 1:6
 - # 7. Word & Prayer 1 Corinthians 2:14; Hebrews 4:12

8. How to maintain the anointing:
Fasting and Prayer Matthew 17:20-21; Luke 4:1, 14

G. Walking in Righteousness as a work of faith

1. In order to be walking in faith, we cannot be walking in sin. In order for faith to be active in our lives, we must allow the spirit of God to cleanse us from the deeds of sin. Walking in faith is dependent on walking in righteousness. **(Rom 6:1-2 NIV)** *"What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? {2} By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?"*
(Rom 8:13-14 NIV) *"For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, {14} because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."*
(Rom 4:3 NIV) *"What does the Scripture say? "Abraham **believed** God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.""*

2. He decided to believe God's report. He probably didn't always feel like believing God. He made a decision to believe.
(Rom 4:13 NIV) *"It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith."*

3. The promise is not through the law, but righteousness of faith.
(Rom 10:8-9 NIV) *"But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:*

{9} that if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

4. Faith works in the heart, not the head.
Abraham did not call things that were as though they were not...Ex. "I'm not old." Faith is not pretending that a circumstance does not exist, but acknowledging it, and then crediting God with the ability to overcome the problem. Therefore Abraham could say, "I am old, but God is able *despite* my body."
(Rom 4:17-18 NIV) *"As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. {18} Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be.""*
5. We are called to have our bodies controlled by the Word, and by God's Spirit. This includes word and deed.
(Rom 12:1-2 NIV) *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. {2} do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

H. Make it practical

Two things you must do in order for your body to increase to maturity! Feed it!
Exercise it!

1. As a child one of the first things you must do is discover your hands in order to use them. Then, once you discover your hands and start to use them you will make many mistakes! (Hit yourself, miss your mouth, etc.) Children don't start out running, they start out crawling! They fall many times. These feet didn't walk on their first attempt. These hands that at one time couldn't hold a bottle, can now drive a car. Our feet can now run. We still make mistakes, but they are fewer and fewer, successes get bigger and bigger!
2. One of The most useless prayers you can pray is "God give me more Faith." How many times do we as Christians hear about faith, and when what we are believing for doesn't manifest in one week, we say "This Faith Stuff doesn't Work!"
3. Faith has the ability within itself to grow, if we Feed it and Exercise it! Don't Strain! Just rest in God's ability to do what He has promised.

VII. Hindrances to Faith

A. LACK OF RELATIONSHIP

Problem with most people's persuasion - They don't know God!

1. Not firmly persuaded in His ability
2. Many know the promises - but not the Promisor

James 2:23 and *the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.*

Abraham's GREAT Faith was born out of his GREAT friendship (relationship) with his Father. Abraham wasn't 'trying' to have faith. He was trying to love and know God. That produced unshakeable faith.

(Rom 4:20 NIV) *"Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,"*

- a. He had the promise, and was firmly persuaded in the Promisor.

B. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD.

Hosea 4:6 *my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge...*

God AND THE DEVIL must operate using the Word of God. When we don't know what is legally and rightfully ours, the devil can kill, steal and destroy.

(Prov 19:2 NIV) *"It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way."*

1. We do not act on the Word beyond our knowledge.

C. THE WRONG CONFESSION.

(Prov 18:21 NIV) *"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."*

1. Many people do not see the fruits of FAITH because of a lack of understanding about confession.

(Mark 11:23-24 NIV) *"I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. {24} Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."*

You have what you say, if you believe. (Good or Bad!)

(James 3:10-11 NIV) *"Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. {11} Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?"*

Our confession needs to be consistent with the Word. Sooner or later we become what we confess!

When these two, the confession of our lips, and the confession of our heart, perfectly harmonize with God's Word, then we become mighty in our prayer life.

Many people have a negative confession, they are always telling “what they are not”...weakness, failures, lack of money, lack of ability, lack of health.

The reality of all that we have in Christ is developed through our confession.

D. CIRCUMSTANCES

1. When we look at our circumstances and decide they are beyond God’s ability to overcome, they have hindered our faith. In this scripture Paul covers every conceivable circumstance; none can hinder us from getting to God, or God getting to us.

(Rom 8:38-39 NIV) *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, {39} neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

- a. Thomas not only looked at the circumstances, but he made a wrong confession!

John 20:25 *so the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."*

He put his faith in what he had seen, even though the Lord had told them what would happen, and he had the testimony of those around him to convince him.

- b. Remember the men that helped the paralytic. They could not reach Jesus because of the crowd in the house, so they broke open the roof and lowered their friend down into the house. These men did not allow circumstances to hinder them in doing what they needed to get a healing for their friend. In this situation the one who received was not the one who did the action. The men had great faith in God, and their actions proved it. Using extraordinary measures, they overcame their circumstances to get to God.

(Mark 2:4-5 NIV) *"Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. {5} when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

E. Other possible hindrances to faith include:

1. Hardness of heart and rebellion
2. Cares and pleasures of the world
3. Reliance/dependence on the intellect and natural mind

F. Other Obstacles to Faith

1. Mt 15:23; Lk 5:18,19 (God not answering, or too many people between you and God)

(Mat 15:23 NIV) *Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."*

(Luke 5:18-19 NIV) *Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. {19} when they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.*

2. Mk 5:35; Jn 9:24 (A bad report, or a lie)

(Mark 5:35 NIV) *While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?"*

(John 9:24 NIV) *A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."*

VIII. OTHER INSIGHTS ON FAITH

- A. Three types of faith (read Jn 11:21-44)

(John 11:23-24 NIV) *"Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." {24} Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.""*

1. Limited faith:

Martha's faith ended when Lazarus died. She had faith that Jesus could heal Lazarus, but she did not have faith that Jesus could raise him from the dead.

(Mat 13:58 NIV) *"And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith."*

a. Faith with limits can limit the power of Jesus.

b. Faith with limits is controlled by circumstances.

c. Faith with limits is motivated by the fear of failure.

2. Foundational faith

(John 11:24 NIV) *"Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.""*

a. Martha stated her doctrine. However, her doctrine resulted in faith with limits.

b. Foundational faith (doctrine) is very important, but it is not sufficient.

c. Faith must go beyond doctrine.

3. Faith without limits

(John 11:40-41 NIV) *"Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" {41} so they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me."*

a. At last, Martha permitted Jesus to remove the rock. She had faith without limits.

(1) The world says: "To see it is to believe it".

(2) Faith says: "To believe it is to see it".

(3) Faith comes before sight.

(4) Lack of faith can only be resolved in God's presence.

God will reveal Himself in such a way that any doubt you have is removed.

B. Various Description of Faith in the Word

1. Faith Without limit (Martha's faith stopped with the bad report, but ours should continue.)
(John 11:21-27 NIV) "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. {22} But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." {23} Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." {24} Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." {25} Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; {26} and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" {27} "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."
2. Complete (Perfect) Faith
(James 2:22 NIV) You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.
3. Great Faith
(Mat 8:10 NIV) When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."
4. Precious Faith
(2 Pet 1:1 NIV) Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:
5. Holy Faith
(Jude 1:20 NIV) But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.
6. Humble Faith
(Luke 7:6-7 NIV) So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. {7} that is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.
7. Little Faith
(Mat 8:26 NIV) He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

(Mat 17:20 NIV) *He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

8. Sincere Faith
(1 Tim 1:5 NIV) *The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*
9. Common Faith
(Titus 1:4 NIV) *To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*
10. Encouraging Faith
(Rom 1:12 NIV) *that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.*
11. United Faith
(Mark 2:5 NIV) *When Jesus saw **their** faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*
12. Faith with Risk
(Mat 14:28-29 NIV) *"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." {29} "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.*

C. The Commands With Respect to Faith.

1. To be firm in faith
(1 Cor 16:13 NIV) *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.*
(Col 1:23 NIV) *if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.*
2. To continue in faith
(Acts 14:22 NIV) *strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.*
(1 Tim 1:19 NIV) *holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.*
3. To be strong in faith
(Rom 4:20-24 NIV) *Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the*

promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, {21} being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. {22} this is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." {23} The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, {24} but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

4. To abound in faith

(2 Cor 8:7 NIV) *But just as you excel (ABOUND - KJV) in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*

- a. Faith isn't something we just receive once--God wants to enlarge our capacity to receive more.
- b. The parable of the sower shows 4 types of hearts, a key to maintaining steady growth of faith:
 1. Wayside--unbalanced and false concepts about true faith of God.
 2. Stony--rebellion, hardness of heart, pride
 3. Thorns--cares, riches and pleasures that choke the growth of faith. Faith never develops to maturity in those who are consumed with desire for pleasure.
 4. Good ground--a heart that is soft and receptive. The condition of our heart determines whether we receive God's faith. It's a gift, but He places the responsibility on us, "Where is your faith?"--Luke 8:25.
- c. Keys to increase our faith:
 1. Staying in an intimate love relationship with the Lord.
 2. Being a humble servant (Luke 17:7-10)
 3. Obedience. (Deut. 32:20) If we don't obey the Lord, we won't be able to believe.
 4. A believing heart that says "I know you are able, Lord".
 5. Meditating on the Word.
 6. Walking with great men and women of faith.
 7. Having right attitudes in the wilderness and in trials.
 8. Continuing to take small steps of faith to exercise your faith muscles so they will grow.
 9. Deal with any hindrances to your faith.

D. The Tests of Faith.

1. Delays

(John 11:3-6 NIV) *So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." {4} when he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." {5} Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. {6} yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.*

2. Requirements that are difficult to understand (Josh 6:3; Jud 7:7;1Kgs 17:9,13;2Kgs 3:16;4:3)

(Josh 6:3 NIV) *March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days.*

(Judg 7:7 NIV) *The LORD said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that I have chosen I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place."*

(1 Ki 17:9-13 NIV) *"Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." {10} so he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" {11} as she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." {12} "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread--only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it--and die." {13} Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son."*

(2 Ki 3:16 NIV) *and he said, "This is what the LORD says: Make this valley full of ditches."*

(2 Ki 4:3 NIV) *Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few."*

3. George Muller said:

"God wants to increase the faith of His children. However, many times his people do not want more faith because there is a great price to pay. There are tests and trials before the victory and there are delays before the end. We need to be willing to receive them from the hand of God. It is God's way of increasing our faith. This is the experience of the life of faith: trials, obstacles, difficulties, and at times defeats. God uses all of them as the food of faith."

4. Trials can make us BITTER or BETTER. We must keep our hearts soft and humble, and rejoice in Him even in our tests. Bitterness can creep in and close our hearts toward the Lord when we fail to receive God's grace in trials. For every hue/shade of trials, there's a corresponding color of grace.

5. The main reason God tests our faith is to purify us of HUMAN STRENGTH. As self-reliance ceases, we can begin to trust solely in the Lord (II Cor. 1:8-9; 12:9-10). Pride is dependence on self. Humility is dependence on God. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble!

6. If we don't allow God to test our faith, we'll never become complete, mature or perfect. God may take away all other forms of deliverance so that we have

to trust completely in Him. God gives tremendous promises, and then often reduces us to the place where they can never come to pass in the natural. (John 5:19)

7. God tries our faith to convince us of our needs.
 - a. Job was self-righteous, and had to be convinced of his utter dependency on God.
 - b. Paul - **Phil 3:4-6** though *I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.*
2 Cor 11:24-30 *Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? 30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.*

VII. Statements of Faith - Oswald Chambers

Faith is not a conscious thing - it springs from a personal relationship and is the unconscious result of believing someone.

Faith in God is a terrific venture in the dark; I have to believe that God is good in spite of all that contradicts it in my experience.

Faith does not become its own object. That produces fanaticism; but it becomes the means whereby God unveils His purposes to us.

When we say we have no faith, we simply betray our own case, that we have no confidence in God at all, for faith is born of confidence in Him.

The life of faith is the life of a soul who has given over every other life but the life of faith. Faith is not an action of the mind, nor of the heart, nor of the will, nor of the sentiment, it the centering of the entire man in God.

The heroes of faith catalogued in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews were not men who vaguely trusted that "somehow good would be the final goal of ill," they were heroes who died "**according to faith,**" not faith in a principle, but faith in a Person Who promises.

The proof that we have a healthy vigorous faith is that we are expressing it in our lives, and bearing testimony with our lips as to how it came about.

There is no end to the life of faith; sanctification itself is only the ABC of the Christian life.

The business of faith is to convert Truth into reality.

You can't pump up faith out of your own heart. Whenever faith is starved in your soul it is because you are not in contact with Jesus; get in contact with Him and lack of faith will go.

Faith is implicit confidence in Jesus and in His faith. **It is one thing to have faith in Jesus and another thing to have faith about everything for which He has faith.**

Beware of worshiping Jesus as the Son of God, and professing your faith in Him as the Savior of the world, while you blaspheme Him by the complete evidence in your daily life that He is powerless to do anything in and through you.

Faith must have an autobiography; until we know God, we have no faith. Faith is the spontaneous outgoing of my person to another person whom I know.

It is not easy to have faith in God, and it is not meant to be easy because we have to make character. Faith is described as in Hebrew 11:1, but never defined.

Faith cannot be intellectually defined; faith is the inborn capacity to see God behind everything, the wonder that keeps you an eternal child.

Faith is the indefinable certainty of God behind everything, and is the one thing the Spirit of God makes clearer and clearer as we go on.

As you go on in the life of faith you find everything is becoming so simple that you are afraid it can't be true, it is so unlike what you had been taught.

Our Lord did not rebuke His disciples for making mistakes, but for not having faith. The two things that astonished Him were "little faith" and "great faith"

Faith is not resignation to a power we do not know; faith is committal to one whose character we do know because it has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

Faith is not that I see God, but that I know God sees me, I will run out and play -- a life of absolute freedom.

Faith is not the means whereby we take God to ourselves for our select group; faith is the gift of God whereby He expresses His purposes through us.

There is only one way to live the life of faith, and that is to live it.

It is never our merit God looks at but our faith. If there is only one strand of faith amongst all the corruption within us, God will take hold of that one strand.

Faith is not naïveté; faith is my personal spirit obeying God.

Watch where Jesus went. The one dominant note in His life was to do His Father's will. His is not the way of wisdom or of success, but the way of faithfulness.

The life of faith does not consist of acts of worship or of great self-denial and heroic virtues, but of all the daily conscious acts of our lives.

(Quotations edited from "*Oswald Chambers, The best from all His books*", by Kathleen M. Chambers)