

Michael

Faith and Healing

Common Reasons for failing to
receive what you ask from God

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Faith and Healing

Common Reasons for failing to receive what you ask from God

God's word Unchangeable

The Father has give us many promises in his word which require our faith before we receive. He established his word according to his sovereign will and design for man. God binds himself to his word. He does not break his word. It can be trusted to be true and to remain unchanged. His word says:

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?** Numbers 23:19

²³Let us **hold unswervingly** to the hope we profess, for **he who promised is faithful.** [Hebrews 10:23](#)

God's word will not return unto him void.

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,
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.** Isaiah 55:10-11

In God's Sovereign will, he established man's free-will. He appointed many promises to us which we must claim by our faith. Faith is an exercise of our free-will. God expects our faith. When we do what he says, God will do what he said. God does not lie. If we do not do what he asks, we have no promise. This too is well established in his word.

¹⁴He redeemed us in order that the **blessing given to Abraham** might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that **by faith** we might receive the **promise** of the Spirit. [Galatians 3:14](#)

²²But 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.**

²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹**If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**
[Galatians 3:22-29](#)

¹²We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who **through faith** and patience **inherit** what has been **promised.** [Hebrews 6:12](#)

The focus of this treatise is on understanding Faith and receiving Healing. Healing is one of the promises to believers which is received by faith. First, we must understand the basics of faith.

We must live by God's unchangeable word. Jesus showed us that he lived by the word of God. Jesus appealed to what was written in every trial of Satan. He said we were to live by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God. Even in the words he taught us, he referred to God's word over his own. We must use the word of God to understand faith.

⁴Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" [Matthew 4:4](#)

God's Sovereign Will

God has a sovereign will. He is sovereign and there are no others he must account to. He makes the rules according to his will. That is what sovereign means. God also acts in the earth realm independent of our faith. He does not need our faith to take action. God performs many works which bless and at times even destroy without man's faith. Most accept that this is well established in his word. But there are some things that God won't do even though he is capable of it. He will not lie! He will break his word! Certainly he is capable of it if he chooses.

Many students of the Bible believe God can do every thing possible in his "Sovereign will". God can even change his mind, will, and word. **Misunderstanding God's sovereignty undermines the faith of many people.** This is a very important issue. As I will explain later, it is impossible to have faith believing that God may not honor his word. You must make a decision about faith and sovereignty; Does God expect our faith leaving us options to choose, or does he completely control our lives from his sovereign will? In this treatise, I will demonstrate; **God's has limited his sovereignty** in our behalves, **so you could exercise faith.** God loves our faith in him. Many do not understand; God's sovereignty **allows him** to give man **a free-will.** God can **set limits** on how he will deal with man so that man can exercise a **free-will and have faith.** Our faith really is a cherished endowment from God. Faith is the most important of subjects to the Christian.

⁶And **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. [Hebrews 11:6](#)

When ever a person makes a promise, he has limited his freedom. He must now perform his promises, even if he later wants to change his mind. **God has given us promises in his word which bind him to his word. God was sovereign when he elected to establish his promises to man. God did this with full understanding and in his free sovereign will.** Once his word was established, the thinking had been done, the future had been considered. God always knows what he is doing and does not need to break his promises later.

When people believe God's word can be changed or disregarded by sovereign will, they can not have faith in what it says. Faith is founded upon belief. You can not believe a thing and at the same time believe that maybe it won't be so, maybe God will disregard it or invalidate it. That is double talk.

Example: In Gal. 3:14,29 the word says; "through faith you inherit what was promised to Abraham". You have a choice to decide it is true or not. Only If you **decide it is true**, is it **your belief**. You can only exercise faith in belief. Let me give you an example of an exercise of faith in this belief. Faith could be a confession made to a friend; "I have what was promised to Abraham". Your action shows your belief. Faith always has action. If you really believed, then that action is an act of faith in that belief. Now to illustrate double talk: If you believe; "**God** , in his "sovereign will", **may decide not** to give you the promises of Abraham, even if you comply with his word", You can not believe "by faith I inherit what was promised to Abraham". Believing the word can change, makes you unable to believe the other. Without believing, you could not truthfully confess to your friend "I have what was promised to Abraham". You could only confess "God may not Give me, or I hope I have ... ". Hope is not faith. You can not have both beliefs at the same time.

²⁴"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **Matthew 6:24 (NIV)**

24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise and be against the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (deceitful riches, money, possessions, or whatever is trusted in). **Matthew 6:24 (AMP)**

You can only believe one or the other. **Believing God can change his word, excludes believing any of God's Word.** What the word says is **always lost** in the belief that; "**it can change**". That **belief is exclusive** of what the word says.

To allow faith, **God's word MUST be Unchangeable and reliable**. We can not exercise **faith upon** changeable unbelievable words. Faith requires belief and belief requires consistency from God. God has given consistency to us. He gave us himself, he is the word of life to those who find him. That is the word of faith which we preach. True believers have been convinced, they have decided, they have accepted, as truth, something far more secure;

[14] But as for you, **continue in what you have learned** and have become **convinced** of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have **known the holy Scriptures**, which are able to **make you wise** for salvation **through faith** in Christ Jesus. **2 Tim. 3:14-15**

If God's word is changeable and there are no other reliable words to believe, there is no place for faith. If there is no place for faith, faith promises can not be obtained by the exercise of man's free-will. If the promises can not be obtained by the exercise of man's free-will, there is only sovereign election remaining. If there is only Sovereign election, "Let be and let live". Calvinism rules! God will do what he desires with us. We have nothing to decide, and nothing to learn for God already did.

If God's word is true, **Beware!** Simply relying on God's Election won't give you the promises. **If God's Election decided who would receive the promises and his word is true, the elect must still comply with the scripture.** The **scripture must be observed, if true.** Receivers must have faith when the word requires it, **even when God's Election determines who the elected believer is.**

Decide today to exercise faith believing that God meant what he said when he offered his promises of faith, or **YOU WILL NOT OBTAIN THEM,** except perhaps by the exercise of God's mercy and independent will. Of course, for many, they say "that is enough". But, God's word reveals a far greater life to those who will believe and receive based upon his word.

An unbelieving person has made a decision "Not to believe". He is in rebellion against the faith which he should perform. Jesus said it was an adulterous generation that sought reasons to reject him. Do not forget his words to Saul:

²³For **rebellion** is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have **rejected the word** of the LORD, he has rejected you as king." **1 Samuel 15:23**

I firmly believe: any belief which causes the word to be invalidated and faith to be impossible is taught by demons:

^{4:1}The Spirit clearly says that **in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.** **1 Tim. 4:1**

¹¹But you, man of God, **flee from all this,** and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹²**Fight the good fight of the faith.** Take hold of the eternal life to which **you were called when you made your good confession** in the presence of many witnesses. **1 Tim. 6:11-12**

As for me and my house, we place our faith in the words of God. **We have decided to believe God's Word and obtain his promises by faith.**

In conclusion, either God's word is reliable and unchangeable or only God's election is determinative of man's salvation and promises. **If God's word is reliable and unchangeable, it must also be reliable for all the promises, even if Election decides who is called.**

Are you one of the Elect?

God does not need to invalidate his word to exclude the non-elect. God has identified the elect. They are the ones that hear his voice. The non-elect are known too; they are the ones that simply do not hear his voice. Those which are not of the fold do not hear the shepherd's voice. God does NOT draw the non-elect to NOT believe, the non-elect are the ones that don't respond to the drawing of his election. Our responsibility is to share the word to all. All who will believe will exercise faith to receive its' promises. The non-elect will not

believe. The evidence in their lives of belief in the good news is NOT seen. God remains sovereign, His election is true and effective, Man has a free-will to exercise and God's word has no need to be invalid simply because God elected that some should be excluded in the method of receiving His gracious gifts.

The rest of this treatise will refer to the word under the premise; It can be believed and God's word will not change. Sovereign will and election do NOT invalidate any promise made dependent upon the conditions of faith. That is, when God's promises are dependent the exercise of belief in what was promised, He doesn't reserve some "right" to dis-honor them in the face of such exercise. Knowledge of such a "right" would make faith impossible to the one expected to act faithfully.

God expects our faith

⁵**Examine yourselves** to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test? **2 Cor. 13:5**

¹¹But you, man of God, flee from all this, and **pursue** righteousness, godliness, **faith**, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹²**Fight the good fight of the faith.** Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **1 Tim. 6:11-12**

²³As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. ²⁴The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. ²⁵"**Where is your faith?**" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him." **Luke 8:23-25**

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶He 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.** **Luke 17:5-6**

¹⁹Then he said to him, "Rise and go; **your faith has made you well.**" **Luke 17:19**

God expects our faith!

⁸I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, **will he find faith on the earth?**" **Luke 18:8**

⁴²Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; **your faith** has healed you." **Luke 18:42**

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

¹²I tell you the truth, anyone who has **faith in me** will **do what I have been doing.** He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **John 14:12**

¹⁶**By faith** in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has **given this complete healing** to him, as you can all see. **Acts 3:16**

⁷And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. ⁸And Stephen, **full of faith** and power, did great wonders and **miracles among the people.** **Acts 6:7-8**

God expects our faith!

⁹He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that **he had faith to be healed** Acts 14:9

²²strengthening 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. Acts 14:22

²⁷On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the **door of faith to the Gentiles**. Acts 14:27

⁹He made no distinction between us and them, for he **purified their hearts by faith**. Acts 15:9

²¹I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they **must turn to God** in repentance and **have faith** in our Lord Jesus. Acts 20:21

¹⁸to 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.' Acts 26:18

God expects our faith in his word!

²⁵So keep up your courage, men, for I have **faith in God** that it will happen just **as he told** me. Acts 27:25

⁵Through 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**. Romans 1:5

⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because **your faith** is being reported all over the world. Romans 1:8

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

God expects our faith!

¹⁷For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a **righteousness that is by faith** from first to last, just as it is written: "**The righteous will live by faith**." Romans 1:17

³What if some did not have faith? **Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness?** Romans 3:3

²²This **righteousness from God comes through faith** in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, Romans 3:22

²⁷Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. ²⁸For we maintain that a man is **justified by faith** apart from observing the law. Romans 3:27-28

⁵However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his **faith is credited as righteousness**. Romans 4:5

¹³It 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**. ¹⁴For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶Therefore, **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. **Romans 4:13-16**

³⁰since there is only one God, who will **justify the circumcised by faith** and the uncircumcised through that same faith. ³¹Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law. **Romans 3:30-31**

God expects our faith in his word!

¹⁹**Without weakening in his faith**, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰Yet he **did not waver through unbelief** regarding the **promise of God**, but was **strengthened in his faith** and gave glory to God, **Romans 4:19-20**

^{5:1}Therefore, since we have been **justified through faith, we have peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through 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. **Romans 5:1-2**

³⁰What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a **righteousness that is by faith**; ³¹but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, **has not attained it**. ³²Why not? Because they pursued it **not by faith but as if it were by works**. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone." **Romans 9:30-32**

⁶But the righteousness that is by **faith says**: "Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) **Romans 10:6**

God expects to hear our faith in his word!

⁸But 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: **Romans 10:8**

²⁰Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and **you stand by faith**. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. **Romans 11:20**

²³And if they **do not persist in unbelief**, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. **Romans 11:23**

⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵so that your **faith** might not rest on men's wisdom, but **on God's power**. **1 Cor. 2:4-5**

¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is **your faith**. **1 Cor. 15:14**

¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, **your faith** is futile; you are still in your sins. **1 Cor. 15:17**

¹³Be on your guard; **stand firm in the faith**; be men of courage; be strong. **1 Cor. 16:13**

God expects us **to live by our faith** in his word!

⁷We **live by faith**, not by sight. **2 Cor. 5:7**

⁵Examine yourselves to see whether you are **in the faith; test yourselves**. Do you not realize that Christ **Jesus is in you--unless**, of course, **you fail** the test? **2 Cor. 13:5**

¹⁶know 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. **Galatians 2:16**

²⁰I 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. **Galatians 2:20**

God expects us **to Receive from him by our faith** in his word!

²This only would I learn of you, **Received ye the Spirit by the works** of the law, **or by the hearing of faith?** **Galatians 3:2**

⁵Does God give you his Spirit and **work miracles** among you **because** you observe the law, or because **you believe** what you heard? **Galatians 3:5**

⁷Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. ⁸The Scripture foresaw that God would **justify the Gentiles by faith**, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹So **those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham**, the man of faith. **Galatians 3:7-9**

¹¹Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, **"The righteous will live by faith."** ¹²The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." ¹⁴He redeemed us in order that the **blessing given to Abraham** might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that **by faith we might receive** the promise of the Spirit. **Galatians 3:11-12,14**

²²But 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**.

God expects us **to join his family by our faith** in his word!

²³**Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law**, locked up until faith should be revealed. ²⁴So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

²⁶You are **all sons of God through faith** in Christ Jesus, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹If you belong to Christ, then you are **Abraham's seed**, and **heirs according to the promise**. **Galatians 3:22-29**

God expects **our faith expressing love!**

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

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

¹²In him and **through faith in him** we may **approach God** with freedom and confidence. **Ephes. 3:12**

¹⁷so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, **Ephes. 3:17**

⁵**one Lord, one faith**, one baptism; **Ephes. 4:5**

¹³until we all reach unity **in the faith** and in the **knowledge** of the Son of God and become mature, **attaining to the whole measure** of the fullness of Christ. **Ephes. 4:13**

¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can **extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one**. **Ephes. 6:16**

²⁷Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the **faith of the gospel** **Philip. 1:27**

⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the **righteousness** that comes from God and **is by faith**. **Philip. 3:9**

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²²But now he has **reconciled** you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- ²³if 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. **Col. 1:21-23**

⁹They must keep hold of the **deep truths of the faith** with a clear conscience. **1 Tim. 3:9**

God expects us to **keep our faith** in his word!

^{4:1}The Spirit clearly says that **in later times some will abandon the faith** and **follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons**. **1 Tim. 4:1**

¹¹But you, man of God, **flee from all this**, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹²**Fight the good fight of the faith**. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **1 Tim. 6:11-12**

²²Flee the evil desires of youth, and **pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace**, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. **2 Tim. 2:22**

¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the **holy Scriptures**, which are able to **make you wise** for salvation **through faith** in Christ Jesus. **2 Tim. 3:15**

⁷I have **fought the good fight**, I have finished the race, I have **kept the faith**. **2 Tim. 4:7**

²Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and **sound in faith**, in love and in endurance. **Titus 2:2**

God expects us **to share our faith** in his word!

⁶I pray that you may be active in **sharing your faith**, so that you will **have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ**. **Philemon 1:6**

²For we also have had the **gospel preached to us**, just as they did; but the message they heard was of **no value** to them, because those who heard **did not combine** it with **faith**. **Hebrews 4:2**

¹⁴Therefore, 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**. **Hebrews 4:14**

¹²We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who **through faith and patience inherit** what has been **promised**. **Hebrews 6:12**

²³Let us **hold unwaveringly** to the hope we profess, for **he who promised is faithful**. **Hebrews 10:23**

^{11:1}Now **faith is being sure of what we hope for** and certain of what we do not see. **Hebrews 11:1**

³**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. **Hebrews 11:3**

⁶And **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. **Hebrews 11:5-6**

³because you know that the **testing** of your **faith develops perseverance**. **James 1:3**

⁵If any of you **lack wisdom**, let him ask of God, that **giveth to all men liberally**, and upbraideth not; and **it shall be given him**. ⁶But let him **ask in faith**, nothing wavering. **For he that wavereth** is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷For let **not** that man think that he shall **receive any thing of the Lord**. **James 1:5-7**

⁵Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be **rich in faith** and to **inherit the kingdom** he **promised** those who love him? **James 2:5**

God expects us **act on our faith** in his word!

¹⁷In the same way, **faith** by itself, if it is **not accompanied by action, is dead**. ¹⁸But 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**. **James 2:17-18**

God expects us to **Receive Healing by our faith** in his word!

¹⁵And the **prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well**; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. **James 5:15**

⁵who **through faith are shielded by God's power** until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **1 Peter 1:5**

⁷These have come so that **your faith**--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may **result in praise, glory and honor** when Jesus Christ is revealed. **1 Peter 1:7**

⁹for you are receiving the **goal of your faith**, the **salvation** of your souls. **1 Peter 1:9**

God expects us to **overcome the world by our faith** in his word!

⁴for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is **the victory that has overcome the world**, even **our faith**. **1 John 5:4**

²⁰But you, dear friends, **build yourselves up in** your most **holy faith** and pray in the Holy Spirit. **Jude 1:20**

¹²Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that **keep** the commandments of God, and **the faith of Jesus**. **Rev. 14:12**

It should be obvious that God expects our faith. Without faith it is impossible to please him. Having established we can trust his word and his word tells us God expects our faith, Let's now look at what Faith is.

What is Faith?

- Faith is always in something. Faith always **has a basis in belief**. Belief is the object upon which faith is based.
- **Hearing and accepting God's word as truth**, precedes belief, just as belief precedes faith.
- **Faith is acting** upon belief. Without acting on a belief, faith is dead. The belief must become so real that out of the abundance of that belief in your heart, you are compelled to take action.
- Faith in God's actions toward us is **directly related to our knowing his will** toward us. We **must have a belief regarding his will** before we can have faith in it.
- God's will toward us is **revealed in his Word**. His word as good as a **solemn promise**.

We can distill the following definition and essential elements of faith from the above;

Faith is the action taken upon belief(s) which a person accepts as true.

- **You must first have heard the promisor's will or promise.**
- **Beliefs refer to what a person accepts as truth.** You must decide it is true.

- **Faith does not operate independent of the specific belief.** The belief must become so grounded in your heart that out of its' abundance you take action.
- **Faith is demonstrated by action**

This definition is generally **valid for any belief** which a person accepts as truth.

Example: your employer promises to "pay you if you work".

- First you must hear your employers words. Don't hear and it all stops.
- You must decide to believe him. If you do not believe him, you will not begin work.
- Exercising faith, you begin to work. If his word is reliable, you obtain the promise.

When faith is exercised in God there is no difference except:

- We must hear and believe **God's** will or promises.
- His **will or promises** are found in the **Bible** his written word.

In both cases, Only believing the specific words as truth lets you proceed to faith. If you did not believe the employers words "Work and I'll pay you", you could not exercise faith in his words and go to work. Even if the employer tells you something that you can believe like: "The sun is orange and it will rise tomorrow". If you believe something that is not related to his specific promise "Work and I'll pay you", the words about the sun do not give you faith to begin work. Simply believing that Jesus was beaten, crucified, and was raised from the dead, will not allow you to exercise faith in healing, unless you also have the word of God which connects the two, ie; "By his stripes you are healed".

Beliefs refer to what a person accepts as truth.

Belief is what you have decided to accept as true. The active verb here is "**Decided**". **Belief is the result of a decision regarding truth, nothing more.** While it is possible to believe something that isn't true. It is **not possible to believe something you do not think is true.** You can only believe that it is false. If you have **not decided** it is true, you **can not believe** it is true. Deciding that something is true makes it a "**belief**". But, Deciding that something is false also makes a "**belief**". A belief not only refers to the tenant, but includes **your position** regarding that tenant. You also imply your position; it is true or it is false. The two **together form your belief.** When you say something is your belief and state no position relative to the tenant, it is understood you mean you have decided the **tenant is true.** Unless you qualify your position, it is implied that you have decided the tenant is true. Belief indicates a position has been taken.

Example: You have heard that; “Jesus has returned”. You have two possible positions for belief.

1) You can believe that the report is true.

2) You can believe that the report is false.

Both are beliefs. If you **can not decide**, and take no position, you **do not have a belief**. If you have not decided that the tenant is true, then by the definition of “belief”, you DO NOT believe that the tenant “Jesus has returned” is true.

Tenants of belief are usually the descriptions, attributes, or characteristics of an object or relationship between objects. Objects are things like nouns; you, I, God, my car, also abstractions like; Health, prosperity, evil, righteousness. However, the abstractions are themselves usually understood as attributes or characteristics of other objects.

Unbelief is just the opposite of belief. A position of unbelief means that you believe a tenant is false, unless your position is qualified otherwise. Acting in unbelief is simply acting on the belief that something is false. Acting in belief is acting upon the belief that something is true. Indecision is neither. It is often called doubt. Faith can not be taken on doubt.

Faith is manifested when we take action based upon our belief. Faith for “healing” is manifested when we act upon a “healing” belief like; “The prayer of faith will heal the sick”. Faith is always based in a belief. We can not have faith before we have a belief to act upon. The concept of Blind faith, acting without a belief, is not faith at all. It is gambling, trying, or taking a chance not faith. We can not have a belief until we hear a tenant or idea and decide it’s truth. Hearing precedes the decision making a belief, which precedes having or acting in faith.

Consequently, **faith comes from hearing** the message, and the message is **heard through the word of Christ**.
Romans 10:17

We must hear to obtain a belief before we can act on it in faith. We learn of God’s will when we hear his words. Through learning of his will, we obtain knowledge about him. We also learn of our relationship with him. We learn we have a relationship “In Him”. As we trust God, deciding his words are truth, his words become our beliefs. We must hear his words to learn God’s will. The more such a person hears the word forming belief, the more his heart begins to compel him to act upon that belief. That action is called faith. In short, Hearing the word becomes faith or “Faith comes from hearing”. Just as hearing doesn’t automatically become faith, so hearing doesn’t automatically become belief. We must hear and decide to accept the hearing before it becomes belief, then the belief must become grounded in our hearts compelling us to action exercising faith.

Faith is demonstrated by action - Acting on one’s belief

As hearing becomes belief when we decide to accept it as truth, So it is with faith; belief becomes faith when we decide the tenants of our belief are true and our heart compels us to take action on that belief.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. [23] Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror [24] and, after looking at

himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.
James 1:22-24

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." James 2:16-17

When we decide to accept the Word of God regarding healing, his words on healing become our **belief** on healing. When we act on that belief, faith is manifested. If our belief says: "**the prayer of faith will heal the sick**"; when we **pray and ask** according to that belief, **our faith in that belief is manifested**. It is a prayer of Faith. Faith would not be manifest, if we didn't pray, because the word said "prayer". If you believed you would employ "prayer" as the word said. The prayer according to God's word is your act of faith.

Faith can not exist independent of action anymore than belief can exist independent of deciding it's truth. Every action demonstrates the belief upon which the action is taken. Acts of Faith manifests and demonstrate belief.

Show me your faith without deeds, and **I will show you my faith by what I do**. James 2:18

An accepted belief doesn't become our faith until we take action upon it. Acting upon belief produces results. It gives substance to the things we hope for.

Now **faith is the substance of things hoped for**, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

The words of God reveal his will toward us and give us hope to receive. We'll only receive what we hope for, if we decide to believe what he says is true. Action, which will naturally follow belief, is called **faith**. When we act upon that belief, our faith gives substance to the thing we received hope for. The words of God provide the foundation for hope and confidence that we can obtain his promises revealed. Knowing God's will, gives us the confidence to believe and take actions of faith. Knowing God's will gives us the confidence to approach God without fear of being presumptuous.

... according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. [12] In him and **through faith in him we may approach God** with **freedom and confidence**. Ephes. 3:11-12

Let us then **approach the throne of grace with confidence**, so that we may **receive mercy** and **find grace** to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

We can only come boldly before God because we have confidence the will of the father provides us access to him. We only have confidence to ask him to supply what we ask, when we believe he desires to do so.

In summary:

Faith is action taken upon belief(s).

1. You must have an idea to believe.
2. You must decide you believe it is true.
3. The truth must become so real (in your heart) that it is the basis for your taking action.
4. When action occurs, it is known as "faith".

Faith to approach God is directly proportional to our belief in his will.

A persons "Faith"

Faith appears to be an illusive concept for many Christians today. Perhaps some history would help us remember who we are and what is the basis of that identity. The Christian used to be known by his faith. If a person were asked; "What faith are you?". The question was usually answered by reference to his denomination, when asked by another Christian. If a non-Christian asked the question, the answer may simply have been: "Christian", or "Christian of the Baptist etc. denomination". The reference to "Faith" referred to the beliefs upon which a person lived his life. Everyone knew that the beliefs of the "Christian Faith" were quite different from the beliefs of the "Jewish", "Islamic" or "Buddist" Faith. Yet, each believer had a "Faith" which was based in his beliefs. A persons "Faith" referred to the way he lived, or the Code of Beliefs which he founded his life style upon. It was very simple to understand that "Faith" was based upon beliefs. You could usually tell the difference between persons of different "Faiths" because their actions demonstrated that they lived their lives based upon different beliefs. **Their way of life was their "Faith"**. You could see their beliefs by seeing how they lived. Of course there were some persons who claimed no body of truths as the basis for their life style. You would usually have referred to them as **"Not of any faith"**. This is not to say they had no beliefs, just that their beliefs were not identifiable as belonging to a recognized group or affiliation of beliefs.

Today we rarely hear reference to a persons "Faith". Perhaps it is because the way people live today. Many people live without reference to absolute truth or any body of beliefs. Again, **we usually say they have no faith**. But that is **wrong!** Using the old terminology, they are of the **"Humanist Faith"**. Nothing has really changed; We all live our lives by what we hold as truth. We all have a faith or body of beliefs we hold true. The new "Humanist Faith" allows truth to be flexible, defined by the situation. Such a view is quite a paradox, because how can something be true depending upon the circumstances? How can you have **flexible integrity** when integrity refers to one's "quality of integration" to a belief or standard.

The point here is not to examine beliefs upon which different "faiths" operate. The point is to help you establish; "Faith is always based upon belief(s)". **The tenants of one's faith are the principles upon which the person acts**. Those tenants are our absolute truths. There are many "Faiths", and all are "Faiths".

In conclusion; a person's **"Faith" is only understood relative to the beliefs** which he acts upon. Faith does not operate independent of belief.

Faith does not operate independent of specific belief

Specific Faith for Specific results

It should seem obvious that **not all faiths produce the same results**. Just having a “Faith” or just believing in any idea will not produce the desired results. , Not any faith is sufficient, when referring to the promises of God by Faith.

To the Christian, **Salvation is received by belief and confessing** that Jesus Christ is your Lord.

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**. Romans 10:9

Certainly, the belief that “Mohammed is Lord,” and was “raised from the dead” would not produce the same results. Not just any belief will qualify the promise of God. God will not save you even though you have faith. **It must be faith in his word!** Even when the other belief is very similar in substance.

Likewise, Faith in a belief that; “God is Good and Loves mankind”, will not save you even though it too may be true and from God’s word. **That is not what is required to be saved!** Your faith must be in the belief; “**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**”.

Faith must be based upon the belief governing the promise. Even if the belief which a person clings to is true! If the belief upon which faith is to be exercised is not relative to the result desired, it can not be used to obtain that result.

Example: Suppose you believe correctly; 1) God said: If you call “Spot” the dog, the dog will come.

Suppose another truth is; God said: If you feed the fish, it will live.

Calling the Dog, will not make the fish live. Even though it would be a true and valid exercise of faith to call the dog. **Calling the Dog is not the proper faith to exercise, if your desire was for the fish to live.** Even though you are exercising faith in a belief. And even though the belief is based upon a truth from God. Only faith in the specific belief required for the specific promise desired will obtain the desired result.

Example healing: You can not exercise faith in your belief; “Jesus was raised from the Dead”, to obtain healing. While it is true and certainly connected to your healing, a valid exercise of faith for healing must be based upon a belief about healing. A valid faith exercise could be in the belief founded in his word; “By his wounds I am healed” which is based upon Isaiah 53

⁴Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. **Isaiah 53:4-5**

Likewise you can not misapply the truth and expect the results promised.

Example: you believe as above. However, calling “Feliz” or “Tom” the cat will not cause “Spot” the dog to come all things being equal. (I know, you have a dog that comes when you call the cat - Stop that! You’ll confuse yourself.)

Example in healing: You can not exercise faith in Isaiah 53 by believing; “By his wounds **I may** be healed” or “By his wounds **I will** be healed (future)” or “By his wounds I am healed, **if God allows**”, to obtain healing. While it is close, it is not the same as calling “Spot”. Such misapplications are like calling something else when you want to receive your healing. You want to receive the healing that was given to you 2000 years ago. **God has given no promise of making another, may be, will, or if he allows**) A valid exercise of faith for healing must be based upon a belief about healing **founded in his word**. The only valid faith exercise for healing based upon Isaiah 53 would be in the belief; “**By his wounds I am healed**” .

I know you can’t wait! You ask; How do we do that?

¹⁸So **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. **2 Cor. 4:18 NIV**

¹⁸While **we look not at the things which are seen**, but **at the things which are not seen**: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. **2 Cor. 4:18 KJV**

We look at the word of God for our evidence. Our faith is the evidence of things not seen. It is the substance of the things we hope for. We look to Jesus our provider. The word it is eternal. God said; “By his wounds I am healed” Don’t look at the circumstances. Choose to believe God’s word even above our own body’s senses. Luke 11:24 clarifies that we must believe we have what we ask for before we shall have it. Therefore we walk by faith not by sight. Then, what is temporary is changed and we receive the healing in our bodies. We already have it from Jesus. We receive it by our faith!

Back to; you can not misapply the truth and expect the results promised. **You can exercise faith in something which isn’t true, it will not produce results**. You can be deceived in a tenant of faith and believe it is true. You can even act upon that belief, but if it isn’t God’s will to give you what you desire, you have nothing. God does not reward you for your ill placed faith. Your faith must be in God’s word, for faith to obtain God’s promises. Other religions have ill placed faith all the time. He doesn’t honor their faith. Note; God has a sovereign will, he can do anything, even reply to your needs without you doing anything. God is a merciful God, he can decide to act upon your ignorant Faith or act upon your need. It may keep you seeking God till you find him. But, there are many war ravaged people in great need which did not find God acting in

their behalf, regardless of whether they acted in ill founded faith or had great need. But, God will always honor his word and your faith in it! He doesn't lie!

You can not exercise faith in something you do not believe is God's will. If you pray asking for something which you do not know God wants to give you, it can not be a "**Prayer of Faith**". Such action may be called a test, a trial, an experiment, or taking a chance, but it is **not an act of faith**. You must have a tenant of faith which you believe before you can exercise faith. Then, it must be a correctly founded belief to receive. Even if the tenant of your "gamble or trying" action was true, if you did not **hear** the word and **decide** it was true, **you did not have a belief**. Any act, even if it would have been a valid manifestation of faith, **is not faith**. It wasn't based upon belief.

Many so-called "Faith People" try to imitate the acts of faith. They confess they believe. They will pay large sums of money acting like they believe God will supply their needs. They may even try to act like they are healed and stay away from the operating table. You can easily see why many great faith teachers get a bad name from such "**want-a-be believers**". They haven't decided they believe, they are trying to see if it works. They aren't believing, they're trying to see if acting like they believe will work. In reality, they are very bad examples for the Body of Christ; They look like believers that God ignored. Are you sure of what you believe? Are you believing or acting like you believe? God never said he would reward us for acting like we believe. Do you act in faith or presumption? There really is a Good Fight of Faith and real enemies in that fight. We must understand what God expects. We must read God's word deciding to believe. The biggest enemy is ignorance of God's word.

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

If you act like you believe when you don't, or if you gamble hoping to win, you are not acting in faith. If you perform some action without knowing or believing that it is what God requires for the result you desire, you are just hoping in vain. I know of no promise in the word of God that allows such ignorance a reward. Sure God knows your needs even before you ask, but he never said that was all that was required to receive. He plainly said you must ask to receive. You must hear the word and decide if it is true, before you can act in faith upon it.

Some people torture themselves to get God to move. They will literally crawl miles or over broken glass. I think I once heard that Calvin nearly froze to death in a his vain struggle to move God. Some will even carry a cross. Having no basis in God's word, they can only hope God will give what they desire, since it is obvious they want it very bad. **Torturing or endangering yourself is not Faith!** People will not do this very long before they start looking for explanations why they don't receive. I believe, much of Calvinism came about in such an attempt to place the blame on God instead of themselves. Usually, they don't have to go too far to find

someone who will agree with them. “God’s election for you didn’t include what you asked”, or “God no longer answers prayer”, or “God stopped that with the apostles”, or “God is dead”, or “God’s sovereignty decided against it”, or “God knows you would hurt yourself, if he gave what you ask” or “God is giving you something better”, “there is some lesson you need to learn”, “God is making you stronger” or **some other excuse to nullify God’s word**. How many words of men or demons will we embrace to abandon the faith.

^{4:1}The Spirit clearly says that **in later times some will abandon the faith** and **follow deceiving spirits** and **things taught by demons**. **1 Tim. 4:1**

Faith requires an absolute truth.

I hope it has been established above that:

- You must first have heard a obligor’s will or promise.
- Beliefs refer to what a person accepts as truth.
- Faith does not operate independent of the specific belief.
- Faith is demonstrated by action

Simplified; **Faith is the action taken upon belief(s) which a person accepts as true.**

A person must have a belief which he believes is true in order to exercise faith. **A person can not exercise faith in something he doesn’t believe or doubts.** Faith is only exercised upon Belief. “To believe” is to be decided something is true. The process of believing involves the decision of accepting a tenant as truth. It follows then that a person can not exercise faith in a tenant he doesn’t know or hasn’t heard or hasn’t decided.

A person **can not exercise faith if he doubts the truth of the tenants of that faith**. Acting in doubt is not the same as acting in faith, even if both actions are the same. For example; both persons may pray. But a prayer in doubt or unbelief is no more faith, than it is to go to work when you don’t believe you are going to get paid. Such action may be called a test, a trial, an experiment, or taking a chance, but it is **not an act of faith**. Faith does not permit room for uncertainty, doubting or unbelief.

⁶But let him **ask in faith, nothing wavering**. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. **James 1:6 KJV**

The NIV version helps explain “**ask in faith**”. Notice the NIV **ask** (the action) **while believing without doubt**.

⁶But **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. ⁷That man **should not think he will receive anything** from the Lord; ⁸he is a **double-minded man, unstable in all he does**. **James 1:6-8**

You can not pray a “Prayer of Faith” in doubt or unbelief.

The will of God, and the will of man

The rest of this treatise is devoted to helping you know what is God's will and that the Bible can be relied upon to provide you the opportunity to hear his will and decide to believe or disbelieve. Rest assured, It is you that must decide to believe and act in faith. God won't act for you. You can choose to ignore his truth and fail to receive any of his promises just like you can refuse to receive his promises for salvation and eternal life. You can chose only because you have a free-will.

Man's free-will

This premise must be understood. God gave man a free-will. Free-will means that a man can exercise his will free or independent of God's will. He can even choose to go against God's will. Without this belief, there is no reason to consider any choice of action. There is no reason to pray a prayer of faith. Since, without a free-will, there really are no choices and no reasons to consider truth or error. We would simply be like Gapetto's puppets conforming to the instructions conveyed by the strings attached to God as he directs his sovereign will. Our searching for truth would be meaningless. Our acceptance of Christ as Lord would be meaningless as well, since it would really just be God deciding to accept or reject us. It doesn't matter how many indirect actions are taken, if all action is God's will, then it is God alone responsible. But God created us to have fellowship with him. He gave us a free-will to choose. In this manner God could experience us and have fellowship beyond himself. A few scriptures demonstrate these principles to us.

God can experience **grief** toward our free-will decisions:

The LORD saw how great **man's wickedness** on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. [6] The **LORD was grieved** that he had made man on the earth, and his **heart was filled with pain**. Genesis 6:5-6

God can experience **joy** in our free-will decisions:

I tell you that in the same way there will be **more rejoicing in heaven** over one **sinner who repents** than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. Luke 15:7

God can experience **outrage** toward our free-will decisions:

Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy and say to your husbands, "Bring us some drinks!" [2] The Sovereign LORD has sworn by his holiness: "The time will surely come when you will be taken away with hooks, the last of you with fishhooks. Amos 4:1-2

Per Micah 3:1-4, **God hates evil** done by the people

Then I said, "Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel. Should you not know justice, [2] **you who hate good and love evil**; who tear the skin from my people and the flesh from their bones; [3] who eat my people's flesh, strip off their skin and break their bones in pieces; who chop them up like meat for the pan,

like flesh for the pot?" [4] Then they will cry out to the LORD, but he will not answer them. At that time **he will hide his face** from them **because of the evil** they have done.

Is God Evil?

To Quote from Richard Rice's book; God's Foreknowledge & Man's Free Will;

"The reality of evil is both the strongest obstacle to personal faith in God and the most formidable intellectual challenge to theism. How can one reconcile the existence of evil in the world with the qualities of love and omnipotence attributed to God in the Judeo-Christian tradition?"

Only by understanding that God gave man a free-will, can we understand that **it was man's choice to have evil**. Man used his free-will to choose evil. Without believing in man's free-will, how can we understand God's relationship to man with any consistency? In the most simple questions, Is God good or evil toward us? Does he want good or evil for us? The only acceptable answer is that God is good and desires good for us. It was **man's free-will** that **chose the evil** which we now see. The trenchant formulation of David Hume clarifies this paradox so ably.

"Is he willing to prevent evil, but not able? then is he impotent. Is he able, but not willing? then is he malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Whence is evil?"

No! God is Good and a rewarder to those who use their free-will to seek him.

⁶But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must **believe that he is**, and *that he is a rewarder* of them that diligently **seek him**. **Hebrews 11:6**

Remember, If you believe God has made some non-elect people for ignoble purposes, they are not his elect and they will not come to him. Hence, God is not the rewarder of those he destined for destruction. God did create a world with evil. That's a fact. The trying of our Faith works patience. But, for those that cometh to God and diligently seek him, he only has reward. God even rewarded Job after the Devil harmed him.

¹⁰After Job had prayed for his friends, **the LORD made him prosperous** again and gave him **twice as much** as he had before. **Job 42:10**

¹²The **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. ¹³And he also had seven sons and three daughters. **Job 42:12-13**

¹⁵Nowhere 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**.

¹⁶After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation.

¹⁷And so he died, **old and full of years**. **Job 42:15-17**

The word of God, his character and will

We must know what God desires before we can have confidence to exercise any faith toward him. Let us begin with his Word which reveals God's most basic premise for our relationship with him. We must know that he exists and wishes to reward us, if we seek him.

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. Hebrews 11:6

... the nation that keeps faith. [3] You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. [4] Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal. Isaiah 26:2-4

God's will is to rescue us from the evil of this present age:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and **the Lord Jesus Christ**, [4] who gave himself for our sins to **rescue us from the present evil age**, according to the **will of our God** and Father, Galatians 1:3-4

He doesn't want us lacking in any area of our lives For in him you have been enriched in every way:

That **in every thing ye are enriched by him**, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; [6] Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: [7] So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: [8] Who shall also **confirm you unto the end**, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] **God is faithful**, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Cor. 1:5-9

God is cultivating you by his word so you are able to ask and receive more. The word provides the basis for your asking and receiving. It is the basis for your bearing fruit.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. [2] He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that **it will be even more fruitful**. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ... "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, **he will bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:1-3,5

It is **God's Glory** will that you bear much fruit: God is glorified when **you receive** what you ask for according to his will which you learn from his words.

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. John 15:7-8

God's desires for you to be fully equipped to do his will and bear much fruit. It pleases him.

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, [21] **equip you with everything good for doing his will**, and may he

work in us what is **pleasing to him**, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21

His word equips us to bear fruit as it sanctifies (Makes holy, consecrates us for his holy purpose) us :

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. John 17:17

God's Word -- His Will, the sure foundation for our faith

The number one rule when praying for results is: **Base your prayer on God's word**. It can be relied upon just the same as the word of a good friend. If you trust him, you will believe what he says. Faith in God works the same way.

God's word is his will. The words written by the prophets and special witnesses of Christ reveal God's will for us. When we pray in line with the Word, we have automatically prayed in line with his will.

God's word can be trusted to reveal his will.

Surely the **Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan** to his servants the prophets.
Amos 3:7

God's word can be trusted to be true and to remain unchanged.

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**? Numbers 23:19

God's word will not return unto him void.

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, **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.** Isaiah 55:10-11

God's word reveals -- We have eternal life

¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to **eternal life.**" **John 4:14**

²⁷Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to **eternal life**, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." **John 6:27**

²⁸**I give them eternal life**, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.
John 10:28

²For you granted him **authority** over all people that he might **give eternal life** to all those you have given him.
John 17:2

God's word reveals -- We can approach God, ask and receive

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God **so that you may know that you have eternal life.** [14] This is the **confidence** we have **in approaching** God: that if we ask anything **according to his will**, he hears us. [15] And if we know that **he hears us**--whatever we ask--we know that **we have what we asked** of him. 1 John 5:13-15

We can approach God, ask and receive

By God's words we **know his will**, we can **decide to believe** and we can **chose to have faith by acting on that belief**.

- By those same words we know we have **eternal life**.
- By those same words we know it is his will for us to **approach God with confidence**.
- By those same words **we know what to ask** (according to his will).
- By those words we know **he hears us**.
- Buy those words we **know we have what we asked** of him.

Without God's words we **don't know his will**, **can't decide** and **can't act** except maybe in presumption and wishful thinking.

- Without his words we don't know he is.
- We don't know he rewards those who seek him.
- We are afraid to approach him.
- We don't ask for anything according to his will.
- He doesn't hear our prayer.
- He doesn't give us the things we desire or need to prevail against the evils of this present age.

As important as his words are, if we do **not chose or decide to believe** them, it is the **same** as if we **hadn't received them**.

Even more ironic, If we have his word, and profess belief, but **fail to exercise faith** or act upon them, it is the **same** as if we **hadn't received** them. To believe that God answers prayer and not to pray, makes God's word of no benefit.

God not only **requires you to act on your belief** in his word, but your faith must be **without doubting**. In other words; you must **be sure you know God's will** so that your mind isn't in indecision.

But let him **ask in faith, nothing wavering**. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. [7] For **let not that man think that he shall receive any thing** of the Lord. [8] A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 1:6-8

You must be sure to **fight the good fight of faith** against your adversary the devil.

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the **eternal life** to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Tim. 6:12

Do not let your faith be undone. Keep your **heart pure** by keeping your belief strong.

⁴⁵The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

Luke 6:45

Meditate in the word so that you keep your belief strong.

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. Joshua 1:8

My son, pay attention to what I say; **listen closely to my words**. **Do not let them out of your sight**, keep them within your heart; for **they are life** to those who find them and **health to a man's whole body**. Proverbs 4:20-22

Keep your belief firm by making the decision of your mind. Renewing it to God's word.

²Do 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. **Romans 12:2**

Keep your mind pure by keeping your eyes pure and **fixed on Jesus and his word**. Refuse to look at doubt, unbelief or anything which would exalt itself above God or his word.

²¹For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also**. ²²"The **eye is the lamp of the body**. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. **Matthew 6:21-22**

³³But **seek first his kingdom and his righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6:33**

Do not allow yourself to hear evil reports and words which destroy faith.

²⁴"**Consider carefully what you hear**," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you--and even more. **Mark 4:24**

Do not let yourself hear doubt or unbelief from your own lips. Speaking doubt and unbelief will undo your faith. Let nothing but the word of faith out of your mouth.

A **fool's mouth is his undoing**, and his lips are a snare to his soul. Proverbs 18:7

A man's belly shall be **satisfied with the fruit of his mouth**; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. [21] **Death and life are in the power of the tongue**: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. Proverbs 18:20-21

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: Romans 10:8

God's word for healing

With so many responsibilities regarding faith, it is easy to see how some could choose to just believe God will do what he wants and so they pray; Let God's will be done. But God's word clearly reveals his will regarding healing.

Gods desire to heal

God healed many people. He will heal you. He doesn't prefer the people of Jesus's time more than the people of this time. You must know that God is not a respecter of persons.

³⁴Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that **God is no respecter of persons:**
Acts 10:34

¹¹For there is **no respect of persons with God.** **Romans 2:11**

⁹And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; **neither is there respect of persons with him.** **Ephes. 6:9**

²⁵But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and **there is no respect of persons.**
Col. 3:25

^{2:1}My brethren, **have not the faith** of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, **with respect of persons.** **James 2:1**

¹⁷And if ye call on the Father, who without **respect of persons** judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear: **1 Peter 1:17**

God wants you healed and in Good health with a long life. It's part of salvation as with your soul.

²Beloved, I wish above all things that **thou mayest prosper** and be **in health,** even **as thy soul prospereth.** **3 John 1:2**

¹⁶With **long life** will I satisfy him and show him my salvation." Psalm 91:16

^{3:1}My son, **do not forget my teaching,** but keep my commands in your heart, ²for they will **prolong your life** many years and bring you **prosperity.** Proverbs 3:1-2

¹³Blessed is the man who **finds wisdom,** the man who gains understanding, ¹⁴for she is **more profitable** than silver and yields better returns **than gold.** ¹⁵She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. ¹⁶**Long life** is in her right hand; in her left hand are **riches and honor.** ¹⁷Her ways are **pleasant ways,** and all her paths are peace. ¹⁸She is **a tree of life** to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed. Proverbs 3:13-18

²"**Honor your father and mother**"--which is the first commandment with a promise--³"that it may go well with you and that you may **enjoy long life** on the earth." Ephes. 6:2-3

When you abide in God, he will stop the devourer, he commands his angels to watch over you. Surely, if you were sick you would be healed. His angels wouldn't watch over you to protect you from disaster but leave you in the throws of death. They would heal you to keep you from harm. Healing a bad heart or Cancer stops a disaster better than any way I know.

⁹If you **make the Most High your dwelling**--even the LORD, who is my refuge-- ¹⁰then no harm will befall you, **no disaster will come near your tent**. ¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; **Psalm 91:9-11**

¹¹And I will **rebuke the devourer** for your sakes, and he **shall not destroy** the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. **Malachi 3:11**

The Lord Jesus healed all who came to him. He never failed to heal. He never turned someone down in recorded scripture.

²⁴News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him **all** who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and **he healed them**. **Matthew 4:24**

¹⁶When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and **healed all the sick**. **Matthew 8:16**

¹⁴When Jesus landed and saw **a large crowd**, he had compassion on them and **healed their sick**. **Matthew 14:14**

³⁴and Jesus **healed many who had various diseases**. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. **Mark 1:34**

⁴⁰When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus **all** who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, **he healed them**. **Luke 4:40**

Jesus healed the people demonstrating that he did the **work of the father**. In fact it was the Father working in Jesus that was doing the healings. Healing is the work of the Father.

³⁶"I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the **very work that the Father has given me** to finish, and **which I am doing**, testifies that the **Father has sent me**. **John 5:36**

³⁷Do not believe me unless **I do what my Father does**. ³⁸But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." **John 10:37-38**

⁵⁵Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and **keep his word**. **John 8:55**

Jesus sent out his disciples giving them permission to use his name and heal all freely. If God had some which were not his elect, like some Jewish leaders, they didn't receive his disciples. They rejected God because of their nature. The disciples had no special instructions for discrimination.

^{10:1}He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to **heal every disease and sickness. Matthew 10:1**

⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. **Freely you have received, freely give. Matthew 10:8**

⁷And he called *unto him* the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and **gave them power** over unclean spirits; **Mark 6:7**

¹³And **they cast out many devils**, and **anointed** with oil many that were **sick**, and **healed them. Mark 6:13**

²and **he sent them out** to preach the kingdom of God and **to heal the sick. Luke 9:2**

⁹**Heal the sick** who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' **Luke 10:9**

The **apostles healed all** that were sick even **after Jesus left** this world.

Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and **all of them were healed.** Acts 5:16

With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and **many paralytics and cripples were healed.** Acts 8:7

The **great commission included healing**. Why do people feel such urgency to fulfill this commission yet reject the part regarding healing? Is it good news without salvation? Salvation includes healing of the mind, body and soul, not just the soul in the next life.

¹⁵He said to them, "**Go into all the world and preach the good news** to all creation. ¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they 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.**"

¹⁹After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

²⁰Then the **disciples** went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and **confirmed his word** by the **signs that accompanied it. Mark 16:15-20**

OK, It is established that the word shows us his:

- God is not a respecter of persons. His will toward one is the same toward us all.
- It is God's work to heal
- Jesus healed because the Father was in him, and he was in the father.

- God healed all who asked him for healing. Many times all sick who were present, which was many of the people.
- God commissioned his disciples to also heal and they did.
- People continued to receive healing even after Jesus ascended to heaven.
- The great commission confirms that people will continue to receive healings.
- The acts of the apostles confirms that healing is still part of the Good News.
- Today is no different. Then why so rare? Don't say God changed unless you can show where in his word.

Who has the authority to heal or be healed today?

Jesus did the works of the father, because the father was within him. When you are in the Father and the Father is in you, you too will do what Jesus had been doing, even greater things, because Jesus is Going to the father. Jesus had been healing and casting out demons. If we believe that **God is in you**, it shouldn't be too hard to believe that you could pray for the sick and they would recover. Notice though, the requirement of Faith appears even in this scripture.

¹⁰Don't you believe that **I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me**? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, **it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.** ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹²I tell you the truth, **anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.** He will do **even greater things than these,** because I am going to the Father. **John 14:10-12**

Jesus has the authority to act in us. This was very clear in the charge given to the disciples. From John 14 above, we know it also applies to you, to me and to anyone who has faith

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.** ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." **Matthew 28:18-20**

Healing is part of being "in him" or "in Christ". What more power or authority for healing can we receive than "**Christ in you**"? But for many people, it is more difficult to believe "**Christ is in you**" than to believe in healing. Both require our faith.

²⁷To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.** **Col. 1:27**

When you are "**in Christ**" and he is "**in you**" there are many blessings and promises. Jesus Christ knew the value of being one with the father. It is inconceivable, but Jesus prayed for us to be one, even as He and the Father are one. That we would be in them just as the father was in Jesus and Jesus was in the father. He gave us his word. We are sanctified by his word, when we decide to believe and act upon it. It changes our hearts. We were filled with power of his Spirit in our inner man, strengthened with power from God's riches, filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. If God be "in us" who could possibly be against us to challenge that authority. The authority of the believer is greater than any authority delegated of Aaron or Melchizedic. It is the

power of knowing God by knowing his word, then making him your “Lord” by your faith which permits him do **his work** in you. Nothing less! His work in us is healing! Freely we receive, freely we give.

¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; **your word** is truth. **John 17:17**

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. **I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,**
²¹that all of them may be one, Father, **just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us** so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **John 17:20-21**

²³**I in them and you in me.** May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. **John 17:23**

¹⁶I pray that out of **his glorious riches** he may **strengthen you with power** through **his Spirit in your inner being.** ¹⁷so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.** And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be **filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.** **Ephes. 3:16-19**

Are we “**in him**”? Jesus healed because the Father was in him. Jesus did the work of the Father. He said it was the father who did the work in him. Are we in him, is he in us, if we **do not** heal doing the things Jesus did?

¹³And you also were included **in Christ** when you **heard the word of truth,** the gospel of your salvation. **Having believed,** you were **marked in him** with a seal, the **promised Holy Spirit,**
Ephes. 1:13

⁴The man who says, "**I know him,**" but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is **how we know we are in him:**

⁶Whoever claims to live **in him** **must walk as Jesus did.** **1 John 2:4-6**

Does being “in him” mean that God’s fullness lives inside of us?

²²And **in him** you too are being built together to become a **dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.** **Ephes. 2:22**

¹⁴Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of **the Holy Spirit who lives in us.** **2 Tim. 1:14**

⁹For **in Christ** **all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,** ¹⁰and **YOU** **have been given fullness in Christ,** who is the head over every power and authority. **Col. 2:9-10**

⁵⁶Whoever **eats my flesh** and **drinks my blood remains in me,** and I **in him.** **John 6:56**

¹⁹Do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit,** who is **in you,** whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **1 Cor. 6:19**

What can we do to become or remain in him and have him in us? How does his word fit?

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

⁵⁶Whoever **eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.** **John 6:56**

Many people claim they do not know God's will as a reason for adding "Thy will be done" to the end of supplication prayer. Would we learn his will if we were "in him"? Could the reason be that they are not remaining in his word so that his word remains in them? Why is his will a mystery if he made it know to us?

⁹And he made known to us the **mystery of his will** according to his good pleasure, which he purposed **in Christ,** **Ephes. 1:9**

⁴**In him** was **life**, and that **life was the light** of men. **John 1:4**

If we are "In Christ" and sick, is that scriptural? Where was there ever a time that Jesus was sick? If Jesus didn't allow sickness in his body in the Bible times, why would we think he would have sickness in his body today? Christ is seated at the right side of the Father making constant petition for our needs. Know you not that you are the body of Christ and we are to do even greater things than when Jesus was here because he is going to the father.

²⁷Now **you are the body of Christ,** and each one of you is a part of it. **1 Cor. 12:27**

¹²to prepare **God's people** for works of service, so that the **body of Christ** may be built up **Ephes. 4:12**

Do we do better service, are we a better witness to God's love if we have sickness and infirmity?

There are many other blessings and promises that come of being "in Christ"? Do these include healing?

⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man **remains in me** and **I in him,** he will **bear much fruit;** apart from me you can do nothing. **John 15:5**

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

³⁹neither 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. **Romans 8:39**

¹⁵that everyone who **believes in him** may have **eternal life.** **John 3:15**

³¹When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the **Son of Man glorified** and **God is glorified in him.** ³²If **God is glorified in him,** **God will glorify the Son in himself,** and will glorify him at once. **John 13:31-32**

²⁸For **in him** we **live and move and have our being.** As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' **Acts 17:28**

¹¹In the same way, count yourselves **dead to sin** but **alive to God in Christ** Jesus. **Romans 6:11**

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is **eternal life in Christ** Jesus our Lord. **Romans 6:23**

^{8:1}Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are **in Christ** Jesus, **Romans 8:1**

How and When were we healed?

⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and **by his wounds we are healed**. Isaiah 53:5

²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; **by his wounds you have been healed**. 1 Peter 2:24

We **are** and **were** healed **2000 years ago on the cross** where his punishment brought us peace. We were healed by his stripes or wounds and the word of his power.

²⁰**He sent forth his word** and **healed them**; he rescued them from the grave. Psalm 107:20

How is healing received or administered?

By touch or laying on hands of the person ministering healing

¹⁸they 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**." Mark 16:18

⁵⁶And wherever he went--into villages, towns or countryside--they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and **all who touched him were healed**. Mark 6:56

⁴⁰When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and **laying his hands** on each one, **he healed them**. Luke 4:40

¹⁹and the people **all tried to touch him**, because **power was coming from him and healing them all**. Luke 6:19

⁵¹But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And **he touched** the man's ear and **healed him**. Luke 22:51

⁸His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, **placed his hands on him** and **healed him**. Acts 28:8

Prayer of Faith for healing

¹⁵And the **prayer offered in faith** will **make the sick person well**; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. James 5:15

¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and **pray for each other** so that you may be healed. The **prayer** of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

Anointing of oil by the person ministering

¹³They drove out many demons and **anointed** many sick people with oil and **healed them**. Mark 6:13

By a word of the person ministering

⁹He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed ¹⁰and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk. **Acts 14:9-10**

¹⁶When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and **healed all the sick**. Matthew 8:16

³⁴"Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. **Get up** and take care of your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. Acts 9:34

¹⁸Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, **and he was healed** from that moment. **Matthew 17:18**

⁷That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will **be healed**. **Luke 7:7**

¹⁰Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and **found the servant well**. **Luke 7:10**

By faith in the Name of Jesus

⁶Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷Taking him by the right hand, **he helped him up**, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ¹²When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us **as if by our own power or godliness** we had made this man walk? ¹⁶By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this **complete healing** to him, as you can all see. **Acts 3:6-7,12,16**

Faith of the person being healed

⁴²Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; **your faith has healed you**." **Luke 18:42**

²²Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "**your faith has healed you**." And the woman was healed from that moment. **Matthew 9:22**

⁵²"Go," said Jesus, "**your faith has healed you**." Immediately he **received his sight** and followed Jesus along the road. **Mark 10:52**

Leaves of the tree of life

²down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are **for the healing** of the nations. Rev. 22:2

Common Reasons for failing to receive what you ask

²⁷For this people's heart has become calloused; they **hardly hear with their ears**, and they have **closed their eyes**. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and **I would heal them**.' **Acts 28:27**

Some persons could never believe that they were lacking faith, or that they could have failed to do anything. But when they do ask God, some of the common problems are:

- Think **all they needed to do was ask** for anything and maybe God will hear.
- Think faith in any belief is sufficient. Faith that **“God is Good”** or **“Jesus was raised from the dead”** is sufficient **to receive healing or what they ask for.**
- Most have **not read the word.** They do not abide in it. They are not “In Christ”
- They **do not believe**
 - Many will say they are believers **without really understanding their minds.** They may have learned to say they believe because of peer or family persuasion.
 - Many do not understand the significance of God’s word because they **haven’t** given it thought or **meditated upon God’s words.**
 - **Lies of the devil** explain away and disregard the explicit words of God.

¹⁵Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, **Satan** comes and **takes away the word** that was sown in them. [Mark 4:15](#)

- Many have **not decided** yet to believe.

³What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God’s faithfulness? ⁴Not at all! **Let God be true, and every man a liar.** As it is written:

"So that you may be proved right when you speak and **prevail** when you judge."

[Romans 3:3-4](#)

- Many have a **preoccupation with sense knowledge** evidence. They are unable to believe without first seeing.

¹⁹but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and **choke the word, making it unfruitful.** [Mark 4:19](#)

- Many **do not ask.**

²You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. **You do not have, because you do not ask God.** [James 4:2](#)

- Many **do not pray the prayer of faith.**

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

- Many **do not have patience** to give their faith time to work.

³⁶For ye **have need of patience**, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye **might receive the promise**.
Hebrews 10:36

Reasons people give for Not believing in Healing

Many people **fail to receive** healing or answers to prayer. Some think they are **not worthy**. **Most fail to receive** because of **unbelief** for one reason or another, **they do not believe God's word**. When they experiment with healing and fail to receive, Most think it is no great thing to blame their failures on God. They would rather disbelieve his words than to consider anything wrong with themselves. As a consolation, **they look for reasons to explain away or not to believe in God's word**, yet still claim they believe.

In the next section I will portray many ideas that people close to me have offered in discussions. If you are one of them, please do not think I have malice toward you. I only desire for you may understand. There are ways to perceive our previous prayer failures without rejecting the explicit Word of God. If you understand a new responsibility of faith, I am happy. If you don't agree, perhaps you could share your views with me. I am open to any truth which would allow me to glorify my Lord and fellowman better. After all, some of us may be called upon to be elders in a congregation of believers. How will we answer a request for the prayer of faith when someone is sick? I care very deeply for my Christian and Mormon friends alike. I pray we may all receive the salvation and abundant life that Jesus died to bring. Truly it is in our producing such fruit that our God is glorified. John 15:8.

A belief that they are not worthy

²¹so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through **righteousness** to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Romans 5:21**

Many people believe that God will not answer their prayers because they **think they are not worthy**. They just see the "through righteousness to bring eternal life" above and it is hard to understand the reference to grace. They believe; God does not hear the prayer of the unrighteous. Of course, a non-believer is not worthy and God does not promise to hear their prayer. When Christians, "**in Christ**", do not know they are the "Righteousness of God", they often pursue righteousness by their own works. These Christians like all sinners know they have been unsuccessful and have sinned.

for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23

In their thinking, it is impossible to have faith for healing or any answered prayer, because all they can see is their sin and failures. They haven't learned of the righteousness which comes by faith. **Instead they seek to establish their own.**

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**. Romans 10:2-4

No! The abundant life in Jesus comes by believing and receiving the Gifts of God. Our **righteousness is of God** by faith.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that **in him** we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Cor. 5:21 NIV

²¹For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the **righteousness of God in him**. **2 Cor. 5:21 KJV**

"In Christ" There are now no other qualifications, but our faith.

¹⁷For in the gospel **a righteousness from God is revealed**, a righteousness that is **by faith** from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." **Romans 1:17**

²¹But now a righteousness from God, **apart from law**, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²²This **righteousness from God comes through faith** in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, **Romans 3:21-22**

⁵However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his **faith is credited as righteousness**. ⁶David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom **God credits righteousness apart from works**: **Romans 4:5-6**

¹³It 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**. **Romans 4:13**

¹⁷For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will **those who receive** God's abundant provision of grace and of the **gift of righteousness reign in life** through the one man, Jesus Christ. **Romans 5:17**

⁴**Christ is the end of the law** so that there may be **righteousness for everyone who believes**. **Romans 10:4**

We are the righteousness of God, "In Christ" because of our faith. It should not keep us from receiving the promises of God. God changes our nature, our prayers of God's word are not hindered by our former failures. **All the promises of God are YES!**

But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." [19] For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes." [20] For **no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ**. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us **to the glory of God**. 2 Cor. 1:18-20

They cling to beliefs which discount much of the God's Word

Many people have **generalization about God** which they use to interpret the words of God. For them, their generalizations are the **standards** to use when interpreting all God's word.

Generalizations - They will take a Scripture that tells us that **"God knows our needs even before we ask"** and from that truth, discount the need to communicate our **specific** requests or to make them in faith. **They say; "God knows what you really mean"**. But, they discount the word of God none the less. Take the following explicit words of God on healing the sick:

And the **prayer offered in faith** will **make the sick person well**; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. James 5:15

To the person who generalizes, the **"in faith"** is not necessary. But, God says a prayer without faith is of no effect.

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. [7] That man **should not think he will receive anything** from the Lord; James 1:6-7

Or they will generalize faith and say I have faith that **"God is Good"** when the faith that is required must be in the belief: **"prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well"**. They do not discern the difference from one object to another.

From reference to the **"receive anything"** in James 1:7, we see the above scriptural pattern **applies to all prayers, not just healing prayers**. People who generalize the word of God have much trouble receiving anything.

By generalization many believe they can **change God's word** detailing the **"Prayer of Faith"**:

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

By generalization, many think God will answer their prayers when they change the above from **believe that you have received it** to **believe that you are going to receive it**. They say; "God knows what you need either way".

Many would never think of rewriting the bible but; They discount the explicit teachings from God just the same. It is easy to see why a person that generalizes in his prayer life would not want to pray for healing. It must seem quite useless to them. After several failures, most such persons happily accept the common belief which I discuss next.

Gross Generalizations - A common belief that **discounts the explicit words of God** is that:

“God is in control of everything because he is Sovereign. We can ask him what we want like the word says. But, **God knows best**. He may decide not to honor his word. **He can decide not to hear your prayer or to give you what you ask when his perfect knowledge knows better.**”

People that harbor this belief think they are interpreting God’s word. Their actions and statements show **they believe that God’s word is not always clear, sometimes even ambiguous regarding healing**. It doesn’t always mean what it explicitly says. All of the explicit healing scriptures should also have inserted a clause that reads; “**unless God believes otherwise**”. To them **the explicit word is not God’s will**. But yet, God is in control of everything and the word reflects his perfect will for our understanding?

The problem with this belief, is that **God forgot to tell us it in his word**. If he forgot, Is he omniscient? If he couldn’t control what went into the Bible is he omnipotent? If he wasn’t there when James wrote about healing, was he omnipresent? Or is there a valid purpose for such a foundational belief not to be in the bible and not to have been demonstrated in the life of Jesus?

Where is one place where God said he would not hear you “**for your own good**”? I can only find reference where something on our part (sin) holds back God’s reply.

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, **I will not hear: your hands are full of blood**. Isaiah 1:15

Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for **I will not hear thee**. Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? Jeremiah 7:16-17

Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for **I will not hear them** in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble. Jeremiah 11:14

Don’t you believe that if God were sovereign and in complete control, he could not have done a better job of having the verses clarify that the promises were always conditional? Why didn’t Jesus even one time illustrate this in a healing request presented to him?

Since so many people aren’t healed for their own good today, surely there would have been some that would have been better off to not receive healing in his day. Yet he healed all that were brought to him. See the verses Matthew 14:36, Mark 6:56, Luke 4:40, Luke 6:19, Acts 5:16

No! the reason those people never see healing is because: **Exercising faith in a belief that is not of God provides no benefit**. Having a belief that I can fly, and then to jump off a building will sorely disappoint me when everything comes to the sudden stop. So likewise, only faith with a proper object will produce fruit. **We must believe what God said in order to receive from him**. I can’t obey Herald’s contract and expect David to pay me. Be careful who’s words you listen to and adopt as your beliefs.

"Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you-- and even more. Mark 4:24

Jesus told us we were to live by every word that comes from God, not words which contradict his.

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on **every word that comes from the mouth of God.**'" Matthew 4:4

People don't receive praying with that belief because their faith is in a **belief foreign** to our God's teachings and will. Such faith is easy to exercise. It requires very little of the believer. Every thing is left up to God. They say they are trusting their lives to him when actually they are doing nothing.

They don't really believe that everything is up to God. They don't really believe that what is happening to them is for their best. They don't really believe God is controlling the outcome of their lives. Remember, you can see a persons faith. You can see their belief in their actions. Their actions show that they do not believe that what is happening to them if for their best. Their actions show they want to change what is happening to them. They will even fight against their sickness with hired guns. They do everything in their power except ask God for help. Just look at their doctor bills for the evidence of their faith and for the belief upon which it is founded.

Humility, deep devotion and extreme submission - Related to the belief that God is Sovereign and in control of everything is the idea of extreme submission. Yes, there are **many Christians** with humble faith today, believing they are submitting to God, by not asking anything of him. They **rarely receive from God.**

They wouldn't think of asking him for something for fear that their submission to him might appear as "Beneficial Submission". To them, true devotion and submission can not have any focus upon receiving benefits. Coupled with the idea that God knows best and is in control of everything, is the belief that **you should submit your will fully**. Of course, **in complete submission, you would never ask something of yourself**. Possibly they could ask something for someone else. But, even for them, even this is a certain **failing to submit**. If you really believe **God knows best** and is **in control**, there is **not much reason to ask for anything**, **The best will come without asserting your desires**. God is doing what's best.

No! God loved us so much that he gave ..., **it is not a shame to receive** his love and good favor. You have been forgiven for anything which made you worthless and ashamed. Yes! We have much reason to Love God. Let's never forget him in our good health and abundant life. God doesn't care if you have things so long as those things don't have you. After all, who did he make the good things of this earth for? Satan's kids?

Take away the misconception that God's Sovereignty is controlling everything in the world and most persons do not have an extreme submission problem. Most can believe God's explicit word.

The “God is in control crowd” confess **everything comes from him; Good and evil**. Harboring their belief, **they can not believe the explicit words of God** either. For them the conditional phrase “**unless God believes otherwise**” discussed above applies even to a description of God.

To fear the LORD is to hate evil; **I hate pride and arrogance, evil** behavior and perverse speech. Proverbs 8:13

do not plot **evil** against your neighbor, and do not love to swear falsely. **I hate all this,**” declares the LORD. Zech. 8:17

Love must be sincere. **Hate what is evil;** cling to what is good. Romans 12:9

The scriptures above must be changed to “I hate all this unless I believe it is for your good” and “Hate what is evil, unless it is comes from God”

How can a Christian Love God, if he thinks God does the evil in the world today. What do we submit to; **The word and hate evil** or to the idea **God causes evil**? Or do we do both and hate the evil caused by God. **They are forced to reject his word to keep their belief.** They do not believe that God always hates evil. **And they do not obey Romans 12:9 to hate God’s doing evil.**

No! this may seem shocking, **God is not controlling evil**, this world, you or me. He may order our steps and direct our paths, but **we must choose to comply.**

The **steps of a good man are ordered** by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Psalm 37:23

It’s in this choice to comply or to choose sin that we find evil being provided in the earth. God created a world were sin could exist when he created man’s agency. It is inherent in choice. But **GOD HATES EVIL** it doesn’t dwell with him. He doesn’t have a double standard; one for you and another for himself.

For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: **neither shall evil dwell with thee.** Psalm 5:4

If I have **rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me;** (yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy:) [5] **Let the enemy persecute my soul,** and take it; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honour in the dust. Selah. Psalm 7:4-5

There are six things the **LORD hates**, seven that are detestable to him:

- [17] haughty eyes,
a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,
- [18] a heart that devises wicked schemes,
feet that are quick to rush into evil,
- [19] a false witness who pours out lies and
a man who stirs up dissension among brothers. Proverbs 6:16-19

God would not lead someone along an evil path.

He who leads the upright along an **evil path will fall** into his own trap, Proverbs 28:10

Grace is a reason some persons use to reject God's explicit Word -

God gave us the **right to salvation** (the deliverance of mind, body, and soul, of which the body also includes healing) **by Grace**, that **without works** least any should boast. Since salvation is a gift which is not earned, **many erroneously deduct that it is also received without works.**

Under the New Covenant, All the blessing and promises of God are gifts. Undoubtedly, No work is required to **earn a gift** or it wouldn't be a gift. **"If it were of works, then it could not be of grace."** Harboring this belief about salvation, they deduct that **the receipt of healing is also without works** and the same for all the other good things that God has for them. They deduct; **"Healing is by grace and received by grace"** lest any should boast.

If the gift of healing is **purely by grace**, then theoretically, no conditions should exist for your receiving it. Hence, the Logical Conclusion is; **Only God could decide when to heal a Christian**, since he is the giver of the gift. They conclude; Since he is the sovereign in the universe, and hasn't healed them; he must not yet have sent it to them. "Healing is received **after God is ready to send it**".

The truth of God's word is different:

1. His healing has already been sent. His word has already been sent. **It carried your healing. God already healed you.** The healing has already been done. Many haven't heard or just haven't exercised their free-will with belief and faith to receive.

He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Psalm 107:20

¹⁷That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, **Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.** [Matthew 8:17](#)

Surely **he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows**,
yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.
[5] But he was pierced for our transgressions, **he was crushed for our iniquities;**
the punishment that **brought us peace** was upon him,
and **by his wounds we are healed.** Isaiah 53:4-5

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; **by his wounds you have been healed.** 1 Peter 2:24

2. What is God's will regarding the salvation of grace?

The logic from above would say: Only God decides when to save a person. The truth here is, like with healing: God wants to save us all. God says he wants us all to receive his salvation in the same verse where he tells us to pray, request and intercede.

I urge, then, first of all, **that requests, prayers, intercession** and thanksgiving be **made for everyone--** [2] for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. [3] This is good, and pleases **God our Savior**, [4] **who wants all men to be saved** and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 1 Tim. 2:1-4

For God **did not appoint** us to **suffer wrath** but to receive **salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thes. 5:9

If it is the will of Sovereign God for all to be saved that governs the event and his will alone determines if a person accepts him, then where is all this urgency of being a witness to all the world to save sinners? Who is there to save? Why such a sacrifice to send missionaries and open book stores. Where is the need for man to respond to God? **No! Man must respond to Jesus because he has a free-will.** Would we even throw out the Romans 10:9-10 salvation in order to cling to the belief that "God decides when and where to dispense healing". No! **Man has a free-will to choose** which response he will make to God's offer of the gift of salvation. The same is true of healing. **God responds to OUR choices to believe him and exercise faith in his word to receive.** There is no other way provided.

3. Works are required to receive salvation and healing

OK, I am sure I heard you saying; Michael has missed it now! Salvation is by Grace without any works.

Yes I still believe that Salvation is a free Gift. We do not do anything to earn it. But, **receiving it is a different thing.** If it is true that we have a free-will, then we would have to exercise that will to receive it. You can have something that belongs to you without receiving it. Just look at any state government. They all have departments which hold the awards and inheritances which have not been claimed by their missing heirs. Does God have a better delivery system than us? Well of course, and there are no unaccounted heirs either. There are just heirs which haven't complied with God's requirements to receive. But both governments have the same rooms full of undelivered treasures.

Belief and faith are required even for salvation. The action of our confession or profession of our belief is faith. What we do every day confesses and makes a profession of our belief. Our lives, our actions and works show our faith in the belief that we are saved through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" [29] Jesus answered, "**The work of God is this: to believe** in the one he has sent." John 6:28-29

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**. Romans 10:9-10

Yes! You must **exercise your faith** to receive a healing just like receiving the salvation of Grace.

4. Can you **Receive Healing** with out God's interaction?

If we **receive** God's healing purely by the exercise of **his Grace and his decision** to give it, then how was the lady with the issue of blood **healed before Jesus acted**.

because she thought, "**If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.**" [29] Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that **she was freed** from her suffering.

[30] At once **Jesus realized that power had gone out from him**. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "**Who touched my clothes?**"

[32] But Jesus kept **looking around to see who had done it**. [33] Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. [34] He said to her, "**Daughter, your faith has healed you**. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." Mark 5:28-34

The healing was already in Jesus. The power of God went out of Jesus to heal her when she received it by faith because her healing had already been provided in Jesus. Our Sovereign God's will has always been to **heal all**. There have **never been any conditions** stated in his word **except the conditions of faith**. Jesus **always healed everyone**, except in his home town where he was limited and could only heal a few and couldn't do any mighty miracles.

and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and **all** who touched him **were healed**. Matthew 14:36

And wherever he went--into villages, towns or countryside--they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and **all who touched him were healed**. Mark 6:56

When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus **all** who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, **he healed them**. Luke 4:40

who had come to hear him and to be **healed of their diseases**. **Those troubled** by evil spirits **were cured**, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and **healing them all**. Luke 6:18-19

Even the **apostles healed all** that were sick. This is in spite of some precept teachers teaching that; "Jesus only healed to show that; "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" ". The apostles healings also prove that Jesus is the Christ. So, why wouldn't our healing also do the same today? God is no respecter of persons.

Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and **all of them were healed**. Acts 5:16

With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and **many paralytics and cripples were healed.**
Acts 8:7

No! God is no respecter of persons, not with the apostles and not with you or me today. When people ask in faith according to his word today, his word is still effective. **People are healed!**

Therefore confess your sins to each other and **pray for each other** so that **you may be healed**. The prayer of a righteous man is **powerful and effective**. James 5:16

OK, So Why couldn't the Sovereign God do any might works in his home town.

Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." [5] **He could not do any miracles there,** except lay his hands on a **few sick people** and **heal** them.
Mark 6:4-5

The answer is so plain that most people would say you insult their intelligence to point it out.

[58] And he did not do many miracles there **because of their lack of faith.** Matthew 13: 58

5. Is God Sovereign, if we determine the receipt of his gifts of grace?

The real paradox above is: **How come God couldn't do miracles in his home town, if he were sovereign** with unlimited power in the earth realm?

Sovereign God has chosen to limit himself in the earth realm to the point of **giving us our free-will.** He will not go against our free-will, even if we choose death instead of life. He gave us the dominion in this world.

And God said, **Let us make man** in our image, after our likeness: and **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and **over all the earth**, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. Genesis 1:26

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the **earth, and subdue it: and have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and **over every living thing** that moveth upon the earth. Genesis 1:28

Only man possessed the dominion over the earth until it was lost to Satan by sin and Satan became the God of the sinners world. Even when we exercised our free-will to choose death over life, God did not step in and say; "OK, now you blew it, I'm taking over". No! he worked out our salvation, deliverance and redemption from within the dominion that belonged to man. **God became a man** so that he would not violate man's dominion in the world to save him from Satan who owned us. Only the **sinless man Jesus** could redeem it from the thief which had tricked man out of it. Only by Satan killing the sinless Jesus could God as a man give us our freedom. You see; Satan owed Jesus far more than we owed Satan. Jesus took control as a man. He redeemed us as a man, although he was the Sovereign God. You might say Jesus

took over our accounts by demanding their assignment to pay on his larger debt. Then he set us free, if we will just accept it by faith.

Yes, **God is Sovereign** and he has exercised that sovereignty to give you a **free-will**. He has given you the **power of his grace**. He has given you his **will in his word**. But until the time comes for God to take back the earth, **he will not come back from heaven to receive your gifts for you**. You alone possess that agency.

Your father died and left you his estate as a gift, but, if you do not exercise the **faith that takes** the will and **pleads it properly** before the probate court, **your fathers will is irrelevant**. His gifts will go to another or stay in the treasury.

How dare we discount such a mighty group of witnesses to God's will to heal through our exercising faith in prayer? How dare we generalize and take beliefs foreign to our God's word. How dare we say he meant something else other than what he explicitly told us.

It is just that we hate to admit we were wrong. We hate to recognize that we have been dormant when we should have been valiantly acting in the name of our God.

Preoccupation with Sense Knowledge is a reason for rejecting God's explicit Word -

Some people do not fail much in any of the above problems, yet when they pray for healing, they **do not receive**. They pray for healing, **then look to their body to see if it is healed**. Based upon what their **eyes or senses tell them**, they conclude that **they are not healed**. In their ignorance, they conclude that God's word must have meant something else.

Our faith is the work we must do. A good fight is required for us to lay hold of the promises of God.

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Tim. 6:12

Many think all they need to do is ask, then wait until they see themselves in possession. They say they will **believe it when they see it**. But, the Faith Fight is **not by sight**. God's example shows the requirement to **believe before seeing**.

We live by faith, **not by sight**. 2 Cor. 5:7

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**. Romans 4:17

"If you can?" said Jesus. "**Everything is possible for him who believes**." Mark 9:23

Mark 11:23 describes the details of a “**Prayer of Faith**”. Mark makes it clear that **you must believe before you receive**. You must believe you receive them, when you pray, not that you will receive them later.

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, **when ye pray, believe that ye receive** them, and ye **shall have them**. Mark 11:24

Thank God, most people **believe they have received** their salvation. Sad that when it comes to healing, they **don't yet believe they have received it**. Their senses have a stronger rule in their lives than the word of God. Probably because they believe they shall have their salvation in future, is the reason they don't expect their senses to perceive they have it now. Take away their senses and they seem to have no problem believing they have salvation.

Faith works like this in the face of sense knowledge:

¹⁸Who 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. ¹⁹And being **not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead**, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the **deadness of Sarah's womb**: ²⁰He **staggered not at the promise** of God **through unbelief**; but was **strong in faith**, giving glory to God; ²¹And being **fully persuaded** that, **what he had promised, he was able also to perform**. [Romans 4:18-21](#)

NOT Faith works like this in the face of sense knowledge:

¹⁹And being **not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead**, when he was about an hundred years old, ~~neither yet~~ (and still) the **deadness of Sarah's womb**: ²⁰He **staggered not at the promise** of God **through unbelief**; but was (**NOT**) **strong in faith**, (**NOT**) giving glory to God; ²¹And (**NOT**) being **fully persuaded** that, **what he had promised, he was able also to perform**. [Romans 4:19-21](#)(**NOT KJV version**)

Examples of others are reasons for rejecting God's explicit word -

The Pharisees did not want to accept the words of Jesus. They searched to find justification for rejecting Christ using the words of God. They found what they believed was a fault in the way Jesus kept the Law of the Sabbath. John 9:16 On this evidence, they dismissed themselves entirely from honestly considering the claims of Jesus. Jesus said they were of an adulterous generation.

³⁸Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this **adulterous and sinful generation**; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.
[Mark 8:38](#)

They were adulterous because they never cared to fulfill their covenants to God, but sought for ways to adulterate that covenant relationship. Today, God wants his disciples to bear much fruit, to show

themselves to be his disciples and to glorify him. John 15:8 Many today like the Pharisees do not want to do their part and they search for ways to adulterate their covenant obligations.

Many Christians, like the Pharisees, have found what they believe is a flaw or inconsistency with God's word from examples of others, their friends, respected **authorities**, and even their **Pastors**. No matter how great a person may be in your estimation, **Only Jesus is our perfect example**. It doesn't matter how many people a quadriplegic woman converts by her music and testimony, she is not our example for accepting evil in our lives. God's word reveals a much better life in his word, if we will fill the measure of our high calling in him. He predestined that we should reach much higher promises. I think a healed quadriplegic is a much better witness. Don't you? There are people who have had greater healing than that. We should be conforming to the likeness of Jesus not a quadriplegic.

²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. **Romans 8:29-30**

How long will we fail to exercise the faith to receive the promises of our healing. How long will we fail to conform to the likeness of Jesus. Certainly it is God's will, if he predestined this for us in his foreknowledge of us.

Sometimes bad things do happen; But, if God be for us, who can be against us? God is able to make something good come out any event that occurs in our lives when we and love him and use our faith, which is the purpose of our calling.

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to them that **love God**, to them who are the **called according to his purpose**. **Romans 8:28**

Actually the above scripture is talking about the intercession of the Spirit, the interceding of Jesus at the right hand of the father. Jesus maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. Some say this results from our praying in the spirit and that the groanings which cannot be uttered are our prayers in the spirit or tongues. Whether or not it is the result of our actions, or independent action of our Lord, far more is included than just recovering from bad situations. Jesus is interceding for us according to the very will of God. What would happen, if we added our faith to receive it? We who are called were predestined to it.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for **we know not what we should pray** for as we ought: but **the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered**. ²⁷And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. ²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

³¹What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?** ³²He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? ³³Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. ³⁴Who *is* he that condemneth? **It is Christ** that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the **right hand of God**, who also maketh

intercession for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷**Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.** ³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be **able to separate us from the love of God**, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:26-39**

I know some use the above scriptures to believe that everything is under God's control. Instead, I see it as a word full of promises waiting to be received by the exercise of my free-will rather than the exercise of God's Sovereign will. Since most people I know that cling to the idea that God is in Control of everything aren't conquerors, I guess they have already decided that they are not his elect. Else, what happened? Of Course, there is another favorite foreign belief that could answer that question too. They say; **"All these promises refer to things spiritual".** But, if so; the "all things" in verse 28 would need to be changed to **"all things SPIRITUAL work to the good of them that love him"**. No the word says; **"All things".** God doesn't need to be corrected. Just try to tell the people healed by Jesus that their healings were spiritual. Tell Lazarus or the gutsy blind man of John 9 it is spiritual, he'll tell you much more than:

³⁰The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. **John 9:30**

The Pharisees were not discerning spiritual things when they took offense with the Works of Jesus on the Sabbath. John was not taking about obeying God's commands in the spirit world, nor about a victory in the spirit world when he said:

³This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴for everyone born of God overcomes the world. **This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.** ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. **1 John 5:3-5**

No!, If nothing can separate us from his love, then we can conquer or overcome all things which would happen to us when we are "in Christ Jesus or Lord". By our faith we can receive everything which belongs to the elect of God, we are qualified to receive by our faith in his word in our time of need. **THAT IS TODAY FOR MOST PEOPLE I KNOW!**

¹⁴Therefore, 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. ... ¹⁶Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and **find grace to help us in our time of need.** **Hebrews 4:14-16**

By faith we fill the measure of our calling.

³⁰What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have **obtained it**, a righteousness that is **by faith**; ³¹**but Israel**, who pursued a law of righteousness, has **not attained it**. ³²Why not? **Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled** over the "stumbling stone." [Romans 9:30-32](#)

Examples of Job and Paul

Some find difficulty from the lives of Job and Paul. Here too, remember that Jesus is supposed to be our perfect example, the one we are to look upon. Many have found they can reject the God's words based upon their understanding of **Job's trial** or **Paul's thorn**. They use obscure understanding of those passages to completely reject God's explicit words. At best they conclude that God's words are conditional; "unless God decides otherwise". They are conditioned upon something outside of the believers control. Hence, once again the unbeliever thinks he is given release from his responsibility of faith in God's word.

PAUL'S THORN - Some people want to point to the example of the Apostle Paul as a reason to make all God's explicit words conditional; "unless God decides otherwise". They say that Paul retained sickness in his body and that God wouldn't take it away from him so that God's power might be perfected in Paul's torment. This is one of the easiest scriptures to explain to the unbeliever. But when a Christian adopts it for his basis to reject healing scriptures, it is not so easy.

You would think that the Christian should rejoice to see another point of view regarding Paul, one that allows God's explicit word to remain valid. But, pointing out that **Paul's thorn was a Messenger of Satan and not sickness** usually causes these Christians to anger. When was a messenger of Satan ever known as a sickness?

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a **thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan**, to torment me. 2 Cor. 12:7

Then, when you point out that **God told Paul that he had already given him all that was required** to defeat that messenger of Satan, they get angry again. They ask if I think I am greater than Paul. You and I should be "in Christ". Christ in you, is the hope of your Glory and power to overcome Satan.

⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the **one who is in you** is **greater than the one who is in the world**. [1 John 4:4](#)

¹²I tell you the truth, anyone who has **faith in me** will **do what I have been doing**. He will do **even greater things than these**, because I am going to the Father. [John 14:12](#)

The problem is people do not want to think they could have been wrong. It is easier to continue believing God's explicit word isn't true. No one likes to be confronted with the realization that they or their Pastor could have been adulterous in their relationship to God. Even out of ignorance. The grace of God which

Paul received when he accepted the Lord gave him, you and I all the power we needed to defeat Satan's messengers.

But he said to me, "My **grace is sufficient for you**, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 2 Cor. 12:9

The exercise of your **faith in adversity** makes the **power of God stronger and more perfect** in your life. Jesus told us while we are in the world we will have trials.

... because you know that the **testing** of your **faith develops perseverance**. James 1:3

I am glad I have weaknesses and trials that provide opportunity for Gods' power to be made perfect in me. I hope that fighting the fight of faith continues to strengthen me so that I can bear even greater fruit for him. I don't like having weakness exposed, but I take heart when I consider that Jesus has overcome the world. I know that I too can rise above my weaknesses. Glory be to God!

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may **have peace**. In this world you will have trouble. But **take heart!** I have **overcome the world**." John 16:33

We have the shield of faith. We have the weapons of our warfare. God has told us how to defeat messengers of Satan.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you**. James 4:7

Yes, God's Grace has given us the victory. The trying of our faith works perseverance and perfection. God's Grace is sufficient for you and me. We receive all it's provisions, even victory over the world, through our faith.

for everyone **born of God overcomes the world**. This is **the victory** that has overcome the world, **even our faith**. [5] Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 5:4-5

He gave us the power to resist that which doesn't come from him. Based upon God's word, we can reject the lies of the devil and poor examples of unbelievers. We can resist the temptation to unbelief.

You have to mix faith with those words. That is, you have to decide they represent your belief and choose to exercise your actions in agreement with them.

We can imitate the faith of the disciples of the Bible.

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. [8] Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Adopt the attitude of Paul regarding God's word and the experiences of others.

What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? Not at all! **Let God be true, and every man a liar.** As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge." Romans 3:3-4

JOB - It is strange that Job is so often referred to when someone wants to explain that healing is not for all. There is not much teaching in Job about healing. The word appears only once saying that; **God's hands also heals.**

Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied: Job 4:1

"Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so **do not despise the discipline** of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he also binds up; **he injures, but his hands also heal.** Job 5:17-18

No!, the issue in Job, the reason so many people choose it as an argument against healing is; **Job appears to teach God's Sovereignty lets him make someone sick** as well as heal. It would appear this is an example where **God does evil or at least wounds and injures an elect, highly esteemed person** in the name of discipline or worst simply because Satan challenged God to do it. The issue is not healing at all, the stumbling is on God's Sovereignty to promote evil on one that he holds in high esteem.

⁸Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is **no one on earth like him**; he is blameless and upright, a man who **fears God and shuns evil.**" Job 1:8

Even if God did cause the evil, Job did not have his word, certainly not the new covenant. He had no word of God that promised him the things God promises us. Must we deduct that God would violate his word under the new covenant to us, if he chooses to make some person for an ignoble purpose in the days of Job. I am not aware of God violating any of his word to Job. I know of no promises which Job had. I have nothing to be certain of Job's faith in any promise of God. To the contrary Job **Certainly he did not have the faith that God expects of us. Job DID NOT believe God blesses and rewards those that diligently seek him** as per Hebrews 11:6 tells us. Look at how many times he said his problems were from God. The only redeeming thing was that he never charged God with wrongdoing. He never said God shouldn't have done it!

²¹and (Job) said: The LORD gave and **the LORD has taken away;** ²²In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. Job 1:20-22

¹⁰He 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. Job 2:10

⁹Which of all these does not know that the **hand of the LORD has done this?** ¹⁰In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. Job 12:9-10

⁷Surely, **O God, you have worn me out;** you have **devastated my entire household.** Job 16:7

⁹God assails me and tears me in his anger and gnashes his teeth at me; my opponent fastens on me his piercing eyes. **Job 16:9**

¹¹God has turned me over to evil men and thrown me into the clutches of the wicked. **Job 16:11**

⁶God has made me a byword to everyone, a man in whose face people spit. **Job 17:6**

⁶then know that God has wronged me and drawn his net around me. **Job 19:6**

²¹"Have pity on me, my friends, have pity, for the hand of God has struck me. ²²Why do you pursue me as God does? Will you never get enough of my flesh? **Job 19:21-22**

¹⁶God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me. **Job 23:16**

Job didn't appear to know about the **righteousness by faith** or of being "in Christ"

⁴How then can a man be righteous before God? How can one born of woman be pure? **Job 25:4**

Job didn't know about the privilege we have to approach God:

²As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice, the Almighty, who has made me taste bitterness of soul, **Job 27:2**

Job didn't have the confidence that we have in him; that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us, and because we know he hears us, we know we have what we ask of him:

²⁰"I cry out to you, O God, but you do not answer; I stand up, but you merely look at me. **Job 30:20**

²³For I dreaded destruction from God, and for fear of his splendor I could not do such things. **Job 31:23**

⁵Job says, 'I am innocent, but God denies me justice. **Job 34:5**

Job didn't seem to know about the spirit of God that:

⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. **1 Cor. 12:7**

⁹For he (Job) says, 'It profits a man nothing when he tries to please God.' **Job 34:9**

It is obvious that Job didn't know many of the things our God has given us. Since when did God make Job our example. Jesus is our High Priest, our advocate with the father, our alpha and omega. You never seen Jesus say that evil came from God, including the man which was born blind from birth. Jesus did not say that God made him blind. He was blind from birth. Change the scribes misplaced punctuation which was no in the original Greek manuscript and it reads quite differently. We don't have to attribute evil to God. I

have changed the semi colon after parents into a period and changed the period after him, to a comma just before verse 4 as the punctuation and verse separations are not in the original manuscript.

²And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

³Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents. But that the works of God should be made manifest in him, ⁴I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. **John 9:2-4**

I wouldn't let the less than complete account of Job's relationship to God cause me to reject God's word for me. Because to do so, to believe that God would do the same to us when we are "In Christ"; we would have to believe that God's words aren't always true. We could not obtain the promises of God by faith. We would even have to rely upon his election to save us. There really are only two choices! Which should we choose? Complete Election or free-will with Words of God that can be believed. If we adopt a belief that God's words are always true, we can truly believe God's word and we CAN exercise faith in them. But, Without faith it is impossible to please God and we all fall short of salvation.

However, the truth of Job's trials may be a little different; I would hope to give you some insight and another way that may allow you to keep faith in God's good will to his elect and to yourself.

First, the Job 5:17-18 passage began in Job 4 where the Eliphaz the Temanite began to teach his ideas. Job 5:17 was the words of the Temanite. Again, when did Eliphaz give us the words of God's will over Jesus. I certainly wouldn't take his words above James or Jesus if I had to choose. But, It is true that the Temanite spoke the words, they are in the Bible, but he did not necessarily speak the true in what he said. The Bible is true, but not every thing in the Bible is true. The Temanite spoke many things which were not right and they were recorded in the Bible:

⁷After 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.

Job 42:7

When God said that Job was in Satan's power, he was not placing him there. He was already there. Read it closely; **God did not say he was placing Job in Satan's power!**

¹²And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, **all that he hath is in thy power**; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD. **Job 1:12**

There is even a hint at how Job was already in Satan's grasp. Job was not fully trusting God, he had doubt and fears reflecting that doubt before any calamity appeared. Job did not truly have a faith hedge about him even though he was highly favored of God. He wasn't in God's rest.

²⁵For **the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me**, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

²⁶I was not in safety, **neither had I rest**, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.

Job 3:25-26

I have already shared much information regarding God's Sovereignty and Evil, so I won't repeat it here. There also appears here the **appearance of Job in submission** to what ever would happen to him. Job

is also a key example that followers of extreme submission use to base their belief and faith. But again, **when was Job ever given to be your example. Job wasn't perfect in all his understanding**. Will they reject God's explicit word to follow Job's supposed example of submission to evil. Do they really want to follow Job's example in their submission:

"Therefore I will not keep silent; I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit, **I will complain in the bitterness of my soul**. Job 7:11

so that **I prefer strangling and death**, rather than this body of mine.

I despise my life; I would not live forever. **Let me alone**; my days have no meaning.
Job 7:15-16

Actually, **Job did not have the word of the Lord** on his suffering. He thought God was doing the bad things to him. When he was ready to die he spoke very freely:

"I loathe my very life; therefore **I will give free rein** to my complaint and **speak out** in the bitterness of my soul. **I will say to God: Do not condemn me**, but **tell me what charges you have against me. Does it please you to oppress me**, to spurn the work of your hands, while you smile on the schemes of the wicked?
Job 10:1-3

Job spoke many things **from ignorance**. Right from the beginning he thought his trouble was from God. But he did not know our God. It does not please God to oppress Job! If Job didn't know better, I don't want to follow him as my example. Certainly in any belief that requires me to reject other words of God on healing or answered prayer.

No! Job was simply wrong. Noble in his "not cursing God", but wrong in believing it was God and that he should simply accept it. Of course **he didn't have the words of Jesus** and the **new covenant**. Many of the Hebrew writers thought good and evil came from God.

Like Eliphaz the Temanite, **Job too did not know that it was Satan that was doing the evil** to Job. **Satan was the evil one**. We **do not** need to **submit to him**.

So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and **afflicted Job** with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. Job 2:7

Praying in faith with "Thy will be done"

What if when we completed our prayer for healing, we finished our prayer with the words; **"Thy will be done"**. Would that be a prayer of Faith that God would hear and answer? What does that action show about our

believing God will answer our request? What does it show we believe the will of God to Be? It shows we do not believe we prayed the will of God!

It is hard to know what the person believes when he prays that way. But, it is plain he **doesn't believe what he asked was God's will**. Maybe it was, but maybe it wasn't is the attitude of that phrase. Such an attitude has already been shown to negate the prayer of faith for wisdom or to receive anything.

That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; [8] he is a **double-minded** man, unstable in all he does. James 1:7-8

When Jesus prayed at the Garden called Gethsemane, he did not pray the prayer of faith to be delivered from the bitter cup. If he had, he would have been delivered from the cup because God honored his son's prayers. Jesus was asking if it were possible, but acknowledging that if it were not possible, he would choose to do God's will. Jesus didn't want to drink it, if there had been any other way. His **prayer was one of commitment and dedication** to God and his love for us not a prayer petitioning for removal of the cup. He did pray expressing a conditional request.

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. **Yet not as I will, but as you will.**" Matthew 26:39

This next verse is where the phrase "**thy will be done**" comes from. Here **he was plainly making a confession of commitment and dedication, not requesting for it to be taken away.**

He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, **thy will be done.** Matthew 26:42

Faith can be elusive until you understand that faith is merely acting on a deep seated belief. But the reverse is also pleasantly true, it is very hard to have a deep seated belief that doesn't get acted upon. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. When you are sure you believe "**God's will is to heal all**" and when you are sure you believe "**God will grant your desire for healing in prayer**", then you can pray a "prayer of faith". You would certainly not end such a prayer with "Thy will be done" in that circumstance. I believe a "prayer of faith" is nothing less.

The only question remaining; Can we rise to the challenge? Will we fight the good fight of faith to lay hold of the promises of God.

If you have questions, would like more information, or just need the prayer of faith, Please don't hesitate to call:

Michael

Appendix

“In Christ” our authority

Our authority is far greater than any delegated authority Jesus gave his disciples while he walked the earth. He told them something greater would come after he ascended to the father. The promised spirit returned as promised endowing the believers with far greater power than ever before experienced. It is nothing short of God “in us”. That is the authority of the believer. There are many more references giving us insight to our rights “In Christ”. When God is in us, words can not explain the magnitude of the unspeakable riches of that relationship. For a real treat, read Eph 3 in the Amplified version and see if you can remain seated. See if you can doubt his authority.

⁵so **in Christ** we who are many **form one body**, and each member belongs to all the others.
Romans 12:5

⁷Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and **they were in Christ before I was.** **Romans 16:7**

⁴I always thank God for you because of his **grace** given you **in Christ** Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way--in all your speaking and in all your knowledge-- **1 Cor. 1:4-5**

²²For as in Adam all die, so **in Christ all will be made alive.** **1 Cor. 15:22**

¹⁴But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only **in Christ** is it **taken away.** **2 Cor. 3:14**

¹⁷Therefore, if **anyone is in Christ**, he is a **new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Cor. 5:17

¹⁹that God was **reconciling the world** to himself **in Christ**, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **2 Cor. 5:19**

²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the **righteousness of God in Christ.** **2 Cor. 5:21**

¹⁶know 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. **Galatians 2:16**

²⁶You are all **sons of God** through **faith in Christ** Jesus, **Galatians 3:26**

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

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blesed us** in the heavenly realms with **every spiritual blessing in Christ**. ⁴For **he chose us in him** before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **Ephes. 1:3-4**

⁷**In him** we have **redemption** through his blood, the **forgiveness** of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace **Ephes. 1:7**

⁹And he made known to us the **mystery of his will** according to his good pleasure, which he purposed **in Christ**, **Ephes. 1:9**

¹³And you also were included **in Christ** when you **heard the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation. **Having believed**, you were **marked in him** with a seal, the **promised Holy Spirit**, **Ephes. 1:13**

¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created **in Christ** Jesus to **do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do. **Ephes. 2:10**

¹³But now **in Christ** Jesus you who once were far away have been **brought near** through the blood of Christ. **Ephes. 2:13**

⁶This **mystery** is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and **sharers together** in the **promise in Christ** Jesus. **Ephes. 3:6**

¹²In him and through **faith in him** we may **approach God** with freedom and confidence. **Ephes. 3:12**

¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the **prize** for which God has called me heavenward **in Christ** Jesus. **Philip. 3:14**

⁷And the **peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will **guard your hearts** and your **minds in Christ** Jesus. **Philip. 4:7**

¹⁹And my God will **meet all your needs** according to his glorious riches **in Christ** Jesus. **Philip. 4:19**

¹⁷He is before all things, and **in him all things hold together**. **Col. 1:17**

¹⁹For it pleased *the Father* that **in him should all fullness dwell**; ²⁰And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven. **Col. 1:19-20**

⁹For **in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form**, ¹⁰and you have been given **fullness in Christ**, who is the head over every power and authority. **Col. 2:9-10**

¹⁶For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the **dead in Christ will rise first**. **1 Thes. 4:16**

¹⁴The **grace** of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and **love** that are **in Christ** Jesus. **1 Tim. 1:14**

^{2:1}You then, my son, be strong in the **grace** that is **in Christ** Jesus. **2 Tim. 2:1**

⁶I pray that you may be **active in sharing your faith**, so that you will have a **full understanding** of every good thing we have **in Christ**. **Philemon 1:6**

