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Prayer of Faith – 2007 Update

How to receive by Faith

July, 2007

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Receiving by Faith

Good News

It has been 23 years since, in 1984, I first heard the “good news” that comes by faith.

I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).”

John 10:10 (AMP)

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

If we have faith, nothing is impossible. - **Matthew 17:20**

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. **Matthew 21:22 (NIV)**

I had heard of God’s unlimited grace. As a child, raised “Mormon”; I was taught God answers prayer. But, until I heard the good news explained in terms of; God answers the “pray of faith”¹, I remember no answers, only failures to receive from prayer. I had always blamed myself; believed I had not been “good” enough for him to hear me, even though I tried over and over again to do the things that I had been taught would please him. I believed success and God’s favor came from work and perseverance. I believed that God would help, if it was what he desired and I was good enough. When successful, I thanked God. When I failed, it was always my failure to merit God’s favor which left me alone to fail or succeed according to what I knew or could do in the natural.

In 1984, in Dallas Texas, I was introduced to Robert Tilton and a group of “believers” teaching the “Word of Faith” message. I quickly learned:

- The miraculous was happening today and belonged² to the believing.

¹ **Mark 11:23-24 (KJV)** ²³ For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. ²⁴ Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

² **John 14:12 (KJV)** ¹² Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

- God honors our “faith”, if it is according to what he said or promised¹.
- We are to live² by faith in his word³
- Faith is simply: the actions which naturally follow a **heart felt “belief”** in his “words and promises”⁴.
- We can trust the bible; it holds his “words and promises”⁵.

The word of faith came to me as a lightning bolt. I was captivated as I realized my life’s failures to succeed were because of my obvious doubt and lack of faith in any word or promise that I should succeed. All of the sudden I had promises of success⁶. Even more, I had promises of a victorious⁷ and abundant life in Christ through receiving his words as solemn promises⁸.

The things I had formerly believed about success⁹ in life were NOT actually beliefs in anything God said or promised. When it came to life, I had been acting in “blind faith”; acting blind to any justification or basis for expecting God’s favor and the supernatural.

¹ **Romans 10:1-3 (KJV)** ¹ Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. ² For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

² **Romans 1:17 (KJV)** ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

³ **Matthew 4:4 (KJV)** ⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

⁴ **Romans 10:8 (KJV)** ⁸ But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy **heart**: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

⁵ **2 Timothy 3:16 (AMP)** ¹⁶ Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God’s will in thought, purpose, and action),

⁶ **Romans 5:17 (KJV)** ¹⁷ For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

⁷ **1 John 5:4-5 (KJV)** ⁴ For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith. ⁵ Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁸ **Isaiah 55:10-11 (KJV)** ¹⁰ For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: ¹¹ So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

⁹ **Joshua 1:8 (NIV)** ⁸ 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.

Prior to my conversion, I had just been acting like every other non-believer; hoping for success by working in the natural to succeed or be good enough for a special favor of God.

At Dallas, I was born again through hearing the word and began changing to a person with a new reality; believing and expecting the supernatural wherever it was promised. I saw thousands of believers¹ receiving by faith and I myself began believing and receiving as I was changed from doubter to believer. Where in the past, I always was working to be good enough for God's blessings. In 1984, I began working to change my "Beliefs". I set out to learn what God said and to turn those words into my heartfelt beliefs.

In this quest, I soon realized, it takes more than a simple decision to "Believe" before coming to "receive" when what is desired is NOT yet seen or sensed. Believing in the promises of supernatural requires a "fight of faith"²; a work of believing the word of faith³.

Today when I hear words and phrases like: "faith healing", "prosperity movement", "mind-over-matter", "psycho-kinesis", "magic", "the law of attraction", "ask and it is given", "as above so below", I equate them with the core principle of sowing and reaping and the familiar; "What things so ever ye ask for in prayer, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them".

Sowing and Reaping Miracles

We reap what we sow. If we'll sow, we'll eventually reap. Cause and effect: For every effect there was a cause. If we intentionally act, it will cause an effect. One will reap what they sow. It is such a fundamental principle of our existence and perceived reality that we call it a "law". We apply this law whenever we take action to affect a result we believe will follow. We experience it daily as we work our jobs expecting to reap a pay check caused by our working. The Good news results from cause and effect; for with every effect there must be a cause.

¹ "Word of Faith" church had over 5,000 members and a satellite network to hundreds of churches around the world. A different teacher, one of the greatest "Faith" teachers in the world, would come and teach from our uplink once a month. By far the majority claimed the miraculous was happening in their lives.

² **1 Timothy 6:12 (KJV)** ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

³ **Romans 10:6-11 (KJV)** ⁶ But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*;) ⁷ Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) ⁸ But what saith it? The **word** is nigh thee, *even in thy mouth*, and *in thy heart*: that is, the **word of faith**, which we preach;

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For **with the heart man believeth** unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

We're taught and we've experienced that the "prayer of faith" produces miracles. The basic components of sowing and reaping miracles are found in Mark 11:24 which reveals three (3) fundamental components for reaping the miraculous:

Mark 11:24 (KJV)

²⁴Therefore 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 (NIV)

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

Mark 11:24 (NASB95)

²⁴"Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be *granted* you.

1. Desire
2. Ask for in prayer
3. Believe you have received
4. Shall have it

The first two appear easy to understand:

Desire: While we may assume there are limitations and boundaries, the key "prayer of faith" scripture does NOT indicate a limit. Rather it says: what things soever you desire! Whatever you ask for in prayer; all things for which you pray and ask. In simplest terms, a desire is but a thought of attachment; a thought that we'd like to attach something to ourselves; an experience, person or thing.

Ask: All of us have a pretty good feel for what it means to simply "Ask" for something. When we add "in prayer" we usually think of performing some express act of petition like making a vocal request in a church. Some scriptures¹ indicate we should ask the father in the "name of Jesus", continuing with the prayer forms we're all familiar. Mark does not say to whom we need to ask or that a name must be used.

While we're exhorted to make formal petitions in prayer, "Desire, asking and believing" is more than a mere oral petition directed toward heaven. Upon reflection, "Desire", "Asking" and "Believing" can not be separated; the process is "Desire, Ask and Believe we received" then we "shall have".

"Desire" is a thought of something we want. "Belief we received" is also a thought; a conviction that we have received. Our thoughts of desire can remain fantasies or become a "shall have" experiences. It all depends on

¹ **John 14:13 (KJV)** ¹³ And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

the “Beliefs” one holds about “having desires manifested”. Likewise whether a prayer is a token gesture or fervent effectual pray again depends on our belief about prayer.

Just as our belief is shown or confirmed in the acts and thoughts that follow our obtaining a belief, so our “believing we received” should continue to show in our follow-up thinking and actions. If we really believed when we asked, then our follow up actions and thoughts would show we have that belief.

Common sense may tell us: if believing we received is the key, then consistent believing over hours and days would have much more impact than a few seconds believing at the time of vocalizing a petition. In other words; while the miraculous may come from a momentary spoken word and believing thought, miracles have greater likelihood coming from persistent belief that we received our desire and our continuing in those thoughts at least till our “shall have it” comes.

Reflecting that desires and beliefs are but thoughts, some have concluded: The mere acknowledgment of a desire in thought is an “asking”¹ which remains active until nullified by asking or having thoughts desiring something else in its place.

Believe that you have received: Belief is the most challenging with the supernatural as we’re expected to perceive ourselves receiving something before we see it with our senses. Until we come to understand how we receive without the senses confirming, it is difficult to think or believe we’ve received at the time of asking; for such believing seems foolish and un-believable. Clearly to believe we receive without sensing requires a different way of “looking at things”; a “different reality” or a fuller understanding of our reality.

Shall have it: We all know how to tell when we “have” something. This phrase is talking about our having it in our natural physical world; the world we usually think of as “real”. This is where we desire to have it be.

If we believed that time, space and matter were merely thought constructs, then we could conclude that whatsoever we desire, believing we receive it, we have it. We merely need the reality where belief is the cause for receiving. We need the reality where “nothing is impossible, if we believe”². To see things this way, one must be born again.

¹ Ask and it is given, Esther and Jerry Hicks; ©2004; Pg. 25-26 “Every thought vibrates, every thought radiates a signal, and every thought attracts a matching signal back,. We call that the Law of Attraction. ... Whatever you are giving your attention to causes you to emit a vibration, and the **vibrations that you offer equal your asking**, which equals your point of attraction.” (emphasis mine)

² **Matthew 17:19-20 (AMP)**

¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus and asked privately, Why could we not drive it out? ²⁰ He said to them, Because of the littleness of your faith [that is, your lack of firmly relying trust]. For truly I say to you, if you have faith [that is living] like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, Move from here to yonder place, and it will move; and **nothing will be impossible to you**.

You must be born again

We must be born again¹ to see true “Reality”. We must learn² a different way of thinking about reality; the reality we know is incomplete. The unenlightened have an inadequate vision of reality. Most of us are quite narrow minded concerning our “reality”, very quick to disbelieve anything unseen while we see the opposite. Until we know and believe that what we see is only temporary³ and can be affected by our desires, asking and believing, our current perception and thinking process resists every attempt to believe the supernatural.

Sowing and Reaping

We understand that a seed produces after its own kind at harvest following a planting. We refer to this as “like begets like” or the law of seed time and harvest. Nothing is reaped that doesn’t first involve planting its own kind as seed. There must first be a seed of cause before a harvest of effects. Each harvest follows a desire to receive the harvest or effect. Each harvest also has a “belief of receiving” in the “planting” or “asking”.

Our reality holds many kinds of cause and effects. We can:

- work to get paid,
- pay our rent to get use of the apartment
- flip a switch to get light, if we’ve paid the last bill and the electric company has maintained the network.

Reality holds many kinds of seeds with harvest examples:

- plant wheat seed to get a wheat crop,
- invest study to get an education
- Invest money in a business to get a money profit,
- desire and ask our employer for get a day off and receive it if we’ve earned it and he is willing.

¹ **John 3:3 (KJV)** ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

² **1 Peter 1:23 (NIV)** ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

³ **2 Corinthians 4:18 (NKJV)** ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

In fact, our reality holds many kinds of “desire, asking and believing” to get “having” scenarios:

- desire and ask our boss for a raise and have it, if we’ve satisfied his requirements
- ask our father for something and receive it, if we meet his requirements and he possesses it to give.

Desire, asking and believing begets “having”

With “desire, asking and believing” to get “having”, we’re dealing with conscious thought and intentions to receive within a context of certainty (belief that we shall have it) creating a change in our physical reality.

With the farmer, he has a “desire and asking” (planting) and “believing” to get “having” that wheat crop (a physical sensed manifestation in his reality).

What makes “desire, asking and believing” to get “having” different with the miraculous? Only one thing; the miraculous is not seen resulting from the *normal day to day causes* we routinely find within our control. Miraculous effects are preceded by *uncommon causes*. We operate in the principle of asking and receiving everyday. **It is ONLY in the area of belief that we find the difficulty with “uncommon causes” of miracle effects.**

We all desire the miraculous, when we haven’t convinced ourselves it is out of reach. We daily ask for the miraculous both consciously and unconsciously as we live our lives. Few believe miracles are available to their reality and even fewer believe they have them now if they can’t sense them.

It is hoped that this treatise may provide a course of action with which you and I can replace your inhibiting beliefs with new empowering beliefs; ones that allow the miraculous to manifest into our physical reality. How can we obtain and firmly believe that such an uncommon cause as “belief” affects receiving miracles?

Beliefs

What we “believe about receiving” affects what we “shall have”. When it comes to “shall have it” according to “receiving by faith”, *belief is the ONLY thing* that offers difficulty. Desire and asking are easily understood in comparison to the challenge of holding a new belief of receiving. It’s our belief that must show in our actions¹ and must be present for one to have “faith”. Acted upon belief (asking in belief of receiving) is the “faith” that brings us an abundant and victorious life².

I am convinced that Belief is but a thought held with conviction of correctness; more precisely: a type of thought, an idea or hypothesis, that describes our reality and for which we hold a relative degree of certainty

¹ **James 2:18 (NASB95)** ¹⁸ But someone may *well* say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

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

that it correctly describes our reality. Such convictions are beliefs. They represent our thoughtful conclusions; decisions that a particular idea is the most accurate descriptor of some facet in our reality. Such convictions are more than conscious mind decisions, convictions are also in harmony with our vastly more powerful subconscious mind.

In seeking to bring change of belief regarding the miraculous, these conclusions are primarily decided by our subconscious mind. Our conscious intellect can only hope to influence the subconscious when it decides conclusions in harmony with all the related truths we have accumulated to date. For the most part, our conscious mind manages the tactical decisions and provides the strategy for implementing the desires generated by the subconscious. The subconscious mind evaluates our conscious strategies and adjusts our desires according to our complete view of reality. While the conscious mind may develop the options and point out the challenges and discoveries it notices, the subconscious weights them against it's vast memory of related experiences and previous conclusions to reveal how consistent or inconsistent is our newest idea of truth. From the harmony of all our conclusions of truth (reality), the subconscious provides emotionally charged desires and the convictions to pursue the most favorable options available to us moment by moment. If our available natural options carry greater conviction of producing good, we'll desire the natural rather than supernatural course of action. James was right, We'll always see our beliefs in what we do¹.

To make physical change, we can consciously direct this belief formation process by keeping focus² on the references supporting change and refusing to focus on those that don't support change which we don't want

¹ **James 2:18 (NIV)** ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

² **Joshua 1:8 (NIV)**

⁸ 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.

Matthew 6:22-34 (NIV)

²² "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

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. You cannot serve both God and Money. ²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

reinforced. As we direct our thoughts to focus on the things we want (planting seeds of thought), our subconscious locates and returns the similar thoughts and beliefs. In doing this it reinforces the neuron pathways that it finds neurologically related. In time these become the predominate thoughts or beliefs used in evaluating our opportunities and manifest as our acting in faith. I believe this is when the “shall have comes”.

A belief develops as we grow in conviction that a new thought is true. Due to the way we're created, that means our reality must include awareness of references to ponder, consider, and use in concluding a new conviction regarding our reality.

Again: The strategy for bringing belief change is to find those supporting references then keep our focus single to them long enough for our neuron network to be reworked and form a new perception of reality. Once our new idea becomes the predominant view regarding our reality (belief), the desired object miraculously manifests into our physical experience.

Biological Incentive System

We've been endowed with an incredibly wonderful nature; we seek clarity and a correct perception of reality with every new experience and thought. We are given incentives emotionally that highly motivate us to establish the truth of everything we interact with so that we can profit in perpetuating our existence. This biological incentive system (BIS) catalogs every perceived facet of our existence so we can draw upon it to preserve ourselves and human kind¹. Our BIS interprets our known universe (our reality) and forms belief conclusions in accordance with all it knows. From these beliefs, it gives us our desires and directs our paths emotionally for optimizing our existence. Emotionally, our BIS gives us great pleasure for perpetuating our lives and great pain with every interaction that is detrimental. In deed, it is our BIS that gives us our day to day desires and the desire for the miraculous when miracles are believed the best option. This subconscious

¹ On Desire ©2006, William B. Irvine Pg 145; “We humans are incentivized. All of us have implanted within us a biological incentive system - ... because our evolutionary ancestors who had it had a better chance of surviving and reproducing than those that didn't. Why does sex feel good? Because if it had felt bad to someone – if sex, rather than leading to an orgasm, resulted in intense pain – it is unlikely that he would reproduce and therefore unlikely that he would go on to become someone's ancestor. Why does getting burned feel bad? Because if someone had enjoyed getting burned – if burns, rather than being intensely painful, triggered orgasms – he would be unlikely to survive.”. Pg 152; “In much the same way as a salesman's workdays are shaped by the system of incentives at his work place, our days are shaped by our BIS, which acts like a goad to drive us along in our daily routine. We awaken, but as we lie in bed we notice that our bladder is full – or rather, that our BIS is punishing us for going so long without urinating. We get up and walk toward the bathroom. On the way, we stub our toe, and our BIS punishes our awkwardness by making us experience intense pain. Not long after we climb back into bed, we find ourselves worrying about our car's water pump. It has been making a tick-tick noise for weeks, be we have neglected to have a mechanic look at it. By causing feelings of anxiety within us, our BIS is punishin us for this neglect.

We push this worry out of our mind, only to realize that we are hungry – that our BIS is punishing us for having let our blood sugar get so low. We go down for breakfast and as we decide what to eat, we recall that our BIS rewards us for eating sweet, fattening foods. Consequently, we treat ourselves to a breakfast of bacon, eggs and pancakes with butter and maple syrup. Over breakfast, while reading the newspaper, we come across a flattering article about ourselves. We feel a little rush of delight, as our BIS rewards us for having gained social status. We eat till our feeling of hunger is replaced by a pleasant feeling of fullness, a reward from our BIS for having taken advantage of the food resources available to us.”

direction is given according to what we believe possible and we observe them as desires being manifested. Our BIS can only do this through first concluding and establishing the beliefs we hold true¹ about our reality. Indeed these beliefs about reality establish who we “really” are. We change ourselves into the being we believe has the greatest chance of surviving in this reality.

Therefore, when it comes to our beliefs, our BIS does NOT let us change them flippantly or with mere intellectual decision. Consciously, we are dwarfed in comparison to the intelligence held in our sub-conscious².

Yet once a belief is derived, the accuracy of that belief is given very little consideration as it is applied to drive new desires adapting to our environmental changes³. It is as if once decided, no matter how incorrect, our beliefs are used to evaluate all environmental opportunities remotely related to what we have learned and hold true.

¹ Ibid; pg 121; “If our evolutionary past had been different, what we find to be desirable would probably be different as well, and as a result we would tend to form different desires than we do.” ...

“A species suited to its environment is more likely to survive and reproduce than one that isn’t. The problem is that environments change, not just from millennium to millennium but from second to second. Consequently, in order to be suited to an environment a species must be able to detect changes in their environment and react in a way that increases their chance of surviving and reproducing in that environment.”

² The Biology of Belief, Bruce Lipton Ph.D. ©2005, Pg 128: “... the seemingly “separate” subdivisions of the mind, conscious and the sub-conscious are interdependent. The conscious mind is the creative one, the one that can conjure up “positive thoughts”. In contrast, the subconscious mind is a repository of stimulus-response tapes derived from instincts and learned experiences. The subconscious is strictly habitual; it will play the same behavioral responses to life’s signals over and over again, much to our chagrin. How many times have you found yourself going ballistic over something trivial like an open toothpaste tube? You have been trained since childhood to carefully replace the cap. When you find the tube with the cap left off, your “buttons are pushed” and you automatically fly into a rage. You’ve just experienced the simple stimulus-response of a behavior program stored in the subconscious mind.”

“When it comes to sheer neurological processing abilities, the sub-conscious mind is millions of times more powerful than the conscious mind. If the desires of the conscious mind conflict the programs in the sub-conscious mind, which “mind” do you think will win out? You can repeat the positive affirmation that you are lovable over and over or that your cancer tumor will shrink. But if, as a child, you heard over and over again that you are worthless and sickly, those messages programmed into your sub-conscious mind will undermine your best conscious efforts to change your life. Remember how quickly you last New Year’s resolution to eat less food fell by the wayside as the aroma of the baking turkey dissolved your resolve?”

Pg. 166: “For example, if a ball comes near your eye, the slower conscious mind may not have time to be aware of the threatening projectile. Yet the subconscious mind, which processes some 20,000,000 environmental stimuli per second vs. 40 environmental stimuli interpreted by the conscious mind in the same second, will cause the eye to blink. The subconscious mind, one of the most powerful information processors known, specifically observes both the surrounding world and the body’s internal awareness, reads the environmental cues and immediately engages previously acquired (learned) behaviors – all without the help, supervision or even awareness of the conscious mind.”

³ Ibid, pg 134 “The subconscious mind is strictly a stimulus-response playback device; there is no ghost in that part of the “machine” to ponder the long-term consequences of the programs we engage. The subconscious works only in the “now”. Consequently, programmed misperceptions in our subconscious mind are not “monitored” and will habitually engage us in inappropriate and limiting behaviors.”

It is only after we consciously observe some contradiction that our beliefs have opportunity for change. These contradictions come when our current course of action is met with something unpleasant or unwanted. In those moments of desire-obstacle contrast, our conscious mind is set to inquire: What happened? What did I do wrong? And hopefully¹, what can I do to improve. During these moments the seeds of change are sown.

Let us receive but a few references contradicting one of our beliefs and our marvelous BIS begins to search for other reconciling references that harmonize the seeming inconsistency and reconfirms our belief or the BIS may conclude a more suitable belief replacement with this process.

My hope is to provide a few “new references” describing a more complete reality so the idea of miraculous receiving by faith can be considered and more references gathered sufficient to bring a new belief in the miraculous. When such becomes a conviction, nothing will be impossible for you.

A more complete reality

What kind of “more complete reality” would allow common “desire”, “asking” and “believing” to produce “having miracle” effects?

According to the law of “like begets like”, If “desire, asking and believing” cause “having” effects in our reality, “desire, asking and believing” must be of the same kind as “reality” it produces.

If the “having” circumscribes all of our known “physical reality”, then that “physical reality” must itself actually be of the same nature as “desire, asking and believing”; our physical reality must be a desired thought believed received to be capable of “having it physically”.

When we come to considering what kind of seeds produce miracles manifesting in our reality? These seeds would have to be the same nature as our reality. It would be required for them to actually produce the miraculous in reality. To view this another way, we can understand reality if we learn and understand the seeds that create that reality. Just as the harvest is the culmination of what a planted seed becomes. So Reality MUST be the culmination of what the planted seed of desire, asking, and believing we receive becomes. Clearly that is a new reality for most of us. It is a reality that includes all things and persons we see around us as well as the universe of unseen operating on principles we have used daily but have not understood.

Christian Reality

As Christians having first heard the “good news” from the teachings of Jesus Christ and his disciples, in our exuberance, we may think to group all “good news” with “being Christian”.

¹ The questions we ask however are not always positive as they too reflect previously established beliefs; If we come to believe good things don't come to us, we may only ask for ways to avoid or minimize the unpleasant and unwanted rather than how to change our environment into what we positively want. Once we loose faith in the good and abundant life, many only desire reduction of unwanted impact and pain.

A careful reading of the “receiving by faith” scriptures reveal no such limitations. Asking and Receiving by faith is not restricted to “Christian faith”. There are numerous accounts of the faithful receivers not being Christian believers nor Jews. To the contrary, we find the Christian is strongly condemned for NOT producing the fruit¹ of abiding in his word on “receiving by faith”.

Miraculous receiving is no more restricted to Christians than are the laws of gravity, aero dynamics or agriculture. The law of sowing and reaping works for all that plant expecting a harvest. If a person sows, he'll reap what he sows because “like begets like” is a universal law; seeds always produce after their own kind in a harvest.

Christian and non-Christian farmers alike continue to reap harvests after they plant and believe their desired harvest will be received.

Limitless miracles abound for non-Christians because our “Christian Reality” includes non-Christians participating in it with us. If our reality is harvested from the seeds of desire, asking and believing, so is theirs; so are everyone's! We find non-Christians succeeding whenever we find them “Asking” and “believing”; we find them “having” and receiving.

When ever a Christian or non-Christian manifests a desire and asks believing he'll receive, this heart felt desire in harmony with sincere belief is met with receiving! All receive what is desired and asked for in belief of receiving.

Our Miracle Reality is a Mind Game

Not all miracles are done by true apostles, but all true apostles, all true believers of the gospel “good news” will have miraculous signs following them, if they have heard the truth and believed. Miracles happen because miracles are part of our reality. They follow anyone that applies correct principles correctly. These principles work for all, saint or sinner alike, for otherwise our reality would not be as it is.

¹ **John 15:1-8 (KJV)** I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. ⁶ If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. ⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Reality could be different than it is. But what we have WAS manifest from a mind as thoughts and belief of creation. For of such was our reality originated; it was created from spoken thought¹.

I didn't decide the rules of this mind game, I am not the first to play it. I have only been permitted an opportunity to play. For that life opportunity, I am eternally grateful. I am here playing! I am discovering how the game was meant to be played. I am having fun doing, being and having what I believe. I now believe that is what we were intended to experience! I believe receiving an abundant life according to "my" belief also brings "having" to my creator's intentional beliefs when he created you and I.

Finding Nuggets of Truth

In non-christian writings we find the laws of "seed time and harvest", "sowing and reaping", identified as the universal "law of attraction".

The Law of Attraction says: That which is like unto itself, is drawn².

We also find a Christian's "Holy Spirit of Truth"³ confirming the true path to non-Christians with clear unmistakable clarity⁴. But these will be shared in the next chapter.

¹ **Genesis 1:1-10 (NIV)** ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so.

⁸ God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so.

¹⁰ God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

² The Law of Attraction ©2006; Esther and Jerry Hicks Pg 29;

³ **John 16:13 (AMP)** ¹³ But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce *and* declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].

⁴ The Law of Attraction ©2006; Esther and Jerry Hicks Pg 79; "Every emotion that you feel is, without exception, communicating from your Inner Being letting you know, in the moment, the appropriateness of whatever you are thinking, speaking, or acting. In other words, as you think a thought that is not in vibrational harmony with your overall intent, your Inner Being will offer you negative emotion. ... And in like manner, when you are speaking, thinking, or acting in the direction of that which is in harmony with your intentions, your Inner Being will offer you positive emotion.

There are only two emotions: One of them feels good, and the other feels bad. ... you have the ability to factor in all the details of all your desires and your beliefs, in order to be able to make the absolute appropriate decisions at every point in time."

Intentional Believing

Believing

James shows us that a believers' faith can always be seen. One can always see what you and I believe by watching us. We show belief in everything we do, even if it is not instantly obvious to an observer. When there is very little belief, we still show that belief in our action. We only act when there is sufficient desire to obtain an object after or when we possess a belief that we can receive that object by taking the action. Without belief, there is never an action.

All actions have related beliefs, but NOT all beliefs have related action; Just like all Ford sedans are cars, but not all cars are Ford Sedans. All desires have objects, just as all actions have objects and corresponding belief that the specific action will achieve the desired object or receipt of the desired object. One never finds action without there being a belief and a desire regarding a common object and the action it takes to achieve it.

A belief reveals what we perceive about an object and what we have concluded as true about that object. A belief is what we believe is the truth, what we believe is reality in regard to some object. Not all beliefs involve action, but when a belief relates to action in regards to an object, we see those beliefs in action whenever there is a sufficient desire to receive the effect that we believe will result from the action being applied.

Example: You arise in the middle of the night with a strong desire to go to the bathroom. If you believe you can get up and walk to the bathroom, your actions will show it in your waking yourself and walking to the bathroom. If on the other hand you are camping in the woods, you will NOT walk to the bathroom unless you believe yourself capable of achieving your desire by walking to it. Let one possess a belief that it is too far away, and your actions will show you believe it is too far away; your actions will likely show another belief; that you can walk to the camp latrine even when you prefer the house bathroom. It is the same with believing for the miraculous, your actions always show what you believe to be the most realistic or most true of your reality.

Intention

Our beliefs always shown in our intentions, just as they always show in our actions. Intention, like action, provides a view into our heart; they show what we truly believe. What are your intentions when you ask to have something that does not commonly come from asking? What are your intentions after you are promised what you asked for? What are your intentions after you have what you asked for? Are they different when there is more certainty?

To understand intentions better, let's consider a young mans common night-mare: A young mans asks a girl for a date and is told he must first ask her father. He clearly has a desire. But, being young, his belief is a little uncertain and he is apprehensive about asking. When he arrives to the young ladies home, he is greeted at the door by the girls father who asks: What are your intentions? The young man being honest and a chaste young man replies that he intends to enjoy her company to a movie and an ice cream after, that then he'll bring the young lady back to her home by 10. Next he hears the father reply with his approval and agreement.

Does the young mans intentions change after hearing the fathers agreement? How about his original desire? Does it change upon hearing the fathers reply? How about his belief that he'll be leaving on date at 7pm? Belief is the only thing that materially changes upon receiving confirmation to his request; he now more firmly believes he will take the girl on the date at 7. Desire does not change. Likewise intentions won't change until belief changes. Example: if the father said no, the boy's intentions will probably cease making plans for that evening.

With miraculous receiving it must be the same. We need to hold the same intentions after asking as when we receive confirmations as same as the intentions we hold when in "have" possession. They will all be the same, if we believe we receive it when we ask. Immediately after asking we will have possessing intentions, if we belief that we received upon asking.

It has been proven that the human brain responds the same when to envisioning and visualizing an action or intention exactly as it does when actually acting out the intention. The brain doesn't know the difference and fires the same signals in the brain.

There are incredible examples of the power of intention. These example show intentions to produce the same miraculous results that we know come from believing. It would appear that holding intentions is the same as believing when it comes to receiving. Could it be that thoughts firmly held as intentions are the same as thoughts firmly held as belief?

As with beliefs, so are our intentions, so are our feelings

Feelings

We all know how we feel when our plans and intentions get thwarted. We know how the boy feels when rejected by the girl's father. Immediately our thoughts register feelings of let down, discouragement and sadness. On the other hand, when we receive what we want, we feel good. Likewise, we feel good when we get the assurance that we're ok to go on the planned date in a few days. Once a belief in obtaining a desire is confirmed, it immediately shows in our intentions and feelings as pleasurable!

Are you Receiving?

Our creator has given us a magically powerful mechanism for knowing if we'll receive what we've asked for in a prayer of faith. One only needs to check their feelings to know if they'll receive. One needs only check their feelings to know if they believe. Our feelings reveal what we believe just as intentions do, and all reveal if we'll receive!

Are you happy and rejoicing or sad after your asking. Happy follows the perception of receiving. Sad follows perception of remaining in despair. Our feelings don't change, if we still believe our hopes remain a loft. If we believe we have what we asked for, our feeling change to better.

Remember, Our feeling result directly from what we are thinking. Thinking is just focusing on thoughts or ideas. Beliefs are those thoughts we predominantly hold about our reality. Belief being thoughts of our reality, if we believe our reality is about to improve by our receiving our precious desires, then those good thoughts produce good feelings rewarding us for the accomplishment. If they are bad thoughts of remaining in lack, or belief that we have not received, those thoughts produce bad feelings reminding us we need to act to bring about a change. That is all our senses, feelings and emotion were created for – they ensure our biological survival by rewarding us for advancement toward the better and happier “abundant” life.

Appendix

Other Shepherds

Continuing the “good fight of faith” I welcome news of others having success in the victory that “overcometh the world”. God’s involvement is confirmed by miraculous signs, but surprisingly such signs can NOT be relied upon as sole evidence of God’s involvement. The miraculous is NOT restricted solely to the domain of God. In deed most of what we call miracles are simply unknown phenomenon which we do not yet fully understand.

Clearly miracles are signs of God

Hebrews 2:4 (KJV)

⁴ God also bearing *them* witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

John 10:25 (NASB95)

²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me.

Acts 2:22 (NASB95)

²² "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—

Yet we also know that there will come some performing the miraculous that are not of God:

2 Thessalonians 2:9 (NIV)

⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

Revelation 13:11-14 (KJV)

¹¹ And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. . . . ¹³ And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, ¹⁴ And *deceiveth them* that dwell on the earth *by the means of those miracles* which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Revelation 16:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ For they are the **spirits of devils, working miracles**, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Revelation 19:20 (KJV)

²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the **false prophet that wrought miracles** before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Matthew 24:24 (AMP)

²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will arise, and they will show great signs and wonders so as to deceive *and* lead astray, if possible, even the elect (God's chosen ones).

Matthew 7:22 (NIV)

²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and **perform many miracles**?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

At first glance, one may think it best to run from all performing miracles, even those done in the "name of Jesus". However, from reading the full context, we quickly see that one must look deeper and look at the fruit of such acts before concluding if such is an application of the gospel of Jesus; surprisingly miraculous acts done "in name of Jesus" is NOT conclusive.

A Tree and Its Fruit

Matthew 7: (NIV)

¹⁵ "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

¹⁶ **By their fruit you will recognize them.** Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

¹⁷ Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴ "Therefore **everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and **does not put them into practice is like a foolish man** who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Miracles follow Believers

The scriptures confirm miraculous results are the fruit which follow a true believer and the proper application of God's words.

2 Corinthians 12:12 (NASB95)

12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

1 Corinthians 12:28 (NIV)

²⁸ And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, **then workers of miracles**, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.

Galatians 3:5 (NIV)

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

Not all miracles are done by true apostles, but all true apostles, even all true believers will have miraculous signs following them, if they have heard the truth. Miracles happen because miracles are part of our reality.

They follow anyone that applies correct principles correctly. These principles work for all, saint or sinner alike, for otherwise our reality would not be as it is. Reality could be different but it would be nothing like what we have IF that reality did NOT manifest from thoughts and belief of creation. For of such was our reality created and from nothing else.

I didn't decide the rules of this mind game, I am not the first to play it. I have only been permitted a chance to play in it. For that life, I am eternally grateful to be here playing! I am grateful to have discovered a one way the game can be played. I am having fun!

Conclusion

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

Michael