

# Studies on Belief

---

## Foundations: We Live by the Word

### Life is to be abundant.

**John 10:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

### We can do all things

**Philippians 4:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

### Nothing is impossible

**Matthew 17:19 (WEY) :20 (AMP)**

<sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and asked Him, "Why could not we expel the demon?"

<sup>20</sup> 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.

### Path to success

**Matthew 4:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

**Joshua 1:8 (KJV)**

<sup>8</sup> This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but **thou shalt meditate therein day and night**, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and **then thou shalt have good success**.

**Psalms 119:105,130,160 (KJV)**

<sup>105</sup> Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

<sup>130</sup> The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

<sup>160</sup> Thy word *is* true *from* the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments *endureth* for ever.

### All promises are Yes!

Every promise is as, **yes** we are qualified, **yes** we have fulfilled the requirement, **yes** we are established as merited by God's grace (unmerited favor) and God's response is **yes** I will, **yes** you can, when **in Christ**.

**2 Corinthians 1:20-22 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> For **all the promises** of God find their **Yes in him**. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

<sup>21</sup> And it is God who establishes us with you **in Christ**, and has anointed us,

<sup>22</sup> and who has also put his seal on us and **given us his Spirit** in our **hearts** as a guarantee.

## Can we believe?

Before we know if we **can**, we first have to know what it means to believe. Straight away, asking **if we can** tells us the word **believe** is an action word, something that **can be done** or performed, known in English as a verb.

Believe is a physical act of self, or if you prefer a physical act one's self can do or perform. All acts and activities are actions that begin with the self mentally **concluding a decision** of **intention** to **change, reposition or move** in relation to one's current position. Verbs describe actions for transitioning or changing positions of an object subject.

In the case of a believe activity, a person acts upon a subject belief. A belief is an idea, concept, precept or principle describing reality or the characteristics of reality. A believe activity concludes a decision or intention to change, reposition or move from one's currently held beliefs to a new set of beliefs describing reality or the characteristics of reality. A believe action intends a transition from the current body of beliefs to a new body of beliefs adding the latest decided belief to the body of beliefs we call reality.

Concepts that we have concluded a decision and intention to believe are adopted as true of reality. If we believe them, we call them our truth or truths whether they correctly describe reality or not. Each decided belief adds to the ever increasing body of beliefs a believer holds true as accurately describing his view of reality.

## Truth

In this study I primarily want to confine my use of the word **truth** to that which is **established as believed** by an **observer**, not the more general concept of truth; ie, *what is true of reality in general* regardless whether recognized by an individual or not. What a believer decides is true, is a **believers truth**, whether correctly identified consistent with the whole of reality or not.

Only the observer can decide what he believes as true and the truth he will rely upon in life. I am not here attempting to suggest an individual can make his own truth to live by. Rather, I am wanting to make the point; only the observer **decides what is truth** of what he or she hears. Only an individual's decision can establish what is "**believed true**" of concepts, precepts or principles that describe reality. When we as individuals decide to believe a concept, precept or principle true of reality, we establish "Our Beliefs". These beliefs are called **a believers truth** whether accurate of our fuller reality or not.

## Causality and Locality Beliefs

Why does this matter? All beliefs describe characteristics of objects in relationship within our reality. How we relate in our relationships determine the quality of what we experience; determines the quality of our lives.

All our relationships are affected by what we do because all objects have characteristics of causality; all actions have consequences effecting objects within reality. All objects in relationship have characteristic aspects that we describe as being in **cause and effect relationship**. One object can affect or cause an effect to manifest in another object by acting to invoke the cause by action. All faith based beliefs are causality beliefs; faith based beliefs when acted upon with faith cause effects.

Objects also have characteristics of locality. That is all related objects in relationship have localities described as having **a place in time and space**. Only Faith based beliefs can cause non-local effects to appear or manifest locality.

## Quality of Life

When it comes to quality of life, what a person believes as true makes a huge difference in the quality of life experienced. All actions have consequences because all actions cause effects. The pursuit of quality life effects is what drives all the acts we perform. The pursuit of desired effects drives all actions we take.

Life is the sum total of all our actions. It isn't considered over until one is no longer performing actions that affect effects. We aren't considered dead till the heart and brain stop so that we cease affecting effects by manipulating actions to cause effect changes.

We pursue an abundant life (effect) by seeking to apply the actions that affect (cause) the desired effects to be experienced.

We choose which beliefs to act upon in order to affect the effects we desire. When correct beliefs are applied, they cause or affect our experiencing the effect desired. True beliefs correctly applied cause effects. That is true beliefs when acted or relied upon affect the quality of our life experience.

We only want to act upon accurate cause and effect statements of reality so that we can reliably obtain the effects we desire from the actions we believe will invoke the cause.

## Collaborating References

To establish truth, we typically look for collaborating references sufficient to conclude the new concept, precept or principle is true and consistent with all we already know of reality. We look for proofs of truth in directly experienced references and inferred references. Directly experienced references are events that are sensed as in: Seeing, hearing, touching, tasting or feeling. When deciding if we believe in a cause-effect principle, our direct references are those that we see the effects of invoking the cause by action. We say our direct references collaborate the truth of a cause-effect principle when we can sense the effect after acting in reliance of the belief.

## Only a Decision

As children without direct experience, we adopt beliefs of parents, elders and others we consider wise and experienced. I call these inferred references. Inferred references are not direct experience proof, they are statements of others beliefs that we deem authoritative and credible, accurately describing the cause and effect relationship belief that if relied upon will allow us to enjoy the desired good life effects.

To the extent our parents taught us true principle and that we relied upon them, most of us have needed but little else to live satisfying and fulfilling lives. Many live full action-packed lives without ever needing to decide new beliefs beyond those first established by the credibility and authority of parents.

Many are taught by parents that we can trust and rely upon scripture as the word of God's Truth. Some are taught to KEEP those words as truth living by them in faith they are reliable. Some fortunate ones have even experienced prayers of faith relying upon those words to invoke miraculous aspects of God's offer of relationship. Hopefully our early adopted beliefs establish the only foundations we need for living the quality lives our creator intended.

### **Proverbs 22:6 (KJV & AMP)**

<sup>6</sup> Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

<sup>6</sup> Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it.

As we get older, we become more independent and seek to improve upon our beliefs. Not that we seek to prove our parents wrong; we recognize we can improve our beliefs through gaining better understanding of the subtleties and finer details observable from our expanding individual perspectives.

During these phases, we discover there are other authorities competing for our trust, seeking to prove to us that they can be relied upon for establishing our beliefs. During these times our parents hope we as children perfected our trust in God over others for dealing with those concepts, precepts and principles that conflict.

To the extent we establish we believe particular authorities more credible, if we **establish greater credibility** in their words than our own experiences, we **decide to believe and rely upon** their beliefs over ours.

The key to establishing truth in others beliefs is **credibility** measured in terms of **certainty**. Degrees of Credibility exist in a spectrum of certainty. Both are beliefs we must also decide once we decide we're going to accept others references besides our own experience based collaborative references in deciding which concepts, precepts or principles are true to all we know of reality. It's all perception and our task is deciding our preferences and the ranking of those preferences once we progress beyond accepting the beliefs of our parents.

When we decide to allow others beliefs to become our own, we rank our assessment of their **credibility and authority** against the credibility we feel for our own **direct references**. When we have conflicting positions between authorities and ourselves our decisions become very subjective; often becoming subject to mere personal preferences and emotion feelings arising from current beliefs and positive or negative attitudes of perception.

In any case, until we ultimately decide one over all, we are halted in indecision. Conflicted by wanting to believe more than one idea, we are unable to take any reliant action and if we do act in such a state, we're unstable and easily persuaded to change or stop pursuit of the effect sought .

That is; when we consider the collaborating references in support of concluding a decision on which of conflicting ideas we consider true, we must decide which of our conflicting authorities or ourselves provide us with the greatest degree certainty in deciding our conclusion. Only after deciding among competing ideas can we identify the belief to rely upon with sufficient certainty we commit to seeing our action through to obtaining our desired effect.

While this may sound overwhelming, our minds are so powerful, most of this is done in moments within our subconscious. If we remain in uncertainty, we easily give up any action, if even we act at all .

### **Battleground of Faith**

The battle ground of the fight over conflicting beliefs is the mind. The fight is to establish which belief will win the mind's decision! The Good Fight of Faith is the same fight. Faith fights to win the mind in establishing which belief will be relied upon.

The belief that wins the mind's highest trust and commitment to be relied upon when action is to be taken wins the mind's devotion and commitment. It wins the faith fight. The mind is the prize as it determines what will be relied upon in faith. The winning belief captures the mind that directs the will to act upon the cause most believed able of affecting the quality of life effect sought.

Our God wants our hearts and minds devoted to him, nothing less. If God's beliefs are Lord in our lives, God lives within our lives. The thief acts to negate that. If the deceiver can get us to limit our beliefs to those that work without involving God's word and Holy spirit, he has succeeded in frustrating our Lord Jesus.

## Who Is Lord

The winner of the mind is Lord over the person whose life is determined by it. He who determines the mind's belief is Lord. The authority that establishes the beliefs we live by is Lord regardless of who we think is Lord or who we may say is Lord.

Actions always speak louder than words. Even though words may come from the abundance of the heart, actions are a more sure reflection of what is abundant within the heart because actions take more reliance than mere words. Actions of faith show more reliance upon a belief than merely saying that we believe.

When it comes to knowing your own heart, of the two, actions are the more reliable for knowing what is truly believed. Because the mind focuses upon what it wills, when the mind focuses upon the word only, it may think it believes, it may even decide the Word of God is true. But, until the mind commits the heart, the whole heart to trust, rely and keep the word as truth and reject that which is contrary to it, the word heard or decided true is still only a thought. The focus of the mind and the decisions it makes is the beginning of what determines what is abundant within the heart. Until the mind commits to trust, rely and keep, which includes defend, actions speak louder than words.

Whichever authority we establish as Lord rules our heart, mind and soul as the mind first decides to believe, then commits the whole heart to trust, rely and keep the word as the truth to live by and ultimately transforms the soul into the image and likeness of the Lord. Who's image do your actions reveal?

Which ever authority is elevated to Lord as we establish what we believe, rules our heart and mind. The Lord controls our life as our beliefs determine the actions we live by and the master we serve.

To establish Jesus as Lord requires only a decision to believe and a commitment to rely upon and keep his word always, when deciding which beliefs will be relied upon to meet the challenges of life.

Who do you turn to when your health or other life challenges confront you? A word keeping person has already decided to believe and has already committed to relying upon the Lord's word when challenges need to be met with action.

The Lord of our bible seeks to capture our minds for the good of all his creation. This is evident by his words in scripture, God highly prizes *your individual and unique perspective* on what makes an abundant life. In faith of his higher reality perspective and desire of personal relationship with you, he trusts that when you are established in Christ, your desires are his:

**Mark 11:24 (KJV)**

<sup>24</sup> Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

If God trusts you that much, if he is that sure of the effects his word will have upon your heart, can you decide to trust his trust in you? Can you decide to trust the heart he gives you to know what is good to desire? It only takes a decision to believe and commit reliance upon the incredible trust he has in you as shown in that verse. Will you keep that word to rely upon in deciding the actions you will take in life?

God is confident your desires are his, because when you accept, welcome and admit his word into your heart, you abide in and keep his word and his word abides in and keeps you, for he is within you. You know his spirit, desires and even the most secret petitions he has for you. For these cause you to have the mind of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 2:14-16 (AMP)**

<sup>14</sup> But the natural, nonspiritual man does not accept *or* welcome *or* admit into his heart the gifts *and* teachings *and* revelations of the Spirit of God, for they are folly (meaningless nonsense) to him...

<sup>16</sup> For who has known *or* understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide *and* instruct Him *and* give Him knowledge? But ***we have the mind of Christ*** (the Messiah) *and* do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.

**In Christ, you come to know the delight of being in him, as his desires are manifest within you.** They are his desires and secret petitions written within your heart. But he doesn't just give you your desires, he makes them come to pass as experience:

**Psalms 37:4-5 (AMP)**

<sup>4</sup> Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires *and* secret petitions of your heart. <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord [roll and repose each care of your load on Him]; trust (lean on, rely on, and be confident) also in Him and He will bring it to pass.

Do you really believe that? Is Jesus your Lord if you don't? Do you really believe if you don't rely upon it when desires and needs are known and actions are decided to be taken to accomplish them? If you do not rely upon them as you take action, what are you relying upon? Who really is Lord?

**The Worlds Alternative**

The thief, seeking only to kill steal and destroy, offers nothing comparable, can only attempt to discredit our Lords redemptive truths and threaten our lives with death and destruction, if we don't follow his ideas. When **we reject the principles of our Lord's** greater reality, the deceiver, confined to physical reality, can only offer promises of that domain.

When we reject the principles of our Lords higher domain, we limit the effects we can seek for life to this physical domain. We confine our lives to physical principles previously defined as our physical universe was created.

In case you didn't notice, our Lord's faith based truths absolutely Trump the world's truths. While the physical domain also depends upon faith for its operation, the world's application of faith is confined to interactions with what already exists of previous creative expressions. All actions require faith, even acting on poor advice.

Exercise of our Lord's beliefs, those that work by faith in our God's creative power, go beyond cause and effect principles of the physical domain to affect effects not possible solely within our physical domain. We call faith effects miraculous as they defy what is presently commonly known as physically observable.

## Life's Threats and Opportunities

The opportunity of a valued reward or a threatened loss to the same is sufficient to cause all of us to take some kind of action seeking to obtain or preserve the valued prize believed affected by action.

Whether a *mountain* of **opportunity or threat**, when the goal of our desire is confronted and challenged with an obstacle, the action we take to address the challenge is determined by which Lord we serve. Our choice of Lord establishes which beliefs we will rely upon. Our bible's Lord has provided a belief perfectly designed to meet just that challenge. It only requires our faith in the promise, relying upon the belief: If we act to speak what we desire, our relying upon the belief, our speaking will produce the needed effect, affects the effect desired.

### **Mark 11:22-23 (AMP)**

<sup>22</sup> And Jesus, replying, said to them, Have faith in God [constantly].

<sup>23</sup> Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him.

However, Within physical reality, we can only obtain effects that are already defined operable within established cause and effect principles previously spoken into reality by our creator. Of these the mountain requires a shovel or other presently available tool known able to physically affect the challenging obstacle.

When our minds are captive by God's truth, when what we believe is determined by God's word, God's word is Lord, the author is Lord, Jesus is Lord! God's abundant life and salvation from the worlds system comes to all who believe his word and have faith in it.

## Enemies of Faith

Unfortunately, there are those with other agendas than desiring you and I have an abundant life. Of them are found those that value your performing services for them rather than have you pursue your best good and quality of life. They manipulate ideas knowing if they can enslave your minds ability to establish truth convincing you to ignore your parents and God's truth, you can be led to pursue their interests instead of yours.

If these can stop you from trusting your self, your parents and your God, substituting trust in only *their* "Experts", they have you captive and can lead you to do what ever they want. When these capture your ability to establish truth so that you ONLY accept their authorities, they can convince you: your most effective action is the one that **serves them first**, if not **them only**.

To this end, most of us were taught to **suspect and reject** personal thoughts, doubt personal knowing and reject the idea of beliefs formed personally. Most were educated they must have a teacher reveal truth, not a teaching how to personally discern and establish truth. Today, most have lost their moral compasses and ability to hear and discern

truth independent of the world's experts. Sadly, today most non-Christians and Christians alike establish the beliefs they rely upon according to what they hear in the mass media.

Experts of mass media and public education most certainly do not teach absolute truth is to be revealed within you by a holy spirit. Such teaching in the world's system would be immediate grounds for dismissal. A news anchor and university-trained teacher alike, both have been well prepared to avoid all resemblances of religious thought as they inform and educate our people.

Only taught how to eat fish, but not how to catch them, a principle isn't true until an expert expresses it. Ask these what they believe of some concept, you hear: don't know; haven't heard yet. These wait for doctors, lawyers, ministers and other so-called "*Experts*" accredited with knowing as the only ones qualified for revealing truth.

How will they move the mountain of challenges to life? These wait for the experts to speak, then they lament the experts' prognosis.

### **Perverted Religion**

As stated above, the deceiver can only hope to discredit our Lord's Gospel. Those that want to enslave your mind to do their will undermine the good news "Gospel" of Jesus turning salvation that sets the captives free, and delivers them from bondage into a system that actually enslaves and binds them more than before they heard the so-called *good news*.

Of these, God's good news salvation is not to be had today. It is only an after-death reward. If you want their good news, serve today to obtain Christ's reward at death. In death, the lie will no longer prevail. In the meantime, God's would-be chosen perish for lack of keeping God's words.

A good tree is known by its fruit. A bad tree also. The good news gospel of Jesus includes **a Holy Spirit of Truth that reveals truth to the faithful**. The sad news of false teachers demands you follow their experts; only their experts can reveal truth. But their experts speak doom and gloom. Our Lord speaks fulfilling life.

#### **1 John 2:20-27 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

<sup>21</sup> I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

<sup>24</sup> Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. **If what you *heard* from the beginning *abides in you*, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.**

<sup>25</sup> And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

<sup>26</sup> I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

<sup>27</sup> But the **anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you**. But as ***his anointing teaches you about everything***, and **is true**, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, ***abide in him***.

#### **Paul Quoting from Jeremiah in Hebrews 8:10-11 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; ***I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts***: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

<sup>11</sup> And they ***shall not teach every man his neighbour***, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

**1 Corinthians 2:10-16 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

<sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also ***no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.***

<sup>12</sup> ***Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.***

<sup>13</sup> And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

<sup>16</sup> "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But ***we have the mind of Christ.***

The perverters of the gospel can not accept your believing the above as it undermines their conquest of your mind.

In this study, I want to show how you can believe the above promises. It is as simple as making informed decisions. We can establish what we believe and commit to it. We can choose to reject the experts of the world and choose to follow the only true expert; Jesus Christ when Faith principles conflict with world beliefs.

We can decide to commit our will to rely upon the beliefs of our Lord when acts of reliance are required? We can decide and we can commit to keeping God's word when opportunities for reliance arrive.

We can adopt the discipline of renewing our faith through hearing and hearing again the words of our Lord and his promises. With each hearing we can reaffirm our commitments to believe and rely and keep the word.

**We can adopt a discipline of keeping the word: with every action we're about to take, ask and contemplate: What promise of the word applies to the effect I am seeking, then make sure that's what we're relying upon as cause for taking the action. Always determine what faith based promise applies before acting. Then make sure you have it in mind as what you're relying upon in acting.**

Each of the above are **acts of will. You can control your will. It's up to you.**

Only You decide your will.

Only You decide your will to believe.

Only You decide your will to commit.

Only You decide your will to rely.

Only You decide your will to decide to believe God's word and commit to rely upon it.

Only you decide to carry through your commitment to act upon that word relying upon it to affect what the word says is the effect caused by that act of reliance.

Only you can decide your will to make sure every action you take is committed in reliance of a Faith based belief so that your reliance affects the cause upon which the preferred effect is promised.

Only you can decide your will to NOT Act without being in faith of God's word.

All people, whether they are science ONLY *atheists*, Jesus Only *Christians*, or whatever Only *other types*, all exercise faith when they **decide to believe** a precept, concept or principle of reality and rely upon it in action.

Faith is action that relies upon the belief decided true whether based upon collaborating references found in personal experiences, or found in other's beliefs.

Faith manifest as you rely upon a belief in taking an action.

In fact, you can not take any action without relying upon some belief as justification for taking it! No action is ever taken without there being a cause and effect belief driving the act. With your will, choose which lord you will serve by choosing what belief you'll act upon.

With salvation, faith's promises are as near as 1) a **decision to believe** and 2) a decision of firm **commitment to keep** to that decision in choosing what to rely upon, and 3) choosing to only act in Faith reliance in any and every matter promised of salvation by our savior.

But, be aware of the so-called *learned of the world*, such is foolishness to them. We must be on guard to reject their contradicting voices of ignorance, if we're going to keep our decision that the word is true, keep our commitment of faith and obtain the promised effects of faith.

## Doubt and Indecision

If you can not decide to accept or reject someone's truth as your own, you have not decided what you believe true upon the subject. In doubt and indecision, you are constrained of ability to act upon the subject. Doubt and indecision upon a subject makes one unable to commit acts of reliance for reliance requires a **decided position**. Without being able to rely, one can not commit action upon the subject described by the concept, precept or principle of truth in doubt. In doubt and indecision, one is also unable to commit any acts of faithful reliance.

In the face of indecision a person is halted between two or multiple opinions; maybe it is yes, or maybe no. Of such undecided individuals, we reserve the **double minded** metaphor for describing them.

The decisions you make affect the faith you live by whether you live by God's truths as your own or something else as your own. Once belief is decided, your choice affects the life you live and your life demonstrates your decisions as you act in reliance on those decisions. One belief or another, your actions always rely upon what you have decided you believe. The act of reliance upon a decided belief is called faith. Your faith is seen in the actions you take in reliance upon what you've decided true. No one can decide what you will have faith in for only you decide to end doubt and indecision by making the decision of what you will believe.

A hearer of God's truth can not have faith in his truth until doubt and indecision are overcome by committing to a decision to believe or NOT.

### James 1:7-8 (AMP)

<sup>7</sup> For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the Lord, <sup>8</sup> [For being as he is] a man of two minds (hesitating, dubious, irresolute), [he is] unstable and unreliable and uncertain about everything [he thinks, feels, decides].

### **1 Kings 18:21 (KJV)**

<sup>21</sup> And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him.

Everyone already lives by what they believe. We have a well established process for identifying what we believe. We are so good at it we hardly notice what we're doing whether we believe or disbelieve something we hear. In hardly noticing we are making decisions when we choose to believe, when we come to faith principles, we fail to recognize the cure for doubt and unbelief is as easy as committing to an informed decision.

### **A Better Way**

In the scriptures quoted above, if we make God's words our truth, rely upon them and keep these truths as our guide for interpreting and living life, we can do all things. We have an abundant life where nothing is impossible.

In 1987, I had the great pleasure of attending church at "The Oasis of Love" the huge Church lead by John Osteen. While I only attended 3 or 4 weekends, John greatly impressed me: John would begin each service by holding up his bible and having all in attendance repeat after him:

**"This is my bible, I am what it says I am, I have what it says I have, I can do what it says I can do."**

Today, John's son, Joel teaches: **"God doesn't ask you to figure it all out, he only asks you to believe"**.

Faith doesn't depend upon our understanding how God's universe works. Faith manifests when a person decides to believe what is heard and decides to rely upon it as cause for action. Effects always result from acting in reliance of true cause and effect principles.

### **Salvation**

Our bible is full of incredible faith based cause and effect principles only waiting to be applied by a believer. In fact, ONLY in applying faith do we discover our Lord is Savior. Only in faith can we realize his salvation. Only in deciding to believe and rely upon his promised salvation are the essentials of salvation received. There is no other way!

Without faith, there is NO promise. Without faith in Jesus as savior, there is NO Salvation in Jesus. Without faith in God's descriptions of salvation, there is no described salvation experienced.

Decide this day to believe and commit to rely upon his word for obtaining the salvation effects he describes. There is no question of God's will. He desires all to be saved. How long will his people be halted between opposing opinions?

### **Isaiah 35:4-7 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. **He will come and save you.**"

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

**Luke 4:18-21 (KJV)**

<sup>18</sup> The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

<sup>19</sup> To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

**Luke 7:20-23 (AMP)**

<sup>20</sup> So the men came to Jesus and said, John the Baptist sent us to You to ask, Are You the One Who is to come, or shall we [continue to] look for another?

<sup>21</sup> In that very hour Jesus was healing many [people] of sicknesses and distressing bodily plagues and evil spirits, and to many who were blind He gave [a free, gracious, joy-giving gift of] sight.

<sup>22</sup> So He replied to them, Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the good news (the Gospel) preached to them.

<sup>23</sup> And blessed (happy—with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, apart from outward conditions—and to be envied) is he who takes no offense in Me *and* who is not hurt *or* resentful *or* annoyed *or* repelled *or* made to stumble [whatever may occur].

Our Lord's Salvation hasn't ended. The acceptable year and time of the Lord's favor is now. Jesus is our Savior today and forever. Your salvation only awaits your hearing and faith in hearing.

**We live by faith which comes from hearing**

**Romans 1:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The **righteous** shall *live by faith*."

**Romans 10:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

**Hebrews 4:2 (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> For 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***.

Faith comes from **hearing** the word, but not by hearing alone. **Hearing** must be **combined with believing** and **reliance** before faith can appear. Hearing and believing isn't faith however. Only after hearing, deciding to believe and **relying upon it** do we have faith.

**Faith is** nothing more than the application of **hearing and believing such that the belief decided is followed by an act of reliance**.

Faith is kind is like being pregnant, you either are or aren't. Faith takes an **act in reliance** before it is called faith. Even if hearing and belief occur, if one doesn't **act to conclude belief** and form an **attitude of reliance**, there is no faith. Action must be added or combined to hearing before believing what's heard becomes faith.

## Faith is action based upon a belief relied upon as true

The key active actions of faith are two fold:

1. deciding to believe what was heard; that it is true.
2. relying upon what is believed true with action

**Every reliant action taken in response to the concluded belief is a Faith action**, regardless of how credible, certain or uncertain one is of the belief. While credibility is a measure of how believable a concept is, Faith is not limited to credible beliefs or incredible. Regardless of how certain, faith is concluded by reliant action taken based upon the decided belief.

Examples:

1. I may be promised some payment from a person of questionable credibility of incredulous doubtful character. If I *decide to trust* him at his word and make a loan *expecting his promise* of payment, it is an act of faith when I give him the loan expecting him to honor his word. I am applying faith in the belief I'll be paid as promised. When a promise is heard, I can show my faith by making the loan. But ONLY if I believe the promise heard and make the loan relying upon the promise.
2. Likewise, we take a step of faith every time we step out of bed expecting to stand upright even though we've proven such faith has been well placed many times before as we relied upon our belief and stepped out of bed.
3. Even if I have God promise he will bless everything I put my hand to and profess I believe it. If I never put my hand to anything relying or expecting what's promised, the hearing and believing have failed to produce faith.

In Example #1, It is not Faith in the doubtful character's promise, if I decide to make the loan relying upon another belief. It is NOT Faith in belief #1 if I rely upon another belief in making the loan. I.e; If I make the loan because the borrower is my sisters husband and she gives me the money asking me to not let him know. In such an instance it may appear the same action, but making the loan is NOT an act of faith in the promise of the doubtful character, that he will repay the loan.

Likewise making a prayer for healing in double minded doubt and unbelief, acting like a believer, is NOT the same as relying upon God's healing promise and asking to receive healing in a prayer of faith. Even though to all observing the act of prayer, both look and sound the same.

In Example #3, there is a word of God that if believed and relied upon, contains a promise God will bless everything you put your hand to:

### **Deuteronomy 28:2-14 (AMP)**

<sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you if you heed the voice of the Lord your God.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed shall you be in the city and blessed shall you be in the field.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed shall be the fruit of your body and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your beasts, the increase of your cattle and the young of your flock.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading trough.

<sup>12</sup> The Lord shall open to you His good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season and to ***bless all the work of your hands***; ...

<sup>14</sup> And you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

If no act of reliance is ever manifest, there is no faith in the promise.

***NOW, HERE'S another VERY IMPORTANT distinction.***

It is important to distinguish between doing the ***acts that a person in faith relying upon the above promise would do***, in contrast to the similar ***acts that another person NOT relying upon the above promise would do***. If the one **NOT acting on the word's promise** works with his basket and kneading trough or if he applies his hand to his profession like all others in the world, **there is NO PROMISE in the kneading or work of the hands.**

The promise (cause-effect principle) is NOT caused by an identical ACT, if the act is NOT an act of believing the promise and relying upon it taking the action. Relying on another belief is NOT the same as relying on God's cause-effect faith principle belief. Simply acting like a God's-Word faithful person is not acting in faith. It is not an act of ***reliance*** upon belief in God's word of promise. Mimicking a Faithful persons acts does not cause the "God's word" promised effect.

While to an outside observer, both may appear to be doing the same act, only the one relying upon the promise of God's word is acting in faith of that word. Only the one acting in faith of the promise will have ***His good Treasury opened***, have ***blessed all the works of his hands***.

## What's Real – What's True

A truth is an idea, concept, precept or principle that accurately interprets and describes what is observed in reality. Reality is considered the single constant by which all ideas, concepts and principles are judged true as being in alignment, and consistent with currently held reality.

Truth in adjective form is true. When we have truth, we have a true concept, true precept or true principle. It is true only when it accurately describes and aligns with all that is believed of reality. Other positions can NOT be true unless they too consistently align with all our other truths. Contradicting concepts can not both be true since they can NOT be in alignment with a contradicting position.

Whether or not a precept, concept or principle is true requires a conscious observing mind to decide if it aligns with what is known to be true. Truth is decided by observing collaborating references sufficient to conclude the decision, the precept is consistent with all what is already known to be true of reality . Of our collaborating references used in deciding, we accept the credibility of experts and authorities as substitutes for our own experienced references.

The word true is also used as a verb describing the process of making something consistent or bringing something into the proper shape, alignment or optimal position such as when straightening an object like a wheel, a fence, a wall or a component designed to have a single optimal shape or position.

It is the job of a wheelwright to true, shape or align a wheel so it rolls in its optimum position, the plane perpendicular to its axle, where it is most stable and rolls without wobbling. There is only one true position that aligns with a wheel's perfect (perpendicular to the axle) design. A wheel that does not hold a single plane position, that holds varying positions, is unstable. The wheel can not hold alignment with variable positions or more than one plane without disturbing or disrupting the wheel's intended use and possibly dumping the cart's contents as the out-of-alignment application fails, falls apart and breaks down.

- A true concept is a concept that aligns with the intended design of its subject object. In regards to quality of life, a true concept aligns with our fuller reality and the optimal abundant life.
- A single individual can not hold two contradicting views to be true at the same time whether we are talking about wheels or the abundant life in salvation.

The word believing, word keeping, person, is like a wheelwright that works to make his wheel true and in alignment with the optimal wheel design. The person choosing to keep the words of God, doesn't work to true a wheel. The word keeping person works to true his life by aligning all his beliefs to conform with what he believes is the more accurate truth.

A Christian word keeping person works to **true his beliefs** to align and conform to God's word. When the keepers beliefs are in alignment with God's words, his life is in alignment with God's beliefs. When the keepers life is in alignment with God's life, the keeper lives God's life. When a believer relies upon God's beliefs, God's life is lived in him.

The two are true to one another; the keeper abides in the father as the father abides in the keeper. This they do with all that likewise keep God's word; all abide within one another as each abides in the word of the Lord and the Lord Jesus Christ abides in all.

Failing to establish God's word as true in the face of contradicting opinions doesn't change reality, it only lets the observer down so that he does NOT rely upon either of them; does not abide in God's word and God's word does not abide in him.

In an observing event, a mind can hold only one position of alignment from a single point of view. Multiple perceptions may exist from one perspective, but no two perceptions of an observing mind can contradict and both remain in alignment because contradictions that do not align with each other cannot both align with a single reality nor the single reality of God's life.

## FACTS and BELIEFS

Beliefs are often thought of as ONLY related to questionable descriptions of reality. To some, there is a difference between FACTS and BELIEFS.

In my study of belief, I perceive no difference between 1) facts we are certain we believe true, and 2) Ideas, Concepts and Principles we have less certainty, but still believe true from all we know. Facts appear to have no contradictions.

Whether we think we have incontrovertible irrefutable Facts or established truth, we establish the truth of both in the same manner; by deciding it is truly in alignment with all the rest of what we hold true of reality.

The observer must base this decision upon the collected collaborating evidence in forming a conclusion that there is sufficient evidence to make an informed deciding determination. Is it true or no?

After hearing or conceiving of a belief candidate, there are **two primary decisions involved in believing**:

- 1) Does the collaborating evidence, in the form of observable references (including authoritative testators) , support concluding the idea, concept or principle in agreement with all we know as true of reality?
- 2) Is there sufficient evidence upon which to conclude the decision?

I see no difference between *facts* and *beliefs* except the degree of certainty one has when establishing either are true. The process of deciding and concluding the decision of truth is the same for all beliefs whether we end up concluding a belief so certain we call it a fact, or conclude it so uncertain we reject it or barely believe it. If we decide we believe it as true, it is a belief and a truth we can rely upon in living our lives.

## Certainty

The more certain we are a belief is true, the more we consider such belief is fact. Not all beliefs are facts, but all facts are beliefs and all follow the same process for establishing truth regardless of our certainty.

With fact or belief, a believing action is required of an observer before a candidate is considered true or truth. All beliefs became such only after a decision was concluded – Is it TRUE or NOT? Any candidate for belief must be decided it aligns with all that we know true of reality or such is NOT decided true.

If supporting collaborating references are so weak, or authorities so incredible, that we can not form a conclusive decision, the candidate is not established true, truth or believed. An idea is either decided we are certain we have sufficient references or we don't conclude belief.

By recognizing that facts are just beliefs established as true with greater certainty, we get a better understanding of the belief act and what it takes to form stronger beliefs. Stronger beliefs are just decisions concluded with greater certainty in the deciding. The method for forming stronger beliefs is to search out the most credible references for use in concluding our decision of belief. Here again the Christian has a great advantage.

If there is something we believe contrary, we must deal with it before we can conclude a new belief true with certainty. Sometimes, in order to conclude a new belief, we must decide to abandon a former idea or concept previously considered truth.

If an old belief contradicts a new candidate, either the new candidate must be rejected or the former belief must be replaced. We can not hold contradicting beliefs as each true at the same time. What we don't believe solely, we can't rely upon with certainty. Without certainty, in doubt and indecision, precepts are ineffectual.

While there may be multiple beliefs involved in ultimately deciding the actions we take, all must be in agreement and alignment before we can act upon them in reliance.

## Highly Credible References Make Stronger Beliefs

By recognizing beliefs are no different from facts except our certainty of their being true, we obtain a greater understanding of what we can do to strengthen our beliefs so we can rely upon them in faith with greater certainty.

We can silence competing opinions deciding in favor of those with greatest credibility. In view of higher credibility, we can refuse to give consideration to those of less credibility in our deciding what is true.

To create stronger beliefs, we need only look upon opposing opinions with prejudice, as false testaments of ignorant or purposeful liars. It is not important that we identify how, where or why they are wrong. It is not important that we give them any consideration. If their voice opposes the belief revealed by our expert of impeccable authority and credibility, their voice can be rejected with totally prejudiced bias.

### **Romans 3:3-4 (AMP)**

<sup>3</sup> What if some did not believe *and* were without faith? Does their lack of faith *and* their faithlessness nullify *and* make ineffective *and* void the faithfulness of God *and* His fidelity [to His Word]? <sup>4</sup> By no means! Let God be found true though every human being is false *and* a liar,

## Strong beliefs get relied upon

It is natural and reasonable, we always act upon our most credible and reliable as we evaluate our ranking of believed options. We always choose the principle believed most promising of whatever we're desiring to affect by relying upon in taking our contemplated action. We always choose the method believed most valued for obtaining what we expect from action.

The good fight of faith works to keep God's word. We use our will to commit to it with all our heart. With a committed heart, we cultivate the certainty of our Lord's word beliefs so becomes our first choice and out of the abundance of our hearts, God's word naturally comes out. It is not enough that we know God's word, or even that we profess we believe, or even that we guard our words to never speak unbelief. When times come to act or speak, our acts and speech needs to reflect what is found of abundance within our hearts. If we recognize an area of anything less, we have just identified another area where we can work to perfect our commitment to believe and keep the word and Jesus as lord.

### **Luke 6:45 (ESV)**

<sup>45</sup> The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the ***abundance of the heart*** his mouth speaks.

## Wholly committed heart & mind

Deciding to believe what is heard is more than just deciding you believe you heard something. Wholly committed means the believer has committed himself to his decision, has resolved his ***conclusion of what is true*** and what will be ***relied upon*** in the matter of what was heard.

Faith is more than ***just a response*** to hearing. Faith is a ***response*** decided to intellectually ***believe*** and a decided commitment to ***rely upon*** and ***expect*** what was heard or promised.

The faith that affects faith based principles requires a committed response to believing what is heard. Without a commitment to hold a belief as true, faith is weak.

### **Romans 14:1-2 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Accept him whose **faith is weak**, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

I believe the weak or little refers to the **commitment made to hold, to keep, to live** in whole hearted accord with the belief: the **word heard is:**

- **true of reality, and**
- If a word of **promise**, it **will be fulfilled; it is expected.**

The stronger the belief, the easier it is to commit and rely.

In faith, the word is believed as defining reality whether it be a statement of present reality or a promise of a future reality.

Uncertainty of belief or reliance is often defined as doubt. But doubt is not unbelief. There is no faith in unbelief just as there is no faith without belief.

In Christian faith, God's words are believed true and its promises true and expected with the whole heart, soul and mind.

### **Luke 10:27 (KJV)**

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with **all thy mind**; and thy neighbour as thyself.

### **Acts 11:23 (KJV)**

<sup>23</sup> Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with **purpose of heart** they would cleave unto the Lord.

### **Acts 11:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain **faithful** to the Lord with **steadfast purpose**,

### **Acts 11:23 (AMP)**

<sup>23</sup> When he arrived and saw what grace (favor) God was bestowing upon them, he was full of joy; and he continuously exhorted (warned, urged, and encouraged) them all to cleave unto and remain faithful to and devoted to the Lord **with [resolute and steady] purpose of heart.**

### **Romans 10:10 (AMP)**

<sup>10</sup> For **with the heart a person believes** (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Christ) and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) **and confirms [his] salvation.**