

Studies on Belief

Foundations: We Live by the Word The Good Fight of Faith:

Life is to be abundant.

John 10:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ 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)

¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Nothing is impossible

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

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

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.

Path to success

Matthew 4:4 (ESV)

⁴ 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)

⁸ 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)

¹⁰⁵ Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

¹³⁰ The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

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

Promise of salvation

God's word is of utmost value. The words of our bibles are held in such high regard they are considered as coming from the very mouth of God.

2 Peter 1:21 (AMP)

²¹ For no prophecy ever originated because some man willed it [to do so—it never came by human impulse], but men spoke from God who were borne along (moved and impelled) by the Holy Spirit.

A better Way

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.

The Good Fight of Faith

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 weeks, 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.

We live by faith which comes from hearing

Romans 1:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ 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)

¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Hebrews 4:2 (NIV)

² 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 person's word of promise guaranteeing the loan.

4. Continuing with a variation on Example#1:
If I don't believe the person of questionable credibility and incredulous doubtful character in #1, and if he happens to be my sister's son. If my sister asks me to loan to him promising she will pay me, if he fails. If I make the loan relying upon my sister's promise, then I haven't acted in faith in the son's promise. The money delivered to the son is **NOT an act of faith relying upon the son's promise**. The loan when made is an act of faith **relying upon my sister's promise**. Delivering the money to the son is an act of reliance upon the sister's word believed. Making the loan is an act of faith in my sister's word. Even though if I had made the loan in faith of the son, the act of faith would have appeared the same. It is NOT faith in the son's word when I rely upon the sister's word.

Faith in God's word is not the same as faith in another's word even though faith in either would result in the same act being performed. The promised effects of faith in God's word are NOT CAUSED by faith in another's word even if the action taken in reliance would be the same for either. God seeks your faith in him, not your ability to act like one in faith to him.

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)

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

³ Blessed shall you be in the city and blessed shall you be in the field.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading trough.

¹² 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***; ...

¹⁴ 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 in 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***, and ***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 it's optimum position, the plane perpendicular to its axel, 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 axel) 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 carts 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.

Where there are conflicting principles; one opposed by another each contending for belief. We take no action until deciding which to believe. If we are unable to decide which is true, we are halted between opinions, double-minded and unstable in all other actions we believe we have cause for action.

This is important: If we are undecided if God's word can be relied upon, or in doubt that it can be relied upon, in ANY area, even if only one, it affects all areas where we need to rely upon God keeping his promise.

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. We can not be in belief that any principle we must rely upon is untrue. If we try, in regards of an essential Faith-Based principle, such action will be ineffective.

James 1:7-8 (AMP)

⁷ For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will *receive anything* [he asks for] from the Lord,

⁸ [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].

Attend to resolving once and for all any conflicting beliefs that are in contention for your hearts commitment.

James 4:8 (KJV)

⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

James 5:8 (KJV)

⁸ Be ye also patient; **stablish your hearts**: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

James 5:8 (AMP)

⁸ So you also must be patient. Establish your hearts [strengthen and *confirm them in the final certainty*], for the coming of the Lord is very near.

Highly Credible References eliminate contention - 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 statements 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 God, our champion, our expert of impeccable authority and credibility, their opposing voice can be ***rejected with totally prejudiced bias***.

That's what Paul told the Romans:

Romans 3:3-4 (AMP)

³ 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]? ⁴ By no means! Let God be found true though every human being is false *and* a liar,

Strongest beliefs get relied upon

It is natural and reasonable, when deciding action we always act upon our most credible and reliable beliefs as we choose from our belief options. Where there are competing but not conflicting principles believed effective, we always rank them in order of most valued; which are believed most effective for affecting the effect we're seeking in taking action. In the spirit of efficiency, we always choose the one believed most effective for the action required.

When contemplating action, we always choose the principle believed most promising or effective for affecting the effect we're desiring. We always choose the method believed most valued for obtaining the specific effect we're expecting to obtain by action.

Victorious Christians work to keep God's word as the beliefs we naturally choose in every area his word speaks of. We use our will to commit his word to becoming the most abundant within our heart. With a committed heart, we cultivate the certainty of our Lord's word beliefs so his words become our first choice when needs arise.

1 Timothy 6:19 (AMP)

¹⁹ In this way laying up for themselves [the riches that endure forever as] a **good foundation for the future**, so that they may grasp that which is life indeed.

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 of need require action, our minds need to find his word established abundant within the heart, so they are relied upon above all others.

Establishing what is most abundantly believed within our hearts is the only work of God. It is the good fight of Faith by which we are victorious in life, ready for when the inevitable opportunities and challenges arise.

John 6:28-29

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?
Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

1 Timothy 6:12 (NASB)

¹² ***Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life*** to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 John 5:3-5 (AMP)

³ For the [true] love of God is this: that we do His commands [keep His ordinances and are ***mindful of His precepts*** and teaching]. And these orders of His are not irksome (burdensome, oppressive, or grievous).

⁴ For **whatever is born of God is victorious over the world; and *this is the victory that conquers the world, even our faith.***

⁵ Who is it that is victorious over [that conquers] the world but **he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God [who adheres to, trusts in, and relies on that fact]?**

Release of Faith

The act of Faith is not a prolonged action; something we begin one day and finish days or years later to then have God fulfill his promise. The decision to rely followed by the act in reliance, is all there is to the initiating act of faith. It occurs in a moment. It occurs in the moment we decided to believe and acted in trust and reliance it was granted to us in the moment we asked for it in prayer.

Mark 11:24 (KJV)

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

Mark 11:24 (NASB)

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.

With cause and effect principles, the act of faith in the principle that initiates the cause to affect the effect is the initial act that causes or initiates the causes that the principle states will affect producing the effect.

As we've defined Faith-based principles, these affect non-local forces to affect the final effects that appear miraculous in comparison to how minor are our initiating acts of faith.

Yet regardless how minor, Faith must be released. Faith can NOT be overlooked for the minor act of faith releases the full energy, might and powerful forces of God.

The initiating act of faith is the act of full reliance, of full trust: God will fulfill what he promises. That is all a believer does to release his faith to call upon the mighty power of God.

The act that releases a believers faith is often his word, as in his true confession or his word professing that he truly believes and is relying upon his belief God will honor it. It may be professed to others or spoken in prayer. It completes the intention to believe. It completes the intention to rely by present tense relying.

Faith is a NOW act. If speaking, it is the word spoken that releases faith. It speaks in present tense. If the promised effect is requested of in spoken prayer, it sounds like:

Father you have promised <the faith-based promise>.

I've decided I believe you! I am convinced within my heart you are faithful to fulfill that word: Relying on that promise, **I ask to receive <the promised effect>.**

Then, the spoken word *releasing faith* sounds like: I am convinced within my heart you heard my prayer: **I trust you, I Rely upon you , I know you fulfill your promises, I know I now have <the promised effect> I asked for according to your promise.**

If more is spoken of after faith is released, it would sound like: I am so thankful I believe! I am so thankful you have established it firm with my heart: I am confident in trusting and relying upon you that you fulfill your word of promise. I thank you for your gift of <the promised effect>.

I can reaffirm my faith anytime I feel to recommit and renew my resolve. God welcomes our heartfelt prayers. If spoken to another or in prayer it sounds like:

I am so blessed. I am so thankful, I have <the promised effect> provided by your Grace promised by < the faith-based promise>.

Confident trust in God, Not Acting like one that is in confident trust of God

If the above sounds like a formula, like a cook book recipe that if you DO THIS, you will receive. Make sure you're acting in faith, not mimicking how one acts in faith. Don't forget, God sees the heart to identify what is truly believed and being relied upon. He is looking for a committed heart relying upon him, NOT someone that can act like a believer. He is only looking for a few good men and women that believe him, believe his word, trust and rely upon him, that what he admonishes entered their hearts and governs their lives as he fulfills all he promises in response.

Firm in our Faith –

God fulfilled his word when we believed and released our faith in reliance.

Faith is like planting of a seed to obtain a harvest. We plant, then stand firm in our confidence: good seed always produces a harvest; God heard us and we have the requests made of him when we prayed in faith.

1 John 5:14-15 (AMP)

¹⁴ And this is the confidence (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that if we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to *and* hears us.

¹⁵ And if (since) we [positively] know that He listens to us in whatever we ask, we also know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted us as our present possessions] the requests made of Him.

Luke 18:42 (AMP)

⁴² And Jesus said to him, Receive your sight! Your faith (**your trust and confidence** that spring from your faith in God) has healed you.

1 Corinthians 16:13 (AMP)

¹³ Be alert *and* on your guard; stand firm in your faith (your conviction respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, *keeping the trust and holy fervor born of faith* and a part of it). Act like men *and* be courageous; grow in strength!

James 4:7 (AMP)

⁷ So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you.

1 Thessalonians 3:7-8 (AMP)

⁷ Brethren, for this reason, in [spite of all] our stress and crushing difficulties we have been filled with comfort *and* cheer about you [because of] your faith (the *leaning of your whole personality on God in complete trust and confidence*).

⁸ Because now we [really] live, if you *stand [firm]* in the Lord.

Psalm 40:4 (ESV)

4 Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who *does not turn to the proud*, to those who go astray after a lie!

One act of faith, One act in Reliance

Once we take our stand on our belief held most reliable, if we then decide to act in reliance of the 2nd option, believed less effective, we are acting in doubt of our first act; we have withdrawn our faith's reliance. We have abandoned the reliance we thought we established at first. One either relies on one master or the other. We can not serve a second master.

Luke 16:13 (ESV)

¹³ No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

The second act of planting a different seed or even the same seed a second time, for the purpose of affecting the same harvest effect initially seeded, is an act of doubt. One is either doubting they planted properly, doubting the seed was good or in some knowledge the harvest would fail as in knowledge an intense frost that killed the initial sprouts or another reason causing us to believe the first harvest would fail.

The replanting of faith by another act of reliance is a rejection of the initial act of reliance. If one believes they received when they asked (they believe his word, they believe they have what was promised). Why would they replant?

To understand this better, ask yourself: what would I have to believe about the first planting (the first initiating act of faith) that I would act again to replant (to reinitiate the act of faith)?

If you recognize you've forsaken the belief you thought you were guarding. It is time to recommit your heart to believe God's word by the renewal of your mind.

Romans 12:2 (AMP)

² Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, *even* the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

But, if you're replanting because you're impatient or you want to hurry up the harvest. Reconsider: in physical reality, there is a period of time between seed time and harvest. This is the time to stand firm in your resolve:

I believed, in faith I planted, I am relying upon God that he fulfilled his promise, I'll harvest the promise granted. God always fulfills his word.

I am not suggesting you never pray for the same thing twice. I do not want to suggest prayers are NOT effective if prayed more than once.

James 5:16-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ ... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

But if you're in doubt you received what you prayed for, doubting it was provided by the promise of Gods will, or doubting you believed you received it when you first asked for it in prayer, then go resolve those issues first. Renew your mind and commit to believing it with all your heart. Meditate upon it night and day until it gets down deep within your heart as the most abundant belief you have on the subject.

Don't be hasty in the prayer of faith, return to offer a prayer when you are in confidence you know the promise you are relying upon and know the cause by which **you receive the promise when you pray**.

Be certain you have decided you believe and are confident you are committed in your heart to trust and rely upon his promise **when**, in the moment you release your faith, asking for it in prayer, you believe you receive it.

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** and trusted in the matter of what was heard.

A wholly committed believer has decided to **keep the word** as true, **guarding it**, through continuing to meditate upon it (night and day) and to renewing the mind where it is discovered to be less than abundant within his heart.

Faith is more than **just a response** to hearing. Faith is a **response** decided to intellectually **believe**; decided of commitment to **rely upon** and **expect** what was heard or promised. Strong faith keeps the word by guarding the heart and the mind in belief.

The faith that affects salvation (faith based principles) requires a committed response to believing what is heard, relying upon it with a commitment to keep it. Without a commitment to keep the word as believed of greatest credibility within the heart, faith weakens and may be lost. Especially when under attack in the good fight of faith.

Keeping the word means keeping the promise

Romans 14:1-2 (NIV)

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

These are personal matters. It is often difficult to understand the intentions behind a person's actions; are they keeping the faith or not. One can NOT judge another by the circumstance we seem to find them in. The fact is: we keep God's word irrespective of the rest of humanity whether they appear successful with their faith fight or not.

Only you know your own heart. Only you as observer of the heart can recognize if your faith is weakening, is challenged by double-mindedness, becomes doubted or decided untrue.

Aspects of salvation's promise that lose their credibility under attack become weak. Aspects of which the believer allows contradicting ideas to capture his heart and mind, lose their ability to affect the life of the would-be believer regarding those aspects. When faith fails, there is loss of promise; one aspect at a time.

When faith weakens and is lost on any specific aspect of salvation, having failed to guard and keep the word as true, the next opportunity where faith's promise is needed, the would-be believer, unable to believe and rely, finds himself without the promise and the experience of that aspect but a memory.

I believe the weak or little faith refers to the **commitment made to keep, to guard and to hold** with whole heart the belief: the ***word heard is:***

- ***true of reality, and***
- If a word of ***promise***, it ***will be fulfilled; it is expected***, and
- ***Kept as true*** within the heart.

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. The heart is committed to keep and guard God's word as truth!

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)

²³ 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)

²³ 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)

²³ 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)

¹⁰ 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***.

In our next study, we'll explore relationships and our with relationship with God.