

Studies on Belief

Foundations: We Live by the Word

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.

God's word is so powerful, so effectual, the word can literally deliver one from captive bondage and despair unto an unending abundant life.

This change is so substantial it is called salvation. The word is so effective, so definite in its ability to cause change, it is called a promise of salvation. Promises in the word are God's promises.

The promise of salvation is so life changing, of such extreme contrast to our wretched lives before salvation's eternal life, the transition is called divine and miraculous.

The abundant life of God's promise is of such overwhelming contrast with the lives we lived before, the change is considered a "new life", with a "new birth", the recipient "born again", a "new creation", a "new creature", more than a conqueror - a "brand-new man".

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (AMP)

¹⁷ Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh *and* new has come!

Romans 8:37 (AMP)

³⁷ Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors *and* gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us.

Romans 8:37-39 (NASB)

³⁷ But in all these things we **overwhelmingly conquer** through Him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Our cost, the price we must pay, the requirement we must fulfill to receive this Salvation is of such disproportion to what is promised; the salvation we receive is so unequal what we must do to receive, the cause we must invoke to affect the promise fulfilled toward us, it can only be considered a gift of his love and kindness.

Titus 3:4-7 (NASB)

⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared,

⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

Salvation is so unbalanced compared with our merit for obtaining it, Salvation is a gift, it is freely given. The Lord's salvation is a gift of God's Grace, unmerited favor.

Romans 3:24 (AMP)

²⁴ [All] are justified *and* made upright *and* in right standing with God, freely *and* gratuitously by His grace (His unmerited favor and mercy), through the redemption which is [provided] in Christ Jesus,

Romans 5:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

The price of such favor is our ***faithfulness*** to ***believe***, to ***rely*** upon and to ***keep*** his word revering his person, Jesus as God's son, Lord and Savior standing in faith that what he promises is true and that he will be faithful to fulfill every word.

Romans 4:16 (AMP)

¹⁶ Therefore, [inheriting] the promise is the outcome of faith *and* depends [entirely] on faith, in order that it might be given as an act of grace (unmerited favor), to make it stable *and* valid *and* guaranteed to all his descendants—not only to the devotees *and* adherents of the Law, but also to those who share the faith of Abraham, who is [thus] the father of us all.

Ephesians 2:8 (NASB)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

Romans 3:21-25 (ESV)

²¹ ... the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—

²² the righteousness of God ***through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe***. For there is no distinction:

²⁴ justified by his ***grace as a gift***, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be ***received by faith***. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his ***divine forbearance*** he had passed over former sins.

Our salvation begins with our confession: we accept him as Lord and rely upon his word as Lord in which we will live our new life "in him", "in Christ" and his word abiding within us.

Romans 10:10-13 (ESV)

¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the ***mouth one confesses and is saved***.

¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."

¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.

¹³ For "everyone who ***calls on the name of the Lord will be saved***."

Romans 10:13 (AMP)

¹³ For everyone who ***calls upon the name*** of the Lord [invoking Him as Lord] will be saved.

No other words have greater value for affecting the quality of one's life by faith.

Romans 10:17 (ESV)

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

Romans 1:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

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 10:11 (AMP)

¹¹ The Scripture says, No man who believes in Him [who adheres to, relies on, and trusts in Him] will [ever] be put to shame *or* be disappointed.

2 Corinthians 1:24 (AMP)

²⁴ Not that we have dominion [over you] *and* lord it over your faith, but [rather that we work with you as] fellow laborers [to promote] your joy, **for in [your] faith** (in your strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through Whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God) **you stand firm.**

God’s words must be BELIEVED and RELIED upon. The word has incredible power for affecting change in one’s life but ONLY when relied upon to address life’s challenges when encountered.

God’s word must be lived in order to affect your life. God’s words do nothing by just having been heard or your just being aware they exist. It might also surprise, they do nothing if you only believe they are true, but never rely upon them in faith of pursuing a word promised.

If God’s word is NOT relied upon to affect a challenge that the promise specifically applies to, it is the same as if there were no applicable promise. If the cause of the effect is NOT affected, no promised effect is produced. This is true even if there IS a specific promise that would apply if relied upon. This is also true even if the specific promise is believed. If a believed promise is NOT relied upon so as to affect the cause of the effect, no effect is experienced.

The word of god must be applied, it must be relied upon to affect causing desired effects described in his promises.

Gods promises as with all promises, they state cause and effect principles that when true one can count on to affect a cause to produce an effect. If one affects cause described in the promise, the promised effect will follow. When it comes to promises, one must affect the cause or one can NOT expect the effect.

Examples:

1. My car stops working. I have the word promised by the expert manufacture: When the gauge say empty adding gasoline (cause) will affect the car so it continues running (desired effect) as before.
But, if in having that knowledge, even believing it is true, if I do take notice of the gauge and pour gasoline into the tank, I have no promise. The car will NOT continue as before even though I received the saving word.
2. My body becomes sick, my eyesight fails, my hips fail such that I can not walk. I have the word of the doctor: The body will fail as it ages because it wears out. Take aspirin and Tylenol, they will ease the pain but

eventually you will go blind and only move about in a wheelchair.

But, if in having that knowledge, even believing it is true, if I do take the aspirin and Tylenol, I have no promise. The body pains WILL continue as before even though I received the saving word.

Without affecting the cause (Stated by the expert), the effect (stated by the expert) on the car or the pain is NOT produced. No change would be expected.

Without affecting the cause, (stated by God's word), the effect (stated by God's word) of abundant life is NOT produced. No change should be expected.

Expectation is an integral component of faith. Faith is not present if there is no expectation as expectation is always produced when there is reliance upon a belief cause will produce an effect. The quality or intensity of our expectation can be used as a gauge of what is abundant within the heart.

More on this later, one can look to the presence and quality of expectation as an indication of the strength or weakness of faith and how credible is the belief being relied upon. Expectation can reveal how well established are gods words as believed within the heart; how abundant are the words of god within the heart.

If the reality you understand has led you to believe sickness, failing eyesight and failing ability to walk are part of life, Do you believe the same is true of an ABUNDANT life? If so, we need to expand our study of salvation.

So far we've talked about the wonders, the power, the gift and even faith as the cause of salvation, but we haven't specifically stated what *are* the *promised effects* of salvation. Most accept salvation is eternal life with eternal life defined as the promise of resurrection after death to live again in the presence of God.

Taught By Example

I like the method Jesus used in teaching, he didn't just preach that the words of God would affect your life, as he taught us to rely upon the word, he showed us how to live by that word. Recall from quoted above:

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."

Jesus didn't just give us commandment in word, he showed us the way to live our lives by that word. When Jesus was challenged by the situation occurring in his life, he used the word to meet those challenges. In the few verses of Matthew 4 he showed us:

- A challenging situation was encountered (the devil threatened him and challenged him).
- Jesus showed us he lived by the God's word, that God's words were abundant within his heart.
- Jesus relied upon the word to meet his days challenges.
- Jesus relied upon God's word to affect the change to obtain the effect he desired; He spoke the word to affect the effect he desired.
- In relying upon the word, he knew to speak it against the days challenges he faced.
- Jesus spoke to the challenge. He spoke what the word says applied to the challenge.

- Jesus taught we should live by the words of God.
- Jesus showed us how he used the words of God in his daily life. He is our example for how to live by the word.
- Jesus showed us an example that from the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks the word. We must cultivate the same abundance within our hearts.

What Jesus didn't do:

- Jesus didn't question why he was being faced with the challenges.
- Jesus didn't blame God for allowing the devil's challenge.
- Jesus didn't question why God didn't intervene to save and deliver him.
- Jesus didn't just rely upon knowing he had accepted God as his Lord one time in years prior.
- Jesus didn't just rely upon his trust and knowledge that God loved him and allowed the challenge that came.
- Jesus didn't ask God to do something about the devil.
- Jesus knew God's word had already established the devil had to flee when resisted.
- Jesus didn't just decide to take it and wait for a better life after death.
- Jesus spoke, He DID what God said to do. He used his faith in what God had said would overcome the world and provide victory over the devil and world.

Our bibles are full of incredible *faith based* promises. **Promises** always refer to an effect that is promised will be fulfilled. Most promises require a cause to affect the effect promised. Faith based promises are called faith based because the cause that affects the effect promised is our faith in the promisor that he will fulfill what is promised.

To obtain the promise of a faith-based promise, one only need believe the promise and rely upon it in faith taking action causing the promisor to honor and keep his words of promise. Some promises are very general, most are very specify identifying specific detailed effect that are promised.

When I say one only need believe and rely upon it in faith, I am not saying faith in any belief will do. Faith in the specific belief that specifically applies to the specific effect desired is the belief that must rely upon to affect causing the specific promised effect to be received.

When faith-based promises of abundant life are activated by faith, those specific faith-based promises bring changes of abundant life into a believers life. Faith in God's promises of Salvation has consequences. Faith in **Gods promise of salvation** causes the effect known as **God's Salvation** to all who believe.

In fact, Only in faith can we realize our salvation. Only in deciding to believe and rely upon his promised salvation as worthy of trust and reliance are the essentials of salvation received. There is no other way! ONLY in applying faith in his words do we discover the author of those words is also the Lord of our life.

Now, The Promised Effects of Salvation

Isaiah 35:4-7 (ESV)

⁴ 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.**"

⁵ Then the **eyes of the blind** shall be *opened*, and the **ears of the deaf** *unstopped*;

⁶ 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;
⁷ 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)

¹⁸ 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*,

¹⁹ To preach the *acceptable year of the Lord*.

²¹ And he began to say unto them, *This day is this scripture fulfilled* in your ears.

Luke 7:20-23 (AMP)

²⁰ 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?

²¹ 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.

²² 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.

²³ 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].

New covenant and Holy Spirit

Jeremiah 31:33-34 (ESV)

³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will *put my law within them*, and I will *write it on their hearts*. And *I will be their God*, and they shall be my people.

³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for *they shall all know me*, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

John 14:15-17 (ESV)

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, *and he will give you another Helper*, to be with you forever,

¹⁷ even the *Spirit of truth*, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he *dwells with you and will be in you*.

John 14:26-27 (ESV)

²⁶ But the *Helper, the Holy Spirit*, whom the Father will send in my name, *he will teach you all things* and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; *my peace I give to you*. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 14:10-14 (ESV)

¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the *Father is in me*, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹² “Truly, truly, I say to you, *whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do*; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

¹³ *Whatever you ask* in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ If you *ask me anything* in my name, *I will do it*.

John 15:7-8 (ESV)

⁷ If you *abide in me, and my words abide in you*, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

John 16:13-15 (ESV)

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, *he will guide you into all the truth*, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that *he will take what is mine and declare it to you*.

John 16:23-24 (ESV)

²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.

²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, *that your joy may be full*.

John 17:20-23 (ESV)

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for *those who will believe in me through their word*,

²¹ *that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us*, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, *that they may be one even as we are one*,

²³ *I in them and you in me*, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

The above should make it clear what is meant by an abundant life. It is resurrection to life after death, but it is so much more. I feel I can only profane if I attempt to speak it more clearly – for the spirit testifies so much better than I ever could.

Romans 11:33-36 (ESV)

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵ “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

The Messiah Savior

Israel was waiting for a messiah. Their messiah was to bring salvation. He would be a savior to them. The promise of salvation prophesied a fore runner would proclaim the coming of the messiah as the day of his coming approached. John in proclaiming the coming of the messiah was an effect of the promise that was promised would accompany the coming of the messiah.

Matthew 11:10 (AMP)

¹⁰ This is the one of whom it is written, Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who shall make ready Your way before You.

Speaking of John the Baptist Forerunner to the messiah:

Luke 1:67-79 (ESV)

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being **delivered from the hand of our enemies**, might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to
prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to **give knowledge of salvation** to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹ to **give light** to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the
way of peace.”

His proclaiming that the savior was coming would be an independent confirmation that the one bringing the effects of salvation was the savior promised. Jesus did not form an agreement with John to proclaim him, Jesus fulfilled John’s witness that the messiah was coming with salvation.

John’s disciples asked Jesus if he were that one John was proclaiming would come. Jesus answered, by saying: tell John how the **effects of salvation promised** were being received by the people as Jesus ministered among them.

The observing of the **promised effects** are evidence the **promise was being fulfilled** and that the cause of those effects was the messiah savior expected.

But this record is more important than just fulfilling ancient prophesy and validating the authenticity that Jesus is the promised messiah. The very acts that confirmed he was savior being the **promised effects** also make it absolutely clear **what the promises of salvation are.**

Observing the details of the effects of salvation promised and caused by Jesus ARE the evidence that:

- Jesus is the messiah savior promised.

- The promise of salvation is true.
- He who promised is faithful to fulfill his word.
- The salvation effects observed ARE part of salvation.
- Jesus correctly applied cause to affect the salvation effects promised.

Since the messiah was to cause the effects of salvation promised, when they were seen among the people, the one affecting that cause, Jesus, should have been recognized as messiah savior of the promise and his words on how to receive that promise should have been given careful attention to obey.

Receive and administer the promises of salvation

Matthew 10:5-8 (AMP)

⁵ Jesus sent out these twelve, charging them, ...

⁷ And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand!

⁸ ***Cure the sick***, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, drive out demons. Freely (without pay) you have received, freely (without charge) give.

Luke 9:2 (AMP)

² And He sent them out to ***announce and preach the kingdom*** of God and to ***bring healing***.

Luke 10:9 (AMP)

⁹ And ***heal the sick*** in it and say to them, The ***kingdom of God has come*** close to you.

Mark 16:15-20 (AMP)

¹⁵ And He said to them, Go into all the world and ***preach and publish*** openly the ***good news*** (the Gospel) to every creature [of the whole human race].

¹⁶ ***He who believes*** [who adheres to and trusts in and relies on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] and is baptized ***will be saved*** [from the penalty of eternal death]; but he who does not believe [who does not adhere to and trust in and rely on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] will be condemned.

¹⁷ And these ***attesting signs*** will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages;

¹⁸ They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they ***will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well***.

¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and He sat down at the right hand of God.

²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord kept working with them and ***confirming*** the message ***by the attesting signs and miracles*** that closely accompanied [it]. Amen (so be it).

John 17:8 (AMP)

⁸ For the [uttered] ***words that You gave Me I have given them***; and they have received ***and*** accepted [them] and have come to know positively ***and*** in reality [to believe with absolute assurance] that I came forth from Your presence, and they have believed ***and*** are convinced that You did send Me.

John 17:14 (AMP)

¹⁴ I have given *and* delivered to them **Your word** (message) and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world [do not belong to the world], just as I am not of the world.

John 17:17-20 (AMP)

¹⁷ Sanctify them [purify, consecrate, separate them for Yourself, make them holy] by the **Truth**; Your Word is Truth.

¹⁸ Just as You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

¹⁹ And so for their sake *and* on their behalf I sanctify (dedicate, consecrate) Myself, that they also may be sanctified (**dedicated, consecrated, made holy**) **in the Truth**.

²⁰ Neither for these alone do I pray [it is not for their sake only that I make this request], but also for all those who will ever come to believe in (trust in, cling to, rely on) Me through their word *and* teaching,

Those that heard the words of Jesus and believed, they received the promise of salvation. They were able to receive and administer the salvation effects to the people. But those that would not or could not believe and in faith rely upon the words of Jesus didn't or couldn't.

When asked **why they failed to produce or cause the effects desired**, Jesus told them:

Matthew 13:15 (AMP)

¹⁵ For this nation's **heart has grown gross** (fat and dull), and their ears heavy *and difficult of hearing*, and their eyes they have tightly closed, lest they see *and* perceive with their eyes, and hear *and* comprehend the sense with their ears, and grasp *and understand with their heart*, and turn *and* I should heal them.

Acts 20:27-28 (AMP)

²⁷ For the **heart (the understanding, the soul)** of this people has **grown dull (stupid, hardened, and calloused)**, and their ears are heavy *and* hard of hearing and they have shut tight their eyes, so that they may **not perceive *and* have knowledge** *and* become acquainted with their eyes and hear with their ears *and understand with their souls* and turn [to Me and be converted], that I may heal them.

²⁸ So let it be understood by you then that [this message of] **the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles**, and they will listen [to it]!

Matthew 17:16-20 (ESV)

¹⁶ And I brought him to *your disciples*, and they **could not heal him.**"

¹⁷ And Jesus answered, "**O faithless and twisted** generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me."

¹⁸ And **Jesus rebuked the demon**, and it came out of him, and the **boy was healed** instantly.

¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "**Why could we not cast it out?**"

²⁰ He said to them, "**Because of your little faith**. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

Most thought the messiah as savior would simply appear, save them, defeat their enemies, release the captives, heal them and their land. They thought the messiah would just come and **save all without their needing to do anything**.

Failing to comprehend their salvation, there was *one work not performed*, robbed them of the salvation they waited for. They heard the truth but didn't combine that hearing with faith. Many thinking themselves too wise to the promise of salvation wouldn't believe Jesus as he brought the *path to salvation* that comes *through faith and the heart of belief*.

Hebrews 4:1-2 (KJV)

¹ Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

² For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the *word preached did not profit* them, *not being mixed with faith* in them that heard *it*.

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.

Many in Jesus's time were so certain the messiah would save them independent of anything they needed to do, they refused to hear him and disbelieved his words. What they didn't expect, although they had the words of the prophets, was that the salvation of Jesus is part of a new covenant where the recipients of the new covenant have an active role: *hearing*, deciding to *believe, rely upon* and *keep the word as their innermost thoughts and understanding establishing what is engraved upon their hearts*.

Hebrews 8:8-11 (AMP)

⁸ Behold, the days will come, says the Lord, when I will make *and* ratify a new covenant *or* agreement with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

⁹ It will not be like the covenant that I made with their forefathers on the day when I grasped them by the hand to help *and* relieve them *and* to lead them out from the land of Egypt, for they did not abide in My agreement with them, and so I withdrew My favor *and* disregarded them, says the Lord.

¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: **I will imprint My laws upon their minds**, even upon **their innermost thoughts and understanding**, and engrave them upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

¹¹ And it will nevermore be necessary for each one to teach his neighbor and his fellow citizen or each one his brother, saying, Know (perceive, have knowledge of, and get acquainted by experience with) the Lord, for **all will know Me**, from the smallest to the greatest of them.

Salvation comes in *knowing the Lord* through *receiving his word*, believing it and *keeping it* within their hearts. It does NOT come without the recipients heart felt participation. The would be recipient *must whole heartedly believe* in the Lord Jesus and his words.

Only through belief can the word enter into the heart of man to affect the cause of his salvation of the new covenant.

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, deciding to believe and deciding to rely in trust and faith that *what God has promised he will be faithful to perform*.

All promises including the promise of salvation describe causes that will affect effects. Under the promise of salvation, faith causes the effect called salvation after hearing and the receiving of the word into the heart.

Keeping the word within the heart begins with hearing the word. With understanding and a desire to have the promised effect, one can act to rely upon that word to affect the effect desired. The act of reliance upon the word affects the promise. The cause of salvation is called "*faith*". The author of that word is Jesus. When the word is believed, relied upon and kept, the author Jesus is Lord .

If one commits to keep and defend the word as his truth to live by opposing all contrary word, the word becomes established as most abundant within the heart. This keeping and defending the word as true is called the "*Good Fight of Faith*".

Without faith in each of God's descriptions of salvation, all the described aspects are not received. For if all aspects are not believed, the aspects held in unbelief can not get into the heart where they can affect the cause of reliant faith. Without the cause, there is no effect.

Jesus does NOT bring your salvation independent of your faith. That was the error of those that rejected him thinking if he were messiah savior, Rome would have been conquered and deliverance simply received. When they didn't see what they expected, they didn't believe and they didn't receive.

If specific aspects of God's salvation are not understood as believable, such that those aspects can be relied upon as worthy of acting upon, the specific aspects rejected as unbelievable are NOT experienced; for salvation comes by faith of the heart that has received the words of Jesus under the covenant.

2 Timothy 3:14-15 (AMP)

¹⁴ But as for you, *continue to hold to the things* that you have learned and of which you are convinced, knowing from whom you learned [them],

¹⁵ And how from your childhood you have had a knowledge of *and* been acquainted with the sacred Writings, which are able to instruct you *and* give you the understanding for **salvation which comes through faith in Christ Jesus** [through the leaning of the entire human personality on God in Christ Jesus in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness].

Decide this day to believe and commit to rely upon his word for obtaining the salvation effects his word describes. There is no question of God's will. God desires all to be saved.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (ESV)

³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,

⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

How long will his people be halted between opposing opinions? Unable to decide all his promises are reliable?

In faith believing, we have the promise of ALL aspects of his salvation, even ALL aspects of ALL his promises that are described as based upon fulfilling a requirement of righteousness.

Romans 5:18-19 (AMP)

¹⁸ ... so one Man's act of righteousness [leads] to acquittal *and* right standing with God and life for all men.

¹⁹ For just as by one man's disobedience (failing to hear, heedlessness, and carelessness) the many were constituted sinners, so by one Man's obedience the many will be constituted righteous (made acceptable to God, brought into right standing with Him).

Just to make sure you don't get confused regarding any specific promise in the word: The *PROMISES of each and every one of ALL HIS PROMISES* are included in his **salvation**. All the promises are to be received by faith reliant trust that per his words we are qualified for all, **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 you receive salvation in Christ**.

2 Corinthians 1:20-22 (ESV)

²⁰ 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.

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

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

Receive Salvation

I used to think people just needed to hear the promises of salvation and they would receive it. I thought, they just needed to hear the offer of salvation and they would gladly accept.

Later, I realized people can hear the promise, but not understand. I thought, they just need to have it explained and they would accept God's salvation.

Today, I am realizing many can't accept the promises of salvation thinking them too incredible to accept as true. After all, how can we believe we've satisfied and fulfilled all the requirements of such favor? How can we believe one act of Jesus Christ and his gracious gift of unmerited favor makes each of us righteous in the sight of God and that we only need to believe his promises true to experience them?

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.

Even if we believe his grace puts us in right standing with God, and all we need to do is believe, how do we believe such incredible details of salvation are possible? How do we believe in anything that is not seen in everyday experience?

There are many that find it within their grasp to take the first step; they decide an intention to believe. They ask to receive in reliance of that decision. They trust and rely upon the promise in making their good confession of their faith to receive.

Romans 10:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Ephesians 1:13 (ESV)

¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Upon their good confession and intention to believe, many find themselves still captive and defeated in facing their problems of life. Those that understand the details of their salvation includes a more abundant life, find their beliefs under attack and themselves embroiled in a fight to keep God's word believed and overcoming doubt and conflicting beliefs. The fight over beliefs is called the **Good Fight of Faith** in the word.

1 Timothy 6:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

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

There is something we have to do to stay in faith, overcome doubt and unbelief so we are victorious in life. We must commit our whole hearts to believing, accepting and keeping our faith in his promises?

1 John 5:1-5 (AMP)

¹ EVERYONE WHO believes (adheres to, trusts, and relies on the fact) that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah) is a born-again child of God; and everyone who loves the Father also loves the one born of Him (His offspring).

² By this we come to know (recognize and understand) that we love the children of God: when we love God and obey His commands (orders, charges)—[when we keep His ordinances and are mindful of His precepts and His teaching].

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]?**

While, salvation includes **Good News** for obtaining an abundantly fulfilling and victorious life in Christ, many simply don't know how to hold on and keep to their initial decision to believe and accept Gods promise of salvation to the extent of living the abundant and victorious life.

Today, I know many would-be **Believer** that hear and understands the words of God's promise, yet they struggle with indecision and doubt not knowing how to BELIEVE and KEEP their belief unto the receiving of each and every one of God's promises of salvation. To this end I have created these studies on belief.

Foundations: We Live by the Word

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)

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

⁶ 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 of others beliefs is **credibility** measured in terms of **certainty**. The certainty we have that a so-called expert is credible helps us decide if we can trust and rely upon them in deciding the truth of what they say we should believe. We now have two belief decisions involved; is the expert credible and is what they say truth. Turning one belief question into two sounds like we've made the process of believing more complicated. In actuality, most that look to experts for establishing what is true, only make the first decision and generalize the second. If the highly credible expert says it, that settles it; what ever they say is believed. If the expert says it, what they say is true.

Once we decide an expert highly credible, we generalize about everything they tell us. Our process for establishing truth is simplified once we decide we have little preference for our own ideas and decide to accept others references valued higher than our own experience based collaborative references.

It's all about how we perceive our reality as our minds mature and our perception and ranking of most valued preferences are clarified. Do we rank our preference toward others credibility higher than our own ideas and those we once accepted as our experts. All this is going on as we grow up and progress beyond accepting the beliefs of our parents in full faith.

As we decide to listen to others, our attitudes of commitment to former beliefs determine how we evaluate new ideas and view the opinions of others. Our belief that some truths are absolute and our commitment to keep and defend those principles actually keep us from falling for forming conclusion in the face of confusions introduced by experts seeking to break-down our beliefs in absolute truths. Once we stop believing in absolute truths, they can introduce any social idea that serves them better.

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 confusion of new ideas contradicting our current beliefs and positive

or negative attitudes of perception toward ourselves, parents, new so-called experts and how our peers are responding.

In any case, until we ultimately decide one belief over all, we are confused, double minded and 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 minds 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 who's 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 our 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. All actions are taken in reliance of some belief. Words and thoughts can be spoken with very little reliance or dependence upon what is spoken being true.

The question that determines who is truly Lord is: who's beliefs do we live by?

The acts a person takes is a better indication of what is believed than what the mind says or thinks it believes. If you recognize your actions are inconsistent with what you think you believe or want to believe on a subject, you can be quite confident: what you think is NOT believed as credible as the belief reflected in your actions.

When there is an opportunity to apply a belief in order to obtain a given desired effect, the action taken and more specifically, the intent in taking the action, reveals which belief is believed most credible. Even if two beliefs from two different authors are both believed to cause the same effect, only ONE belief is ultimately relied upon and trusted when action is taken.

Example: I may have a person of low esteemed credibility tell me they will give me some promised effect. I may have a 2nd person of highly esteemed credibility promise me the same thing. Even if the action required of both is the same, it is the belief in the 2nd promise that gets believed and acted upon from the abundance of the heart.

When it comes to knowing your own heart, of the two, actions and the intent behind them are the more reliable indication of what is truly believed most credible and most highly valued for obtaining the desired effect.

Because the mind focuses upon what it wills, when the mind is focused upon the word, it may think it believes. It may even decide the Word focused upon 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 an idea, thought or intention to believe.

Only when a decided belief is acted upon in reliance is faith revealed. When acted upon, the belief relied upon is revealed in the intent underlying the act. Of course, intent is ONLY clear to the mind of the actor committing the intention to act.

The focus of the mind and the decision to believe is only an intention, only the beginning of what gets established as most abundant within the heart. Faith doesn't appear until the mind commits to trust, and rely upon the belief in committing the intention to act in reliance. Even so, the belief doesn't take the position of greatest abundance within the heart until the person wholly commits to keep and defend that belief as the most valued and reliable.

These last acts are known as the good fight of faith and they change the nature of the person that so keeps them. The expert that established the beliefs most abundant within the heart is Lord over the life of the word keeper. It can now be understood how the Lord can make this promise:

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ... "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ***ask whatever you wish***, and it will be done for you.

Only after a belief is kept and defended against all competing ideas does it become predominant within the heart. Only when Jesus's words abide abundantly within is the author Jesus Lord. When the need arises to obtain or defend some highly valued life aspect described as the subject or effect promised by the Lords word believed, the belief is impulsively relied upon in taking action to affect the cause believed able of producing the desired effect. Those acts of faith obtain the promise.

We may have a desire and an intention to believe God's word of promise. But, until it gets established as the most credible, such that the heart relies upon it first to obtain the promise, the word is not established as most abundant of the heart. A renewal of belief and recommitment to keep it as the truth to live by is needed.

To establish abundance of heart, commit every action only after first reflecting upon which of the promises of God address the desired effect sought. Only take action committed in reliance of his promise. Take actions only that rely upon some word of God's promise to affect the cause that will produce the effect desired.

Psalm 37

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him and he will do this:

⁶ He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.

⁴ Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

¹¹ ... the meek will inherit the land
and enjoy peace and prosperity.

Proverbs 3

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;

⁶ in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

⁸ This will bring health to your body
and nourishment to your bones.

¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Whichever word is found in abundance within the heart, identifies who is Lord.

The question is: Who's beliefs manifest when action is needed? Is it the beliefs of the Lord you want to serve, or beliefs of another that rules your heart? If your acts intentions don't show reliance upon Jesus's words relied upon, renew your commitment to keep his word and remember to ONLY acknowledge the Lord in any and all your ways.

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. Start by renewing your faith in John Chapters 14- 17.

With the Mind of Christ, you can be trusted

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)

²⁴ 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)

¹⁴ 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 ...

¹⁶ 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:

Psalm 37:4-5 (AMP)

4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart.

5 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 it's 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 rely upon.

The Lord of our bible 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 faith relying upon the belief in speaking will cause the needed effect. Speaking to the obstacle challenge, that it be removed, affects the effect desired, the mountain of an obstacle removed.

Mark 11:22-23 (AMP)

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

²³ 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 not applying faith in God's word, 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 to 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 words and have faith in them.

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 knowings 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.

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)

²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

²¹ 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.

²⁴ 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.**

²⁵ And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

²⁷ 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)

¹⁰ 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:

¹¹ 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)

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

¹¹ 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.***

¹² ***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.***

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

¹⁶ "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, beware 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)

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].

1 Kings 18:21 (KJV)

²¹ 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.

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.

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 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 expert of impeccable authority and credibility, their voice can be rejected with totally prejudiced bias.

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,

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 words naturally come out.

It is not enough that we know Gods 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.

Luke 6:45 (ESV)

⁴⁵ 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.

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 ***through the renewal of our minds.***

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].

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**.