

Studies on Belief

Foundations: We Live by the Word We Can Believe!

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.

Salvation

Our bible is full of incredible ***faith based cause and effect principles*** only waiting to be applied by a believer's faith. When activated by faith they cause change to 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** also known as the abundant life to all who believe.

Our Salvation hasn't ended. The acceptable year and time of the Lord's favor is now. Jesus is our Savior today and forever. His salvation only awaits our hearing, deciding to believe and the heart relying in trust and faith that ***what God has promised he will be faithful to perform.***

If some specific aspects of God's salvation are ***not understood as believable***, they can not be relied upon. They must be believed before they can be relied upon as worthy of trust in faith. Without belief, in unbelief, salvation aspects CAN NOT BE experienced; for salvation comes by faith.

We may want to have faith. We may want to believe. But until we understand what we believe, we can not believe, we can not have faith.

We may "act like we believe", but until the word is understood and held in the heart as the most true and favored for application to life's needs, the heart can NOT rely upon it. If we are not in faith of God's word when we pursue something, that pursuit is without the faith-based promised effects that could apply if it were pursued in faith that God would fulfill his promise in respect to it.

Abundant Life in the Word

We can begin today to get acquainted, to learn and to develop wisdom in it until it the word naturally flows forth from an abundance within our heart. When established the most dominant in the heart, God's promises becomes the basis of every action; it becomes what we rely upon with every pursuit we find in life.

If the word is established within our hearts, we are completely equipped to rise confident we can meet every challenge in life with triumph and the victory of an abundant life.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV)

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ *that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

The word of God is the foundation we build upon for obtaining all aspects of God's promises by Faith. These same verses identify the two most important keys that we use to build on that foundation. Notice the points hi-lited in the amplified version.

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].

The keys are: **Hold** (that is to persist with keeping it within the heart) and to **Understanding** for salvation. *The word contains the **understanding** we need to **hold** to enjoy our salvation.*

Decide to Commit Keep and Understand

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

Romans 2:10-11 (NASB)

¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (KJV)

³ For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

⁴ Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:4 (AMP)

⁴ Who wishes **all men to be saved** and [increasingly] to perceive *and* recognize *and* discern *and* know **precisely and correctly the [divine] Truth**.

How long will his people be halted between opposing opinions?

In faith believing, we have the promise we qualify for ALL his promises which certainly include all aspects of his salvation. In faith we are promised ALL his promises that are described as based upon fulfilling a requirement of righteousness, being in right standing to receive any promise that has a requirement of merit.

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).

Remember too:

2 Corinthians 1;20-22 (MFO Paraphrased)

The *PROMISES of each and every one of ALL HIS PROMISES* are included in his **salvation**. Received by faith reliant trust that by his word, **yes!** we are **qualified, yes!** we have fulfilled the requirement, **yes!** we are established as merited by God's grace (unmerited favor), and God's response is **yes** I will, **yes** you can, **YES!** **you have salvation in Christ.**

Yet, there is something we have to do in faith and to stay in faith, overcome doubt and unbelief so we are victorious in life. While I say we have to do something, I am not saying we need to merit God's gift of grace, rather we have to receive it!

We have to simply receive his gift by our belief that what is promised is RECEIVED as promised.

Faith is NOW! Today is the day of your salvation. We must commit our whole hearts to believing, and accepting and keeping our faith in his promises as the Holy Spirit of Truth reveals their understanding within our hearts and minds?

If God's word says I am saved, I am!

Whatever God's word says I am, I am!

If God's word says we have it, we do!

If God's word says we can do it, we can!

If God's word says it, It means what it says!

If God said it, that settles it; he means what he says and says what he means !

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 God's promises of salvation to the extent of living the abundant and victorious life.

Today, I know many would-be **Believers** that hear and believe they understand the words of God's promise. Yet they struggle with holding multiple beliefs, indecision and doubt not knowing how to BELIEVE and KEEP God's word as the belief ***in faith they rely upon*** for receiving each and every one of God's promises of salvation. To this end let us turn to understanding how we can believe.

Belief is the foundation of faith for it is belief that faith depends upon to rely.

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 an act of causality that affects our beliefs. 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 symbolize actions for transitioning or changing positions or aspects 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

Beliefs describe observable characteristics of objects in relationship within our reality. How we relate in those relationships determine the quality of what we experience; determines the quality of our lives.

We act or take actions to affect causing changes to the effects we experience with our relationships. We only take action to cause effects to those relationships. We only act, if we believe the particular action we contemplate will cause an effect desired in a relationship.

Causality is simply a scientific term referring to how an actions cause effects in affected objects. Principles of causality describe how actions cause effects. If we believe a cause and effect principle, we can also call it a causality belief.

The descriptions we believe accurately describe how our actions affect causing effects in our relationships are our causality beliefs.

In reality, we have thousands of causality beliefs as every object we interact with has aspects of causality in our relationship. These objects are also related to other objects in causality relationships that we can affect indirectly or directly depending on the principle of causality we choose to act upon.

Due to the number of relationships we are capable of having, there are always multiple ways we can affect an effect to some object we wish to change how we interact, that we wish to interact with differently.

All objects have cause and effect aspects that we can manipulate to improve the quality of our lives. As they have characteristics describing how they cause effects in others. In desiring to affect a distant object, we may choose to directly affect it or affect a 3rd or multiple objects to indirectly obtain the final effect we desire.

In the beginning

All object causality characteristics were defined as innate at the time object reality was created. All objects were created in the same instant and all with the causality characteristics we explore and commonly manipulate today.

This is very important: ALL we find within object reality was created by a single express act, an expression of the Lord's grand design into object reality as each object was given the characteristics of causality and locality that could be manipulated by interactions between the created objects.

As an action, the act of believing has causality aspects that are part of our Lord's original grand design. The causality aspects of what we believe causes effects according to the original grand design. The grand design included effects affected by belief.

In actuality, the initial act by which God created all that is, all with aspects of causality and locality was itself an act of causality. God expressed his grand design causing all that is to be observable as effects according to one unique principle of causality. **The initiating act** causing God's grand design to be manifest into object form with locality was the act of expression. Genesis and John tell us it was **the Word, God himself that was spoken**. God defined his grand design in word, then spoke it into existence.

God is Non-Local

All objects have characteristics of locality; all related objects in relationship have localities described as **located in time and space**. God being without locality is referred to as possessing non-locality.

In actuality, while we refer to God as if he has object form when we say he possesses non-locality, he is NOT an object with locality.

God exists non-locally; outside of time and space. It is near impossible to describe God accurately as our means of expression depend upon object form. Words are symbols that we draw upon because the symbol is similar to what we are attempting to express. At best, attempting to describing God in object form is a distortion as there is nothing that is similar to him. God is without form or locality.

Although God's grand design originated as non-local subjective creativity, God's initiating act expressed his creative grand design in object terms. That is the creation of objective reality was an expression of God's own subjective consciousness into object term effects. God's new creation was not created by a physical act. His initiating act was to express his subjective knowing, his non-local grand design, into object terms having locality and causality in their expressed definitions. The initial expression of the grand design was a non-local act, an expression of a non-local being affecting a non-local force to affect local effects.

Object reality did not exist before the initiating expression. The initial expression was a non-local act affecting non-local forces capable of affecting local effects we know of as physical objective form reality with each having aspects of locality and causality. All that is was defined in and part of God's original grand design.

God Believes

We call the descriptions of reality: **beliefs**. God's descriptions of his grand design were his beliefs about our reality. In full understanding of all aspects of this reality, he expressed the beliefs of his design into existence; he spoke his beliefs into observable existence.

All that we call real, all that will ever be experienced as real, has been created for his observing. If not for observing, no effect would exist. If not for God's cause by expression into observable form, no effect would exist. We do exist. God expressed the word of his grand design into reality. We exist and have our being within and according to his grand design.

Not only could God observe his creations, he endowed each of his creations with the ability to observe and interact with all that is in his creation. If we will accept God's word describing who we are, what we have and what we can do, we will fill the measure of our creation and what he had in mind for us to observe as experience in his grand design.

Faith-Based Causality

Recall: God expressed his grand design causing all that is to be observable as effects according to a unique principle of causality. **The initiating act** causing God's grand design to be manifest into object form with locality was the act of expression; the spoken word of his belief. God defined his grand design in word, then spoke it to cause his belief to manifest into local existence reality. He relied upon his expression only to affect the effects believed.

I define Faith-Based beliefs as **causality beliefs** that need only be believed and relied in action to produce the promised effect described in the causality belief. God used a faith-based belief to create all of our objective reality. God's act of reliance was his expression of his belief described in spoken word of his grand design we would observe as objective reality.

As God expressed his subjective essence into objective form with each expressed object an expression of his own subjective self, he also expressed his faith-based creativity in his object creations endowing each of them, us, with his ability to operate faith-based causality principles if we will believe in non-local terms as he believes, we too can affect local effects.

When God gives us his word expecting us only to believe to affect a promised effect, those words need only be believed and spoken with confident reliance the expression will cause what is believed to manifest into physical effect, the **faith-based promised effect**.

Only Faith-based beliefs can cause non-local effects to appear or manifest locality. Under the new covenant, if we are willing to believe and keep / guard his word with all our hearts, when relied upon, his word will produce the promised effects.

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 pursuit or a threatened loss to that we've already obtained is sufficient to cause all of us to take some kind of action seeking to obtain or preserve the valued effect or aspect believed affected by action.

Whether a *mountain of opportunity* or a *mountain of 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 what we believe and which of our beliefs are esteemed most valued, considered most promising or effective of producing the effect we desire.

The beliefs we turn to when needs arise identify who is the Lord we follow, who is the Lord we serve, who is the Lord of our life. Our choice of Lord is not established by mere words of intention. Our choice of Lord is determined with each application of belief, each time we turn to cause a desired effect. Is the word we rely upon established by the Lord we desire to serve or another that has captivated our devotion while we were sleeping.

Matthew 13:24-25 (NASB)

²⁴ Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

²⁵ "But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away.

The good fight of faith is a work we do to establish our belief in God's word as most abundant within our hearts. The good fight keeps his word as most dominant, the word we naturally turn to when action is needed.

1 Timothy 6:12 (NASB)

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

1 Timothy 6:19 (AMP)

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

Long before the moment of need, in the good fight of faith, the Christian resists the *contrary evil thoughts*, unbelief and *opposing ideas* deciding the beliefs to rely upon.

James 4:6-10 (NASB)

⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and *purify your hearts, you double-minded*. ... ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Psalms 37:5 (AMP)

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.

The Lord of our bible has provided precepts that when believed perfectly meet just the challenges we face. They only require our faith in his promises. God's answer to our challenges is *faith* relying upon his word, that he that will be faithful to perform all that he has promised.

We have specific promises, if we choose to believe them when we hear them; if we choose to rely and act in reliance on them. We can speak the desires he has placed within our hearts.

Our faith relying upon his promise *in speaking* will cause the needed effect. We can speak to the obstacle challenging us, even as great as a mountain. We can speak that it be removed. In faith relying upon the promise, it is so, our speaking affects the effect desired, the mountain of an obstacle is 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 if we do not apply faith in God's word to move our obstacles, we can only obtain the effects we need by applying local forces to cause the effects we need. Of these, to move 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 challenges 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 worlds experts. Sadly, today most non-Christians and Christians alike establish the beliefs they rely upon according 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

There is a better way than just letting our beliefs come and go according to the whims of world and those that would choose to manipulate our beliefs. God's word, his promises, are a better way for living. However they are contrary to

the manners and customs of the world. God's word, when relied upon by a believer, in acts of faith, appear as foolishness to the world.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (ESV)

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God ***through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.***

²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,

²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and **folly to Gentiles,**

²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵ For **the foolishness of God is wiser than men,** and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

To God however, foolishness is failing to rely upon and keep his word.

Matthew 7:26 (NASB)

²⁶ "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and ***does not act on them***, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

Ephesians 5:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

1 Corinthians 1:27-31 (NASB)

²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

²⁹ so that no man may boast before God.

³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

³¹ so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

To believe in God's promises, one must abandon the worlds customs and ways and adopt customs that are not common, may even seem foolish when first beginning to live by them. This new way is called the Good Fight of Faith.

In our next study, we will explore God's better way of living through joining the "Good Fight" of Faith.