

The Righteous Shall Live by Faith

FAITH EVEN

31 Principles of Faith

Bruce R. Edwards

FAITH

“The just shall live by faith”

31 principles of faith

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by Bruce R. Edwards

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Contents

Preface	Page 6
Introduction.....	Page 8
Principle 1 Unto You According to YOUR Faith	Page 16
Principle 2 Living by Faith	Page 10
Principle 3 How to Live by Faith	Page 19
Principle 4 How to Develop Your Faith.....	Page 22
Principle 5 Ways to Strengthen Your Faith.....	Page 26
Principle 6 Learning to Trust God.....	Page 28
Principle 7 What is Real Faith.....	Page 31
Principle 8 Putting Faith into Action.....	Page 36
Principle 9 Grace and Faith.....	Page 39
Principle 10 Don't Overestimate Your Faith.....	Page 42
Principle 11 Enemies of Faith	Page 45
Principle 12 Faith Additives.....	Page 48
Principle 13 Faith Like a Mustard Seed.....	Page 53
Principle 14 Mountain Moving Faith.....	Page 5
Principle 15 Thomas Kind & Abraham Kind of Faith.....	Page 57
Principle 16 Faith versus Foolishness & Presumption.....	Page 60
Principle 17 Faith Give the Vicory.....	Page 64
Principle 18 How Faith Works.....	Page 67
Principle 19 The Key the Unlocks Faith.....	Page 74
Principle 20 Unshakeable Faith	Page 76
Principle 21 Faith & Patience	Page 81
Principle 22 Faith is Now	Page 84
Principle 23 Hope – Prelude to Faith	Page 86
Principle 24 Spirit of Faith	Page 89
Principle 25 Special Faith	Page 95
Principle 26 Right Thinking	Page 98
Principle 27 Jesus is the Author of Our Faith.....	Page 101
Principle 28 Faith Pleases God.....	Page 104
Principle 29 Faith Begins Where the Will of God is Known ...	Page 107
Principle 30 Contend for Your Faith.....	Page 114
Principle 31 Faith Never Quits.....	Page 116
22 Faith Verses	Page 119
Closing Thoughts.....	Page 121

Preface

Faith. It is the cornerstone of the Christian life, the bridge between the promises of God and the realities we experience. After more than 40 years in ministry, I can confidently say that the message of faith is not just an inspiring idea—it is a life-changing truth. The principles of faith have shaped my life, sustained my ministry, and allowed me to witness God's power time and again.

This book, *The Principles of Faith*, is the product of decades of learning, growing, and walking with God. Over the years, I have had the privilege of sitting under the teaching of some of the greatest men and women of faith in our time. Their insights, combined with the lessons God has taught me through His Word and personal experience, have deeply enriched my understanding of how faith works. Now, I have the honor of sharing these truths with you.

Faith is how you get saved. Faith is how you receive any promise from God. In fact, the Bible tells us to live by faith not once, not twice, but four times—in four different books of the Bible, spanning both the Old and New Testaments. This repetition underscores the importance of faith in the life of every believer. To live by faith is not a suggestion; it is a divine command, a call to trust God in every area of life and to believe that His Word is true.

In *The Principles of Faith*, I share 21 lessons drawn from God's Word. These lessons are designed to inspire and challenge you to develop your faith and walk by faith, not by sight. Each principle is a building block, equipping you to live a victorious life rooted in trust and confidence in God. Whether you are just beginning your journey of faith or have been walking with the Lord for years, these lessons will encourage you to grow deeper and stronger in your faith.

The message of faith can change your world. Through faith, the impossible becomes possible. Through faith, we tap into the resources of heaven. And through faith, we live the abundant life Jesus promised. My prayer is that as you read this book, you will be inspired to take God at His Word, believe His promises, and experience His power in your life.

Get ready to embark on a journey that will deepen your relationship with God and transform the way you live. Faith is not just a concept to understand; it is a principle to live by. As you study these lessons, may your faith grow, your heart be encouraged, and your life be forever changed.

Introduction

I am thankful for the goodness and mercy of God in my life. The message of faith has been an anchor in my life and ministry. I'm reminded of the many ways faith has profoundly shaped my life, guiding me through both the calm and the storms. Faith has been more than just a concept or a belief—it has been the steady anchor that has kept me grounded, even when the world around me seemed to be in chaos.

There were times when the path ahead seemed uncertain, and I wasn't sure where to turn. It was in those moments that I learned to lean not on my understanding, but on God's promises. Time and time again, I've seen how trusting in Him opens doors I never imagined, leading me into opportunities and blessings that I couldn't have orchestrated on my own. Through faith, I've discovered that I'm not just a bystander in life—I'm an active participant in God's grand plan, uniquely positioned to make a difference.

This message of faith radically changed and influenced my life in major ways. Faith has impacted my marriage, family, ministry, and life in positive eternal ways. I am extremely grateful for those who have poured the Word of God into my life and helped mentor and guide me my journey of faith. There are so many who have sown seeds of encouragement, grace, and mercy into my life. To all I am eternally thankful.

This realization has inspired me to give back in a meaningful way. I've felt a deep calling to share what I've learned about faith, to help others discover the same strength and peace that has carried me through. With that in mind, I'm

excited to share this book of short teachings on faith. These teachings are simple, heartfelt reflections on the power of faith and how it can transform our lives.

I hope that through these teachings, others will be encouraged to embrace their own journey of faith, trust in God's plan for their lives, and see how He is working in ways they might not even realize. I believe that when we share our experiences and insights, we create a ripple effect that can touch lives far beyond our own.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I'm looking forward to this new chapter and am eager to see how God will use these teachings to inspire and uplift others.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Pastor Bruce

Principle 1

Done Unto You According to Your Faith

There's a story told about some angels, these angels came to God to ask Him what He wanted them to do in response to the prayer of a Christian who was asking God for a blessing.

The angels asked God, “how much do you want to bless them?” God asked the angels, “What did he send his faith in?” The angels answer, “He sent his faith in a thimble.” God said “Well then, fill the thimble with blessings and send it back to him. According to his faith, let be it unto him.”

Again, the angels come to God and say, “God there is another one of your children and they are asking for blessings from you.” Again, the Father asked, “And what did he send his faith in?” The angels responded, “He sent his faith in a huge barrel.” With a smile, the Father says, “Fill the barrel with blessings and send it back to him. According to his faith, let it be done unto him.” There is a powerful lesson about faith in this story we need to learn.

“It will be done unto you according to your faith,” is a profound biblical truth that weaves throughout the ministry of Jesus and the entire fabric of Scripture. This declaration is anchored in Matthew 9:27-30, where two blind men approached Jesus, crying out for healing. Jesus asked them, “Do you believe I can make you see?” Their response, “Yes, Lord, we believe,” became the catalyst for their miracle. Jesus then said, “Let it be done to you according to your faith,” and their sight was restored. This story not only

demonstrates the power of faith but also reveals the responsibility believers have in receiving the promises of God.

The Principle of Faith in Scripture

Faith is a recurring theme in Jesus' teachings and ministry. Time and again, He highlighted the role of faith in accessing God's promises:

1. **The Woman with the Issue of Blood (Mark 5:25-34):** After suffering for twelve years, this woman touched the hem of Jesus' garment, believing she would be healed. Jesus affirmed her faith, saying, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." Her faith made the connection to receive God's healing power.
2. **The Centurion's Servant (Matthew 8:5-13):** A Roman centurion demonstrated remarkable faith, believing Jesus could heal his servant by simply speaking a word. Jesus marveled at his faith and declared, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would."
3. **Bartimaeus, the Blind Beggar (Mark 10:46-52):** When Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus for mercy, Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus replied, "I want to see." Jesus said, "Go, your faith has healed you," and immediately Bartimaeus received his sight.

These accounts reveal a consistent truth: while God's power is the source of miracles, it is faith that activates and receives what He has already made available.

Faith: The Key to Receiving God's Promises

Every promise of God is fulfilled according to our faith. Hebrews 11:6 states, "Without faith, it is impossible to please God." Faith is

not an attempt to manipulate God but an alignment with His Word and His will. God has already provided everything we need through Jesus Christ. As 2 Peter 1:3 declares, “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him.” The work is finished; our role is to believe and receive.

God Responds to Faith, Not Merely to Needs

God is not moved primarily by our needs, though He deeply cares for us. The world is filled with pain, poverty, and suffering, yet the miraculous intervention of God often hinges on faith. This truth does not diminish God’s compassion but highlights His divine order. For instance, in Luke 4:25-27, Jesus pointed out that while many widows and lepers existed during Elijah and Elisha’s times, only those who acted in faith received miracles.

Faith does not negate our dependence on God; instead, it magnifies it. True faith acknowledges that apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5). Yet, with faith, “all things are possible” (Mark 9:23).

Faith Honors God, and God Honors Faith

Faith is a demonstration of trust in God and His Word. It involves believing, speaking, and acting on what God has said. The “spirit of faith” described in 2 Corinthians 4:13 says, “I believed; therefore, I have spoken.” This triad of believing, speaking, and acting releases God’s power into our lives.

For example, in James 2:17, we learn that “faith without works is dead.” The blind men in Matthew 9 did not passively hope for healing; they actively sought Jesus, proclaimed their belief, and received their sight. Similarly, the woman with the issue of blood pressed through the crowd to touch Jesus’ garment. Faith is not passive; it is active and intentional.

Faith Aligns with God's Finished Work

The Gospel centers on Jesus and what He has already accomplished for us. At the cross, Jesus declared, “It is finished” (John 19:30), signifying the completion of His redemptive work. Healing, provision, salvation, and deliverance are already available through His sacrifice. Faith aligns us with this finished work, enabling us to receive what grace has provided.

Ephesians 2:8 reminds us, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” Grace is God's part; faith is our response. This principle applies to every aspect of our lives.

The Responsibility of Faith

While God is the source of every blessing, we have a responsibility to believe, speak, and act in faith. This responsibility does not mean striving in our own strength but relying on the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us. Philippians 2:13 reminds us, “For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.”

Whatever your need may be—healing, provision, peace, or direction—God has already provided. The key is to believe it, speak it, and receive it by faith. Jesus' words to the blind men remain true today: “It will be done unto you according to your faith.” Let us take Him at His Word and walk in the fullness of His promises, knowing that faith honors God, and God honors faith.

Here's the Deal

God has already provided everything we need. When we believe and exercise our faith, we receive what God has already made available. The Gospel centers on Jesus and what He has accomplished for us.

Faith isn't about manipulating God but aligning ourselves with what He has already done.

Faith honors God and His Word, and in turn, God honors our faith. Faith involves believing, speaking, and acting on His Word—it's the essence of living by faith. When we release the spirit of faith in our lives, God obligates Himself to fulfill His Word and ensure His promises come to pass.

So, what do you need? Whatever it may be, God has already provided, and it's yours by faith. Believe it, speak it, and receive it—because it will be done for you according to your faith.

In Matthew chapter nine, verse 29, two blind men approached Jesus seeking healing. Jesus asked them, "Do you believe I can make you see?" They replied, "Yes, Lord, we believe." Then Jesus said to them, *"Let it be done to you according to your faith."*

Notice, he didn't say it would be done because of his great power or prayers, but according to their faith. This a principle of faith and as such it applies to each of us today: we receive from God according to our faith.

This truth extends to every promise of God, from salvation to receiving His favor, wisdom, protection, direction, and provision. Every promise of God is fulfilled according to our faith. God is not moved primarily by our needs but responds to our faith.

This doesn't mean God is indifferent to our needs; He sees and cares deeply about the pain, hurt, poverty, persecution, tragedy, and troubles in the world and in our lives. God is impartial but respects faith.

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exercise our faith, we receive what God has already made available. The Gospel centers on Jesus and what He has accomplished for us. Faith isn't about manipulating God but aligning ourselves with what He has already done.

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Principle 2

Living by Faith

Commanded by God

Living by faith is a fundamental question every believer must address. Faith is a dynamic and potent force in the life of a Christian. The Bible unequivocally states that without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). As followers of Christ, we are explicitly instructed to live by faith. This directive is reiterated in four separate instances across both the Old and New Testaments: "The righteous shall live by faith" (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38). Clearly, God emphasizes the importance of this principle.

What Does Living by Faith Mean

Living by faith means not being swayed by popular opinion, fleeting emotions, or human reasoning. It requires a daily reliance on God, trusting in His faithfulness and sovereignty (Psalm 37:5). It's a continual process of growth and maturity in faith, where believers understand that God is actively working within them and through them (Philippians 1:6).

In essence, living by faith is an exhilarating and fulfilling journey. It's about embracing God's promises, stepping out in obedience, and experiencing His faithfulness in every aspect of life. It's not just a theological concept but a vibrant reality that transforms how believers perceive and interact with the world around them.

Living by faith is not the same thing as being a person of faith or being faithful to a set of religious beliefs. It's not a matter of just having faith. Every believer has faith. (Romans 12:3) Living by faith is not about becoming a believer even though it does take faith

to be saved. (Ephesians 2:8) There are many born again believers who are saved, love the Lord, and have faith, but they **don't** live their lives by faith.

Faith is an action word. To live by faith you're thinking, and speaking, and it will produce actions that correspond to God's Word.

Believers who live by faith are willing to trust and obey God even when they don't fully comprehend all of God's ways. They're not troubled by circumstances that seem to contradict the Word of God. They know God does all things right and will work everything together for good. (Romans 8) They are not ruled by popular opinion, feelings, or reason. They live every day trusting the Lord. They know that God is working in them and through them and that living by faith is a process that one grows in every day.

Explaining the 4 Verses

To get a more full and better understanding of what living by faith means let's break down the four scriptures that instruct us as believers to live by faith.

Habakkuk 2:4 introduces the concept of living by faith. It says, "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him, But the just shall live by his faith." We see the contrast between the proud, those who live their life trusting in themselves, their abilities, wisdom, strength, and works, verses those who live their life trusting in the Lord.

Romans 1:17 stresses "**the just**". It says, "***For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'***" In the book of Romans, Paul focuses on righteousness, which means - to be right with God. He gives us the revelation that man is made right with God not by works, but by faith in Christ. Those who accept the gift of righteousness **now** are expected and empowered to live their life by faith and not by the flesh.

Galatians 3:11 stresses “**faith**”. It says, “But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for “the just shall live by faith” In Galatians Paul focuses on trusting God instead of trusting self. In the world we have learned to earn what we get – our grades in school, our paychecks, our positions, promotions, etc. However, we do not earn God's acceptance or righteousness. We must never think that "God owes us something because we're so good. We owe God everything because He is good. Faith fully realizes and accepts that trust and puts total trust in Him.

Hebrews 10:38 stresses “**shall live**”. It says, “***Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.***” The book of Hebrews focuses on the process or journey of faith. We have to walk out the life of faith. Faith is a marathon, not a sprint. Faith is for the duration. Faith is not about one event or some experience or emotion. We must hold fast, not giving up or quitting. Faith requires perseverance. (10:23) We must run the race of faith with patient endurance (12:1-2).

Why is Living by Faith So Important?

Because faith is how you receive from God. The only way to consistently receive instruction, wisdom, favor, direction, provision, or anything else from God is to live by faith. Living by faith is the only way to please God. If you're a true follower of Christ then you will want to live a life that pleases the Father. Hebrews 11:6 tells us “***Without faith, it is impossible to please God***”. Romans 14:23 says, “***Whatever is not from faith is sin***” We may do a lot of good things in life, but if they are done with any other motive than faith it is viewed as sin. Living by faith is extremely important for a believer.

Today decide to put your full trust in the Lord and live a life of faith!

Principle 3

How to Live by Faith

A Scriptural Blueprint

Faith is the foundation upon which the entire Christian life is built. As believers, we are called not just to have faith, but to live by faith. This is not merely a suggestion; it is a divine mandate echoed throughout Scripture. The Bible clearly states, “The just shall live by faith” (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38). But what does it truly mean to live by faith, and how can we apply this principle in our daily lives? Let's explore this concept through the lens of Scripture, following the principles laid out by Charles Capps.

The Foundation of Faith

Faith is not a passive belief system; it is an active, living force. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith gives substance to our hopes and makes the unseen a reality. This is not just wishful thinking; it is a confident expectation based on the promises of God.

Romans 10:17 tells us that “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” The Word is the seed, and faith is the substance that gives life to that seed. To live by faith, we must first immerse ourselves in the Word. The Word must be sown in our hearts, meditated upon, and spoken out of our mouths. As we continually hear and speak the Word, faith begins to grow and take root in our lives.

The Process of Faith

Living by faith is a process that involves our thoughts, words, and actions. Proverbs 4:20-22 instructs us to give attention to God's words, incline our ears to His sayings, and keep them in the midst of our hearts. Why? Because His words are life to those who find them and health to all their flesh.

1. **Thoughts:** Our minds must be renewed by the Word of God (Romans 12:2). Faith begins in the heart, but it must first be conceived in the mind. We must cast down every thought and imagination that exalts itself against the knowledge of God (2 Corinthians 10:5). Our thoughts must align with God's Word.
2. **Words:** Proverbs 18:21 says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." Our words have creative power. When we speak God's Word in faith, we release the power of God into our circumstances. Mark 11:23 tells us that we will have whatever we say if we believe and do not doubt in our hearts. The key is to speak the Word with authority, fully convinced that what God has promised, He is able to perform (Romans 4:21).
3. **Actions:** Faith without works is dead (James 2:26). Living by faith requires corresponding actions. When we truly believe God's Word, our actions will reflect that belief. Like the woman with the issue of blood in Mark 5:25-34, who acted on her faith by reaching out to touch Jesus' garment, we too must take steps of faith, even when circumstances suggest otherwise.

The Victory of Faith

1 John 5:4 declares, "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." Faith is the victory that enables us to overcome every

challenge, trial, and obstacle. The enemy will try to challenge our faith with fear, doubt, and unbelief, but we must hold fast to our confession of faith without wavering (Hebrews 10:23).

We are not moved by what we see or feel; we are moved only by the Word of God. 2 Corinthians 5:7 reminds us that “we walk by faith, not by sight.” Our faith is rooted in the eternal, unchanging Word of God, not in the temporal circumstances that surround us.

Conclusion

Living by faith is a lifestyle. It is a daily commitment to think, speak, and act in line with God’s Word. It requires diligence, discipline, and a deep understanding of the Scriptures. But as we cultivate our faith, we will see the promises of God manifest in our lives.

Remember, faith is not a struggle; it is a rest. Hebrews 4:3 says, “For we who have believed do enter that rest.” When we truly believe God’s Word, we rest in the assurance that His Word will accomplish what it was sent to do (Isaiah 55:11).

So, immerse yourself in the Word, speak it with boldness, and take corresponding actions. As you do, you will experience the victorious, overcoming life that God has promised to those who live by faith.

Principle 4

How to Develop Your Faith

First, every believer must realize they can develop the faith they have; grow it, increase it, make it stronger, and make it more effective. There are those who attack the message of faith simply because they don't understand what faith is. Others say you can't increase your faith; you already have all the faith you are ever going to have. While there is an element of truth to that statement they miss the point of the need to develop your faith. So, let's take a look at what that means and how as believers we can grow our faith.

Understanding the Measure of Faith

The Bible tells us that every believer has been given a “measure of faith” (Romans 12:3). This means that faith isn't exclusive to a select few; each of us has received a portion of faith from God. The real question is, what do we do with the measure of faith we've been given?

In his letter to the Thessalonians, Paul commended the believers for their growing faith, saying,

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing” (2 Thessalonians 1:3).

This passage highlights that every believer has the opportunity and ability to increase, expand, and develop the faith they have been given. But how do we go about doing that?

The Process of Growth

Everything in life starts out small. When you plant a tree, it begins as a tiny sapling. With the right care—watering, feeding, and nurturing—it grows into a towering tree. Similarly, people are born as babies, and with proper nutrition and care, they grow into adults. The same principle applies to our faith. It may begin small, but if it is nurtured and fed, it will grow.

Think of faith like a muscle. Every person is born with the same set of muscles, but when you look around, you notice that not everyone's muscles are the same size. Some people, like athletes or bodybuilders, have developed large, strong muscles. Others have smaller, less developed muscles. The difference lies in the effort put into exercising and feeding those muscles. Just as muscles grow through exercise and proper nutrition, so too does our faith.

There are two key ingredients to growing our faith: **feeding our faith** and **exercising our faith**.

Feeding Our Faith

The first step in developing strong faith is feeding it. Faith grows when we listen to, study, and immerse ourselves in the Word of God. Romans 10:17 tells us, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” The Word of God is the spiritual food that nourishes our faith, providing the essential nutrients it needs to grow.

Hearing the Word isn't limited to simply listening; it involves meditating on the Word, reading it regularly, and speaking it aloud. This is how we assimilate the Word into our hearts. David said in Psalm 119:11, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Likewise, Joshua 1:8 instructs us to, “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and

night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Feeding our faith requires a consistent intake of God’s Word, allowing it to take root and flourish within us.

Exercising Our Faith

The second key to growing our faith is exercising it. Faith strengthens and matures through use. The more we exercise our faith, the stronger it becomes. Just as a bodybuilder doesn’t start by lifting 500 pounds on their first day of training, we, too, must begin exercising our faith in smaller, manageable ways and gradually build up to greater acts of faith.

James 1:22 reminds us to “be doers of the word, and not hearers only.” In other words, we must put our faith into action. Many people talk about faith, but they never actually use it. James 2:17 tells us, “In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” Faith is a living, active force—it cannot remain dormant. Faith moves, acts, and produces results. To grow our faith, we must be doers of the Word, putting what we believe into practice daily.

Even Jesus acknowledged varying levels of faith, referring to those with "no faith," "little faith," and "great faith." Our goal should be to grow in our faith so that we are known for having great faith. Let it never be said of us, “O you of little faith!” We must feed our faith daily with the Word of God and consistently exercise it by putting His Word into action.

The Consequence of Neglect

Faith, like any muscle, needs to be exercised and nourished; otherwise, it will become weak and anemic. The result is doubt, wavering, and unbelief. Just as neglected muscles lose strength and

tone, neglected faith becomes fragile and ineffective. This is why it is essential to feed on the Word and put it into practice every day.

As you consistently nurture and exercise your faith, it will grow stronger, and you will become a person of great faith. Let us commit to developing our faith, knowing that as we do, we are becoming more equipped to live the victorious life that God has called us to.

Principle 5

4 Ways to Strengthen Your Faith

Strengthening your faith is essential for overcoming doubts and remaining steadfast in your spiritual journey. Here are four practical ways to fortify your faith:

1. Be Vigilant

The apostle Paul advises us to "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13). Faith requires constant vigilance. Just as a guard must be alert to protect against threats, so must we be attentive to what we believe. Faith is described as a fight in 1 Timothy 6:12, and the enemy seeks to undermine it through doubt, fear, and unbelief. To counter this, you need to be aware of his tactics (2 Corinthians 2:11) and prepare to resist them. This is no time to relax or let your guard down. Strengthen your faith by remaining alert and steadfast.

2. Focus on Jesus

Keeping your focus on Jesus is crucial. While it might sound simplistic, it's profoundly impactful. Jesus is described as the "author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). Your faith begins with Him and is completed by Him. Doubt often creeps in when we shift our attention away from Jesus. Distractions abound, but maintaining your focus on Him is essential for a strong faith. Make a conscious effort to center your thoughts and actions around Jesus to sustain your faith.

3. Know the Truth

Understanding and knowing the truth is foundational to faith. Your faith is built upon your knowledge of God's Word. It's impossible to have faith in what you don't know. Conversely, knowing the

truth makes it nearly impossible for your faith to be shaken. Jesus proclaimed, “I am THE truth” (John 14:6), emphasizing that there is only one truth. To recognize falsehoods or counterfeits, you need to be intimately acquainted with the real truth. Just as bank tellers are trained to identify counterfeit money by becoming familiar with genuine currency, knowing the truth of God’s Word helps you discern false teachings. Romans 10:17 tells us, “Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word.” Regularly reading, hearing, and meditating on Scripture deepens your understanding of the truth and strengthens your faith.

4. Speak God's Word

Confessing God’s Word is a powerful way to maintain strong faith, especially when faced with challenges. Speaking God's Word releases divine power into your life and builds faith in your heart. As 2 Corinthians 4:13 states, “the spirit of faith is I believe therefore I speak.” When your faith is weak, it’s easy to speak words of doubt and unbelief. Instead, hold firmly to your faith and continually declare what God’s Word says. When Jesus faced temptation, He responded with, “It is written...” (Matthew 4:4). Similarly, speaking God’s Word helps to reinforce and strengthen your faith.

Conclusion

In your journey of faith, remember to praise the Lord throughout the trials. You are not alone in this fight. Regardless of the challenges you face, God is with you. The apostle Paul referred to the fight of faith as a “good” fight—a fight that we win. The key is perseverance. If you don’t give up, you will emerge victorious. Let this be an encouragement to contend for your faith, knowing that we are living in an extraordinary time.

Stay vigilant, focused, knowledgeable, and vocal about God’s Word, and you will find your faith strengthened and resilient.

Principle 6

Learning to Trust God

Trusting God is a foundational aspect of faith, yet it's often easier said than done. Life's uncertainties and challenges can make it difficult to fully place our confidence in God. However, learning to trust Him is a journey that leads to deeper peace, understanding, and spiritual growth.

Learning to trust God is an ongoing journey that deepens our relationship with Him. When we truly know who God is, His character, faithfulness, love, and grace we can grow in our ability to trust God. As we do, we'll discover the peace and assurance that comes from knowing our lives are in His capable hands.

The simplest definition of faith is to “fully trusting God” so developing our trust in God is crucial. In fact, every promise of God is conditioned upon trusting Him. He has promised to meet your needs (Philippians 4:19), but to you really believe and trust God to follow through. The more you trust God; the more God is able to meet the needs in your life.

You don't get faith or gain trust in God by sitting in a Bible study group or just talking about it. Faith is like a muscle; it develops by being used. The more you use your faith, the more it gets stretched. And the more it gets stretched; the more God is able to bless your life.

God uses circumstances and trials to stretch our faith and grow our trust. Peter tells us, *"These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold"* (1 Peter 1:7a NLT).

There are four common trials that God uses to test our faith, and, chances are, you're in one of these tests right now. When you go through them, you can know that it is an opportunity for you to develop your faith so you can trust God more. I'll talk about the first two today and the next two tomorrow.

1. **The Pressure Test**

The pressure test asks the question, "How will you handle stress?" Will you depend on yourself, or will you depend on God? Psalm 50:15 says, "*Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me*" (NIV). Do you turn to God when you're in trouble and not to other things?

2. **The People Test**

God often uses people in your life to test and stretch and develop your faith. This test asks the question, "How will you handle disappointment?" Life is often disappointing. Careers, marriages, and even plans don't turn out the way we planned them. But the most disappointing thing in life is people. Why? We get disappointed by people because we expect them to meet a need that only God himself can meet. This is a test!

Your problem is not the people in your life. Your problem is your response to the people in your life. People are not the problem, and they're not the answer to the problem, either. The answer is God. When you expect other people to be your savior, you're setting yourself up for disappointment.

3. **The Persistence Test**

The Persistence Test answers the question: "Will you keep your commitments?" Life is about making commitments. The problem we have today is that most people are half committed to two dozen things instead of being totally committed to the one or two things in life that really matter for now and eternity. That's a waste! While weak people give excuses, wise people find the time and way to do what they say they will do. Do you want to be a weak person or a wise person? The Persistence Test shows what kind of character you're developing.

4. **The Priorities Test**

This is the most important test, and it asks, "Who will be first in your life?" How do you know if God is really the first priority in your life? Ask yourself three questions: *What do*

you think about the most? Where does your money go first? How do you spend your time? Your answers will reveal the priorities in your life.

God has eternal rewards in store for you if you pass the Priorities Test. The Bible promises, *“God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him”* (James 1:12 NLT). A crown of life is a symbol of all that God wants to do in your life—all the blessings he wants to bestow on you, all the needs he wants to meet, and all the rewards he wants to give you in heaven. What a deal!

Obviously, there are other ways to develop our trust in God, spending time in His Word, spending more time with Him is prayer, praising and thanking Him, just getting to know Him more. The more you know God the more you will trust Him.

Trusting God has its challenges. Life can be unpredictable and full of hardship. From losing a job to the death of a loved one, we all face difficulties that can shake our faith. In trying times, it’s normal to have doubts and questions. This is the real test. When things are tough, and it feels like everything is against you will you still trust God?

What happens if you trust in the Lord? Look at God’s promise in Isaiah 49:23: *“Those who hope in me will not be disappointed”* (NIV).

Jeremiah 17:7 says, *“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence”* (NLT).

Proverbs 3:5 and 6 says, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”*

Learning to trust God regardless of the situation or circumstance is a huge key to a life of faith.

Principle 7

What is Real Faith?

Introduction

When you say the word faith it creates all kinds of different thoughts and ideas. Often people immediately think of being religious, being a person of faith. Some people immediately have a negative response because of things they have read or seen supposedly done in the name of “faith”. I want to challenge you to take a look at faith from a fresh perspective. When you discover what the Bible says and teaches about faith you will begin to understand what real Biblical faith is and it will revolutionize your life of faith.

The apostle Peter called it “Genuine Faith”.

“This is necessary so that your faith may be found genuine. (Your faith is more valuable than gold, which will be destroyed even though it is itself tested by fire.) Your genuine faith will result in praise, glory, and honor for you when Jesus Christ is revealed.” (1 Peter 1:7)

Real faith is supernatural, it has the power to change things and bring the Word of God to pass in your life. True faith is valuable, and it will always bring glory to God.

What Faith is Not

To better understand what something is, is to know what it is not. There are three misconceptions about biblical faith that we need to be aware of, 3 things faith are not.

1. Faith is Not Be Religious

Many people believe they have faith simply because they feel strongly about their beliefs. They may say, "I have a deep feeling inside that I'm a Christian." They think because they religiously go to church, read the Bible, give in the offering, pray, etc. they have faith.

But the Bible teaches that faith is not a vague, internal feeling disconnected from the objective truth revealed by God. Faith is not something that originates within us and is based on our emotions or well-meant intentions.

Trusting in our feelings or actions, being religious is not the test of real faith. Bible warns us about the dangers of relying on our feelings or logic. Proverbs 28:26 tells us, *"Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered."* Similarly, Jeremiah 17:9 declares, *"The heart is deceitful above all things."*

This doesn't mean that faith never stirs our emotions—it certainly should! The Gospel is, after all, the greatest news ever. But true faith is not just about religious feelings; it's about believing in the heart the truth found in Scripture . Anything less is not biblical faith.

2. Faith is Not Believing Without Evidence

Real faith is NOT blind faith. Biblical faith does require abandoning reason, as if faith is a leap into the unknown. Real faith can withstand an honest examination of the truth .

The apostle John wrote about his firsthand experience with Jesus: *"That which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life"* (1 John 1:1). Paul also referenced hundreds of witnesses to Jesus' resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:5-8, grounding faith in verifiable events. Faith is not just about what we see but also about what the

Scriptures consistently testify. The Bereans in Acts 17:10-12 are praised for verifying Paul's teachings against Scripture.

So, biblical faith doesn't require you to turn off your brain. It's not about believing without reason; it's about believing because of the evidence and truth revealed by God.

3. Faith is Not Just Positive Thinking

Real faith is not mind over matter, it is not metaphysics, it is not just positive thinking. The Bible makes it clear the object of our faith is what gives it meaning and power. Biblical faith is not about wishing things into existence through positive thinking. While it's good to be positive and surround yourself with uplifting people, positive thinking alone is not biblical faith.

Hebrews 11:6 says, *"Without faith, it is impossible to please [God], for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."* Real faith is powerful because it trusts in God, who is always reliable and true. Our focus is on the Word of God - Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith. (Hebrew 12:2)

What Faith Is

If faith isn't a feeling, wishful thinking, or a positive attitude, then what is it? Hebrews 11:1 gives us a clear definition: *"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* True biblical faith creates a deep certainty about the unseen realities promised by God. But there's more. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:8, *"By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."*

Do you ever wonder why you believe what you do? When you pray, how do you know God hears you? This assurance comes from God

graciously revealing Himself to you. Faith is a gift from God—a gift He wants you to embrace and enjoy.

Hebrews 11:1 makes it clear faith goes beyond just believing. Even the demons believe. (James 2:19) Faith is not hope – hope is the start, but faith brings hope into the now with substance. Faith has evidence, which is the actions we take. Faith without action is mere superstition.

Real Faith Has 3 Essential Components

1. **Knowledge:** Knowledge from God's Word. Faith is built on what we know about God. The New Testament tells us that the foundation of faith comes from knowing God personally. Jesus said in John 17:3, "*This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*" We come to know God through His Son, Jesus Christ. John 1:18 says, "*No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*" Knowing Jesus is the foundation of our faith.
2. **Assent:** Once we know certain truths about God, we must agree with them. Faith involves acknowledging that these truths are real and should be believed. As we read the Bible and encounter the claims of Jesus Christ, we find in Him someone who compels belief. Even when we resist, the reality of who Jesus is and what He has done draws us to believe. Just have knowledge about Jesus is not enough, we must accept and agree.
3. **Trust:** Finally, genuine faith involves trust. Knowledge and assent alone are not enough. James 2:19 says, "*Even the demons believe.*" Demons know the truth about God, but they don't have saving faith. True faith requires moving from simply knowing about God to fully trusting Him. Jesus calls us to trust in Him actively. In Matthew 11:28-

29, He invites us, "*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*" Faith is an active trust in God based on the truth we've come to know and believe. In other words, real faith produces actions. Faith without action is dead. (James 2:20)

Is your faith real or are you pretending? Real faith is sincere and genuine. It is solid, unchanging, and remains for a lifetime. It is not fake, nor is it temporary. It is based on Jesus the Word of life. I urge you to examine your faith. Do you have genuine faith? Is it sincere and real or has works crept in so slowly we didn't even notice? No matter what you find when you examine yourself, God's power, along with His Word, can move you to even greater levels of faith.

Principle 8

Putting Faith into Action

Unlocking the Power of God's Word

Throughout Scripture, both the Old and New Testaments, we witness how God's people have achieved incredible feats by putting their faith into action. These examples serve as powerful reminders of how faith can transform ordinary situations into extraordinary miracles.

Faith in Action in the Old Testament

Consider the story of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho (Joshua 6:2-5, 16, 20). God had promised Joshua that Jericho would fall into the hands of the Israelites, but this divine promise didn't come with an immediate, effortless victory. Instead, God provided Joshua with a detailed plan: the Israelites were to march around the city once a day for six days, and on the seventh day, they were to circle the city seven times before shouting. The key was to act on this word of instruction in faith.

Despite the seemingly impractical strategy—marching around a fortified city without immediate evidence of success—the Israelites obeyed. Their faith was demonstrated not just in their belief but in their actions. When they followed God's instructions to the letter, the walls of Jericho miraculously collapsed, allowing them to capture the city.

This story highlights a crucial lesson: faith involves action. It's easy to believe in God's promises when everything is going well, but true faith is tested when we act on God's word despite our circumstances. Like the Israelites, we need to act upon God's promises with the confidence that He will fulfill them.

Faith in Action in the New Testament

In the New Testament, we see faith in action through the story of the paralytic man and his friends (Luke 5:18-20, 24, 25). When a man with palsy was brought to Jesus, the crowd was so dense that his friends couldn't reach Jesus through the door. Undeterred, they climbed onto the roof and lowered the man down into the room.

Jesus was moved by their persistent faith and told the paralytic, "Man, your sins are forgiven." He then instructed the man to rise and walk. The healing didn't happen in the absence of action. The friends' faith was evident in their refusal to give up, and the man's faith was shown in his willingness to obey Jesus' command despite his physical condition. His healing was a direct result of their faith in action.

This story reinforces the idea that faith is not passive. It requires us to take bold steps, even when obstacles seem insurmountable. The determination of the friends and the obedience of the paralytic man brought about a miraculous healing.

Faith in Action in the Twentieth Century

Faith in action continued to be evident in the twentieth century. One memorable example involves a healing service where a lady in a wheelchair was encouraged to walk by an evangelist. While three out of four people in wheelchairs followed the command and experienced healing, the fourth person remained hesitant, saying she couldn't walk because she hadn't done so in years. The difference was in action. Those who acted on their faith experienced miraculous results.

Another inspiring example is a man who had been unable to walk due to severe burns. When told to run, he started by scooting but eventually began to walk normally, demonstrating that faith requires action and often leads to unexpected breakthroughs.

These modern examples show that faith in action can still lead to miracles today. They remind us that believing is not enough; we must act on our faith to see God's promises fulfilled in our lives.

The Role of Faith in Receiving the Holy Spirit

Faith in action is also crucial in receiving the Holy Spirit. As seen in Acts 19:1-6, Paul asked the disciples if they had received the Holy Spirit, highlighting that the gift had already been given by God. The act of receiving the Holy Spirit involves stepping out in faith, similar to receiving any other gift from God.

In practical terms, receiving the Holy Spirit requires us to believe in God's promise and act on it. Just as in other miracles, we must act on the Word of God by believing and receiving. Faith is not about begging or pleading; it's about accepting what God has already provided.

Paul's interactions with new believers illustrated that receiving the Holy Spirit is a spiritual experience that requires faith in action. The Holy Spirit empowers us, but we must respond to His presence and cooperate with His guidance.

Conclusion

Faith is more than just belief; it's about taking action on that belief. From the walls of Jericho to modern-day miracles, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, the pattern remains the same: faith is demonstrated through action. As James 1:22 says, ***“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.”*** To unlock the power of God's Word in our lives, we must act on it with unwavering faith, just as those who came before us did.

Principle 9

Grace and Faith – You Need Both

Grace and Faith: The Perfect Partnership

To fully experience the blessings and promises of God, grace and faith must work hand in hand. As Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us, *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."* Notice that it doesn't say we are saved by grace alone or by faith alone; it emphasizes that both are essential. Grace is God's provision, and faith is our response. Together, they unlock the fullness of God's salvation and promises. You need both!

Grace and Faith: A Dynamic Duo for Possessing God's Promises

The relationship between grace and faith extends beyond salvation. Every promise of God—whether it's protection, wisdom, healing, provision, favor, or direction—is accessed through the combination of grace and faith. Grace represents what God has already accomplished through Jesus Christ, while faith is our active trust in His finished work. It is this synergy of grace and faith that manifests God's promises in our lives. Without both, we miss out on the fullness of what God has for us.

Avoiding the Pitfalls: The Imbalance of Grace or Faith Alone

Here lies the challenge: some people focus exclusively on grace, while others emphasize faith to the exclusion of grace. Those who concentrate only on faith may fall into the trap of trying to earn God's favor through their efforts—praying, fasting, giving, or serving in hopes of compelling God to act. On the other hand, those who focus solely on grace might adopt a passive attitude,

simply waiting for God to move without taking any steps of faith. Both approaches lead to disappointment, emptiness, and discouragement.

Grace: God's Part in the Equation

Grace is often described as unmerited or undeserved favor. It is God's gift to us, independent of our actions. Grace is all about what God has already done for us through Jesus Christ. His work is complete, and nothing we do can add to it. God's grace is His part of the equation—a finished work available to us.

Faith: Our Response to God's Grace

Faith, on the other hand, is our active response to what God has already done. It's defined as fully trusting in God, believing without wavering or doubting that He has fulfilled His promises. Faith is not about relying on our own efforts or goodness; it's about placing our trust in God's grace. When we respond in faith, we take hold of what God has provided.

God Has Already Done His Part

Here's the key: God has already completed His part through grace. Our role is to believe and receive by faith. It's not merely the truth that sets us free; it's the truth that we know and apply. As John 8:32 says, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Faith requires knowledge of God's promises. Romans 10:17 tells us, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." To have faith, we must first know what God has promised us.

Faith Must Respond to Grace

Without knowledge of God's promises, it's impossible to believe and have faith. Hosea 4:6 warns, "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge." Your part is to know God's Word, believe it, and respond in faith. Grace without faith cannot save you, and faith that isn't grounded in God's grace is bound to fail.

However, when you place your faith in what God has already done through grace, you receive the fullness of His provision. As 1 John 5:4 declares, "This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith." Faith is the key to living in victory.

Believe and Trust God

Remember this: God has done His part—grace. Now, it's up to you to do your part—faith. Believe and trust Him fully. Numbers 23:19 reassures us, "*God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?*" What God has done through grace is yours, but it takes both grace and faith working together to bring His promises to fruition in your life.

When taken individually, grace or faith alone can lead to spiritual imbalance. But when combined, they become the essential elements of a thriving spiritual life. Like salt, which is vital for our physical well-being, grace and faith are vital for our spiritual well-being. You need both to truly live.

Principle 10

Don't Overestimate Your Faith

The Apostle Peter serves as a profound example of how we can sometimes overestimate our faith. In John 13:36-38, we see Peter, full of zeal and confidence, declaring his unwavering loyalty to Jesus. "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you," Peter boasted. But Jesus, knowing the future, responded, "Will you really lay down your life for me?" Within days, Peter would deny Jesus three times.

Peter's denial wasn't due to a lack of faith; rather, it was the result of **overestimating his faith**. He sincerely believed he was ready to follow Jesus to the point of death, but Jesus knew better. Jesus knew the exact measure of Peter's faith, just as He knows ours. Romans 12:3 reminds us that each of us has been given a measure of faith, but it's vital to recognize where that measure currently stands.

The Reality of Overestimating Faith

There will be times in our lives when our faith is tested, and like Peter, we may find ourselves falling short. It's easy to overestimate our faith, especially when we are confident in our spiritual journey. We might waver, experience doubt, or struggle in areas we thought we had mastered. However, these moments are not failures; they are opportunities to grow, to learn to trust Jesus more deeply, and to develop our faith further.

Faith is a work in progress, not a static achievement. It grows as we exercise it, just as muscles grow stronger with use. So, what should we do when we realize our faith isn't as strong as we thought? The answer is simple: practice the measure of faith you do have. Trust and follow Jesus to the best of your ability, knowing that He is with

you always. He will provide the grace you need while you continue to develop the faith required to face even greater challenges.

2 Corinthians 5:7 tells us, "*For we live by faith, not by sight.*" This verse is a reminder that our lives as Christians are to be lived by faith in Christ, not by relying on our own understanding or the physical realities around us. Faith is the currency of the kingdom of God, and it is by faith that we receive everything from God—salvation, wisdom, direction, and more. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

Faith in God, Not in Faith Itself

However, it is crucial to understand that it is not faith in our faith that brings about God's promises. It is faith in God and His Word. We can always trust God because He is faithful, even when we are not (2 Timothy 2:13). Our faith should be focused on Him, not on our ability to believe. When we overestimate our faith, we shift our focus from God to ourselves, which can lead to failure. Instead, we must remember that Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Peter, one of Jesus' closest disciples, is a powerful example of this truth. As part of Jesus' inner circle and a pillar of the early church, Peter often demonstrated great faith. He followed Jesus, cast his nets into the deep when instructed, and even stepped out of the boat to walk on water. Yet, despite these acts of faith, Peter was not ready to follow Jesus to the cross, even though he believed he was. He overestimated his faith, thinking he was stronger than he was.

Learning from Peter's Example

Like Peter, there will be times when our faith is tested, and we may overestimate its strength. We may face questions, challenges, and difficulties that seem beyond our current level of faith. We might

waver, doubt, or struggle, but these are moments to learn and grow. Romans 10:17 tells us that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Our faith grows as we immerse ourselves in God's Word and allow it to shape our hearts and minds.

Jesus knows our hearts. He knows our weaknesses and the exact measure of faith we have, just as He knew Peter's. The good news is that while we often overestimate our own faith, we also underestimate the grace and willingness of Jesus to help us in our moments of weakness. Jesus uses these moments to help us grow, not to condemn us.

This understanding is not an excuse for failure or for not striving to live by faith. Instead, it should challenge us to develop our faith even more, to look to Jesus, the perfecter of our faith, and to rely on Him more fully. Jesus does not expect us to exercise faith we haven't yet developed. He asks us to use the faith we have, trusting that He will be with us every step of the way.

Conclusion: Practicing and Growing in Faith

So, practice the measure of faith you have. Trust and follow Jesus as best as you can, and rest in the assurance that He is with you always. He will provide the grace you need as you develop the faith required to follow Him to places you may not be able to go right now. As you continue to grow in faith, remember that it is not about the strength of your faith, but about the faithfulness of the One in whom you trust. This is your breakthrough word—don't overestimate your faith, but don't underestimate God's grace and His ability to help you grow in faith every day.

Principle 11

Enemies of Faith

How to Recognize and Overcome Them

In earlier chapters we've shared several aspects of faith. We've explored what it means to live by faith, what real faith is, how to develop your faith, how to activate your faith, and what makes faith effective. In this chapter we're focusing on a critical aspect: **The Enemies of Faith.**

In 1 Timothy 6:12, the Apostle Paul exhorts us to “*fight the good fight of faith*.” Notice that Paul refers to faith as a “fight.” If faith is a fight, there must be an adversary. In fact, there are several enemies that seek to undermine your faith. We will cover six of the primary enemies to your faith:

1. Lack of Knowledge

Hosea 4:6 declares, “*My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge.*” This verse specifically refers to the knowledge of God's Word. You can only have faith for what you know God's Word says. Ignorance, misinformation, and wrong teaching about God's Word can destroy faith. Romans 10:17 states, “Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God.” Without a solid understanding of God's promises and what His Word provides, your faith is vulnerable. A lack of knowledge about God's Word is one of the most significant enemies of faith.

2. Lack of Hope

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hope is the framework on which faith is built. Without hope, faith has nothing to attach itself to. When you lose hope, you also lose the foundation for your faith. Therefore, a lack of hope is a direct enemy of faith.

3. Lack of Focus

Hebrews 12:2 (Amplified Bible) advises us to “look away from all that will distract us and focus our eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Perfecter of faith.” Our faith matures when we maintain our focus on Jesus. If we allow ourselves to be distracted by circumstances and lose sight of God's promises and the Promise Maker Himself, our faith is compromised. Abraham's faith succeeded because he didn't focus on the circumstances—he and Sarah were too old to have children—but instead kept his focus on God's promise and on God's ability to fulfill it (Romans 4). Lack of focus on Jesus, the perfecter of our faith, is a serious enemy of faith.

4. Lack of Patience

Hebrews 6:12 tells us, “Through faith and patience, we inherit the promises.” Patience is a crucial ingredient in the recipe for faith. Without patience, faith cannot fulfill its purpose. Patience understands that God's Word never fails and that He watches over His Word to perform it. Faith not only believes that God exists but also trusts that He rewards those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 12:6). If we grow impatient and fail to wait for God's perfect timing, we risk aborting our faith. Galatians 6:9 reminds us, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” A lack of patience is one of the most formidable enemies of faith.

5. Lack of Belief

Lack of belief can manifest as unbelief, disbelief, or doubt. **Unbelief** is the absence of faith but does not necessarily deny the truth. **Disbelief** outright rejects the truth. For instance, if I say, “You must be born again to enter the Kingdom of Heaven,” and read the relevant verses from John 3, you might say, “I don't believe that.” That's disbelief. Alternatively, you might acknowledge the truth but say, “I know I should, but I'm not ready,” which reflects unbelief. **Doubt** doesn't deny the truth of

God's Word; it hesitates to fully embrace it. James 1:6 warns us to "ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind." Doubt causes you to waver at God's promises, vacillating between belief and unbelief. All three—unbelief, disbelief, and doubt—are enemies of faith.

6. Fear

Fear is the direct opposite of faith. It is a spirit that seeks to intimidate you and prevent you from believing in God's promises. While faith activates God, fear activates the devil. Satan aims to steal, kill, and destroy your life (John 10:10), and fear is one of his primary tools. He bombards your mind with negative thoughts and false evidence, making you doubt God's promises. 2 Timothy 1:7 reassures us, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." If fear knocks at your door, answer with faith, and fear will flee. Fear is indeed one of the most potent enemies of faith.

Fighting the Good Fight of Faith

Paul described the fight of faith as a "good" fight because it's a fight you are destined to win. You can always go to God in prayer, seeking His divine guidance, and trust that He will help you overcome every enemy of faith. 1 John 5:4 encourages us, "*For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.*"

Your faith is precious, and it's worth fighting for. Recognize these enemies, confront them with the truth of God's Word, and stand firm in your faith, knowing that God is with you every step of the way.

Principle 12

Faith Additives

Supercharging Your Faith for Greater Effectiveness

In this chapter, we're shifting our focus to something often overlooked or totally missed when it comes to having a faith that works. We are going to share about addition ingredients we need to help make our faith effective and productive I call them "FAITH ADDITIVES". In fact, the Bible specifically mentions seven of them.

Just as a car engine needs more than just fuel to run smoothly, your faith needs more than just the Word of God to be fully effective. Think of these seven qualities as "Faith Additives"—vital elements that, when added to your faith, make it highly productive and efficient.

Faith is like the engine of a car. The engine is the powerhouse that propels the car to its destination. Similarly, faith is the spiritual power that moves you toward your divine purpose. But no matter how sleek or impressive a car looks, without a functioning engine, it's not going anywhere. In the same way, your life may appear outwardly successful, and you may have a deep love for the Lord, but if your faith isn't operating effectively, you'll struggle to reach your spiritual destination.

Just as an engine requires not only fuel but also oil, water, antifreeze, and other fluids to run smoothly, your faith needs certain "additives" to function at its best. While the Word of God is the fuel that powers your faith, these additives are necessary to ensure your faith operates properly and efficiently.

The Apostle Peter outlines these seven additives in 2 Peter 1:5-8:

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (NIV)

Notice in verse 8, Peter emphasizes that possessing these qualities in increasing measure ensures your faith will be **effective and productive**. Let’s take a closer look at each of these additives to understand their importance and how they enhance your faith.

1. Goodness

Goodness refers to virtue, integrity, and character. It means being a person of honesty and moral excellence. When you add goodness to your faith, you are determined to do what is right, safeguarding yourself against pride, greed, and selfishness. Without integrity, faith can be misused and perverted. Goodness ensures that your faith is employed in alignment with God’s will. Make it a priority to add goodness to your faith.

2. Knowledge

Peter is referring to the knowledge of God’s Word, not mere natural knowledge. Continuously acquiring spiritual truth through the study of Scripture is essential. Hosea 4:6 warns that people perish due to a lack of knowledge—specifically, knowledge of God’s Word. Understanding God’s ways brings balance to your faith, preventing misuse and misunderstanding. Proverbs 1:7 states, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.” True knowledge begins with reverence for God and grows through studying and meditating on His Word. Be diligent in adding knowledge to your faith.

3. Self-Control

Self-control is a sign of spiritual maturity. It means being a “doer of the Word, not just a hearer” (James 1:22). A lack of self-control indicates “baby faith,” where one is ruled by their fleshly desires and impulses, much like an infant who needs constant supervision to avoid harm. As you grow spiritually, you learn to put away childish behaviors (1 Corinthians 13:11) and allow the Word of God to govern your heart, soul, and mind. Self-control is crucial for maintaining a strong and effective faith. Be sure to add self-control to your faith.

4. Perseverance

Perseverance, or patience, enables us to endure trials and challenges without losing hope or faith. It means being steadfast, determined, and consistent, fully committed to God even when circumstances are difficult. Through perseverance, we grow in resilience, relying on God’s strength and trustworthiness, and our faith becomes unshakable. Without this additive, we risk “short-circuiting” our faith. Hebrews 10:23 encourages us to “hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering,” and Hebrews 6:12 reminds us, “We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.” Hebrews 10:36 further emphasizes, “You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.” Don’t miss out on what God has promised by giving up too soon—add perseverance to your faith.

5. Godliness

Godliness means living with a deep reverence for God, reflecting His character and holiness in every aspect of your life. It’s a devotion that prioritizes God, seeking His presence and aligning your thoughts, words, and actions with His divine nature. Practicing

godliness deepens your intimacy with God and nurtures a faith that influences every area of your existence. The opposite of godliness is ungodliness—being irreverent, profane, or wicked. 1 Timothy 4:8 reminds us that godliness is profitable in all things. Godliness ensures that your faith is used to fulfill God’s plans and purposes, not just to satisfy earthly desires. Make it a goal to add godliness to your faith.

6. Brotherly Affection

Brotherly affection, or kindness, directs our hearts, minds, and wills toward pleasing God. It fosters unity, support, and compassion within the body of Christ and expresses a genuine concern for fellow believers. As we extend love and care to one another, we demonstrate the transformative power of God’s love and bear witness to the reality of our faith. Kindness keeps our faith from becoming inwardly focused and selfish. Like other fruits of the Spirit, kindness can only be cultivated by abiding in Christ. It’s more than just being nice—add brotherly affection to your faith.

7. Love

Love is the pinnacle of all the additives to faith. Galatians 5:6 tells us that “faith works by love.” Love serves as the foundation upon which our faith is built and manifests itself in acts of kindness, forgiveness, and compassion. It’s a selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional love that mirrors God’s love for us and fuels our love for others. Love ensures that our faith is motivated by the right intentions. Without love, our faith is worthless—it’s just noise, and we gain nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-4). Make sure your faith is grounded in love.

Conclusion

By intentionally developing and incorporating these additives into our faith, we build a solid foundation for our spiritual journey. As we cultivate goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love, our faith becomes dynamic, transformative, and resilient. Let us embrace these virtues, empowered by the Holy Spirit, as we walk the path of faith, shining as a testament to the transformative work of God in our lives.

Faith is not a solitary pursuit; it thrives when supported by these seven additives. So, check the level of your faith additives today and make the necessary adjustments. As you do, your life will become more productive and effective for the kingdom of God, bringing glory to Him!

NOTES:

Principle 13

Faith Like a Mustard Seed

In Matthew 17:20, Jesus tells His disciples, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, '*Move from here to there,*' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." This powerful statement conveys a profound truth about faith—its impact is **not** determined by its size, but by its **potential** when placed in God.

The Kingdom of God and the Mustard Seed

Jesus often used parables to illustrate spiritual truths, and the mustard seed was one of His favorite analogies. In Luke 13:18-19, He says, "*What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches.*"

Here, Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed, emphasizing its humble beginnings and extraordinary growth. Just as the mustard seed, though tiny, grows into a large tree that provides shelter and sustenance, so too does the kingdom of God start small within us but have the potential to grow and profoundly impact the world around us.

The Power of Faith

The miracle of moving mountains, as mentioned in Matthew 17:20, teaches us that faith has the power to overcome the seemingly impossible. The disciples' inability to cast out a demon from a boy (Matthew 17:17-21) highlights the importance of spiritual discipline. They had the authority given by Jesus but failed because their faith was not properly cultivated. Faith must be

nurtured through a consistent spiritual walk, marked by prayer and fasting.

The apostle Paul uses Abraham as an example of unwavering faith in Romans 4:20-22: "No unbelief or distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God, fully satisfied and assured that God was able and mighty to keep His word and to do what He had promised."

Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness because he believed in God's promises, even when circumstances seemed impossible. This teaches us that faith is not about the magnitude of our belief but about the steadfastness of our trust in God.

The Role of Intercession

Interestingly, many of the healings Jesus performed were in response to the prayers of others. The story of the father who pleaded for the healing of his demon-possessed son (Mark 9:19, 23-24) is a testament to this. His desperate plea, "Have compassion on us, and help us," demonstrated a timid yet genuine faith that Jesus honored.

This highlights an essential aspect of faith—its communal nature. Faith is not just personal; it is also intercessory. We can exercise faith on behalf of others, and God responds to our prayers, even when our faith feels small or uncertain.

The Mustard Seed Faith

The key to mustard seed faith is not the size of our belief but the greatness of the God we believe in. Jesus says in Mark 9:23, "*All things are possible to him who believes.*" This means that even the

smallest amount of faith, when directed toward God, can yield extraordinary results.

Faith acts as an open door to a relationship with God and serves as a shield during spiritual attacks. When we place our trust in God, even in the smallest measure, we align ourselves with His power and purpose.

A Bible Study on Faith

1. **What is faith?** (Hebrews 11:1; 1 John 5:4)
2. **What is the importance of proper faith?** (Hebrews 11:6)
3. **What is the relationship between faith and knowledge?** (Romans 10:17)
4. **How is faith “the gift of God”?** (Ephesians 2:8)
5. **Is faith in Christ necessary for salvation?** (Acts 4:10-12; John 3:16, 36)
6. **What is the immediate result of faith in Christ?** (Romans 5:1)
7. **How is Jesus the “author and finisher of our faith”?** (Hebrews 12:2)
8. **Is a simple confession of faith necessary?** (Romans 10:10)
9. **What is “the good fight of faith”?** (1 Timothy 6:12)
10. **What does it mean to “walk by faith”?** (2 Corinthians 5:7)
11. **Why are trials of faith permitted?** (James 1:3-4; 1 Peter 4:12-13)
12. **What are some of the present rewards of faith?** (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)
13. **What is the future inheritance of faith?** (1 John 3:2; Revelation 2:10)

As you reflect on these passages, remember that faith is not about the size of your belief but the greatness of the God you trust. With

even a mustard seed of faith, you can move mountains and experience the fullness of God's promises in your life.

Conclusion

The concept of mustard seed faith teaches us that the true power of faith lies not in its size but in its focus. When we direct our faith, no matter how small, toward God, we unlock the potential for God to work mightily in our lives. This faith, nurtured through prayer, discipline, and trust, allows us to experience the fullness of God's kingdom and His promises. Let us, therefore, cultivate our mustard seed faith, knowing that even the smallest faith, when rooted in God, can move mountains.

NOTES:

Principle 14

Mountain Moving Faith

Introduction

The concept of “mountain-moving faith” is one of the most powerful and inspiring teachings in the Bible. It illustrates the incredible potential of faith to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. In this chapter we will briefly explore what mountain-moving faith is, drawing from biblical and scriptural sources to provide a comprehensive understanding of this profound concept.

Defining Mountain-Moving Faith

Mountain-moving faith is a term derived from Jesus’ teachings in the New Testament, where He uses the image of a moving a mountain to describe the power of faith. This type of faith is not necessarily talking about physically moving mountains, but rather about overcoming the enormous challenges, difficulties, and obstacles that can seem impossible to conquer in our spiritual and everyday lives.

Scriptural Foundation

The key scriptures that discuss mountain-moving faith include:

1. **Matthew 17:20** – “He replied, ‘Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.’”
2. **Mark 11:23** – “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not

doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.”

3. **Luke 17:6** – “He replied, ‘If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, “Be uprooted and planted in the sea,” and it will obey you.’”

So, on three separate occasions, Jesus spoke of faith’s power in similar terms. While the circumstances, audience, and geographical settings varied, His message remained consistent. What did Jesus mean when He said that faith could move mountains or uproot trees? Was He speaking literally, or was there a deeper meaning behind His words? Let’s explore these passages and uncover the lessons Jesus intended to impart.

The Nature of Faith

Faith, as described in Hebrews 11:1, is “*the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” It is more than just belief; it is a confident trust in God’s promises and character. This faith is not based on visible evidence but on the assurance that God is faithful and able to fulfill His promises.

Jesus emphasizes that the effectiveness of faith does not depend on its size but on its authenticity. The mustard seed, one of the smallest seeds, grows into a large tree. Similarly, even a small, genuine faith, when nurtured and applied, can grow and produce great results.

Applying Faith in Our Lives

To have “faith that moves mountains” means to trust God in every circumstance, believing that He can overcome any obstacle in our lives. This faith is not passive; it requires action. We must align our thoughts, words, and actions with God’s promises, speaking to our “mountains” with confidence that God will move them.

For example, when faced with a difficult situation, instead of giving in to fear or doubt, we can pray with faith, trusting that God will provide a solution. It also involves perseverance, as some “mountains” may take time to move. Faith requires patience and trust in God’s timing.

How Mountain-Moving Faith Works

Mountain-moving faith operates through a few key principles:

1. **Belief in God’s Power:** The foundation of this faith is the belief that God is all-powerful and that nothing is impossible for Him. This belief is rooted in the understanding that God created the world and sustains it, and that He has the authority to alter circumstances according to His will.
2. **Trust in God’s Promises:** Mountain-moving faith is built on the promises of God as revealed in Scripture. When believers hold onto these promises, they can approach challenges with confidence, knowing that God is faithful to fulfill His word.
3. **Speaking in Faith:** In Mark 11:23, Jesus emphasizes the importance of speaking in faith: “If anyone says to this mountain...” This indicates that faith involves not only believing but also declaring God’s truth over situations. Speaking in faith aligns our words with God’s promises, which can activate God’s power in our lives.
4. **Perseverance:** Mountain-moving faith requires perseverance. Sometimes, the “mountains” in our lives do not move immediately. Faith calls for patience and trust in God’s timing, believing that He is working even when we cannot see the results right away.

Faith That Overcomes

The Apostle John wrote, “**This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**” – 1 John 5:4. Faith is not just about overcoming obstacles; it’s about living in the reality of God’s Kingdom now. Faith gives us the courage to face life’s challenges, trusting that God is at work in every situation. It empowers us to move mountains, both metaphorical and literal, and to overcome the world’s trials by relying on God’s promises.

Conclusion

Mountain-moving faith is a powerful, transformative force in the life of a believer. It is a faith that is rooted in the knowledge of God’s power, promises, and character. By understanding and applying the principles of mountain-moving faith, believers can overcome the obstacles in their lives, grow in their relationship with God, and experience His miraculous power. This faith is not about the size of our belief, but about the greatness of the God in whom we place our trust.

NOTES:

Principle 15

The Thomas Kind of Faith verses the Abraham Kind of Faith

The Bible presents two distinct kinds of faith: the "Thomas faith" and the "Abraham faith." These two types of faith illustrate a significant difference in how people can approach believing in God's promises.

Thomas' Faith: Based on Physical Evidence

Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, demonstrated a natural, human faith. This type of faith is common to everyone, whether they are believers or not. It is based on physical evidence—believing only what can be seen, touched, or proven by the senses.

In **John 20:24-29**, we see Thomas refusing to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead until he could see and touch Jesus' wounds himself. Jesus later appeared to Thomas and allowed him to do just that. However, Jesus also pointed out that true faith is not based on what we can see, saying, "*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*"

The Thomas kind of faith is a natural kind of faith based only on what we can see, touch, and figure out in our minds.

Abraham's Faith: Based on God's Promise

In contrast, Abraham had a spiritual, heart-centered faith—a faith that was based not on what he could see or feel but on what God had promised. Despite the physical impossibility of him and his wife Sarah having children at their advanced age, Abraham

believed God's promise that he would become the father of many nations.

Romans 4:17-21 highlights Abraham's unwavering faith. He didn't focus on the natural impossibility of the situation; instead, he was "fully persuaded that God had the power to do what He had promised." This is the essence of Abraham's faith: believing in God's Word above all else.

The Abraham kind of faith is based solely on the Word of God and fully trusting God. Like Abraham we are fully persuaded God will do what He said He would do regardless of what we see or feel.

The Blessing of Abraham

As believers in Christ, we are considered the spiritual descendants of Abraham, and we inherit the same blessings promised to him.

Galatians 3:14 tells us that "the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

Abraham's blessing is threefold: spiritual, physical, and material. This blessing includes spiritual growth, health, and financial provision. Because of Christ, we are redeemed from the curse of the law and are entitled to these blessings through faith.

The Importance of Abraham's Faith

Many people attempt to receive the blessings of Abraham using a "Thomas" kind of faith—believing only what they can see or feel. However, to truly experience these blessings, we must operate with an "Abraham" kind of faith, which is rooted in God's promises rather than in physical evidence.

Faith and Feelings

A common mistake is basing faith on feelings. For example, some people believe they are saved only if they feel saved. But true faith is not about feelings; it's about believing what God says in His Word. **John 15:16** reminds us that God answers our prayers not because we feel like He does but because His Word says He will.

Real Faith: Believing with the Inward Man

True faith comes from the heart—from the inward man, not from what we see or feel. **2 Corinthians 5:7** tells us, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." The real test of faith is believing God's Word, regardless of the physical circumstances.

Paul, the apostle, emphasized the importance of keeping the body (the outward man) in check so that the spirit (the inward man) could dominate. He said in **1 Corinthians 9:27**, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection." This means not letting our physical senses dictate our faith but rather allowing God's Word to guide us.

Living by Abraham Kind of Faith

Living by faith means trusting in God's Word above all else. It's about letting God's promises dictate our reality, not our physical senses. By following Abraham's example, we can experience the fullness of God's blessings in every area of our lives.

NOTES:

Principle 16

Faith Verses Presumption & Foolishness

Faith is a powerful force in the life of a believer, but it is essential to distinguish genuine Biblical faith from its counterfeits. Two of the most dangerous counterfeits are presumption and foolishness. The enemy seeks to undermine our faith by introducing these deceptive alternatives, leading us to live by a "faith that is a fraud." In addition to these, there are other counterfeits that can mislead believers, but understanding the distinctions between faith, presumption, and foolishness is crucial for walking in true Biblical faith.

Counterfeits of Faith

1. Faith Based on Personal Philosophy

One common counterfeit to genuine faith is a belief system shaped by personal experiences or the experiences of others rather than by the Word of God. This type of "faith" shifts and changes to align with what one has seen or felt, rather than what God has declared in His Word. For example, when a person encounters a situation that contradicts their understanding of God's promises, they might alter their beliefs to match their experience instead of standing firm on the Scriptures. I recently listened to a preacher who was teaching a series on faith, but his teachings were rooted in his personal philosophy rather than in Biblical truth. Although his words sounded logical and reasonable, they did not align with the Bible. This type of faith, based on human reasoning, is a counterfeit that lacks the power of genuine Biblical faith.

2. Faith in Your Faith

Another dangerous counterfeit is placing trust in one's own faith rather than in God. Real Biblical faith is about trusting in God and His promises, not in our ability to believe. When people start to

focus on the strength of their own faith instead of on the object of their faith—God—they can easily fall into self-reliance. This misplaced trust turns faith into a self-centered act, rather than a God-centered one. Genuine faith is not about the amount of faith we muster, but about the One in whom we place our faith.

Understanding Presumption and Foolishness

Presumption and foolishness often stem from a lack of understanding, knowledge, or sound teaching. Many Christians, in their desire to live by faith, unknowingly operate in presumption or foolishness instead. While their motives might be pure, the outcome is often disastrous.

Some examples include:

- **Not buying insurance** because they believe God will protect them.
- **Refusing medicine or medical treatment** because they are trusting God for healing.
- **Writing bad checks** in the belief that the money will miraculously appear before the check is cashed.
- **Refusing to work** because they believe God will provide for their needs.

These actions, while framed in the context of faith, are actually rooted in presumption and foolishness, not genuine Biblical faith.

Presumption: A False Sense of Faith

Presumption occurs when we expect God to act on our behalf without us taking the necessary steps of faith that He requires. It involves "presuming" upon God, expecting Him to fulfill His promises without us doing our part. For instance, some might cite Philippians 4:19, "*And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus,*" and conclude that there

is no need to work or take action because God will provide. This attitude is presumptive because it ignores the principle that God blesses the work of our hands (Deuteronomy 28:12). God is indeed our source, but He expects us to act in faith, which often requires effort on our part. Faith without corresponding action is not faith at all (James 2:26).

Foolishness: Misguided Actions That Tempt God

Foolishness, on the other hand, involves taking reckless actions that test or tempt God. A prime example is found in Luke 4:9-12, where Satan tempted Jesus to throw Himself off the pinnacle of the temple, quoting Scripture to justify the act. Jesus responded, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." Writing a check on an account with insufficient funds, hoping that the money will appear in time, is not an act of faith; it is foolishness. Over the years, I have witnessed many people make foolish decisions in the name of faith, jeopardizing their families, finances, and well-being.

In my three decades of ministry, I have encountered numerous individuals and families who, due to a lack of wisdom, put their children, businesses, and lives at risk, all under the guise of "faith." For example, refusing to seek medical help when it is needed, believing that "faith" alone will bring healing, is both foolish and presumptive. True Biblical faith does not disregard the practical provisions God has made available, such as doctors and medicine.

The Role of Wisdom in Faith

Our faith should not be placed in doctors or medicine, but in the Lord, who is our ultimate healer. However, utilizing medical help is not a sign of weak faith; it is acknowledging God's provision through these means. The key is to keep our trust in God while using the resources He has provided.

Living by faith requires a balance of wisdom and discernment, led by the Holy Spirit (Proverbs 1:7). While faith may sometimes seem foolish to the world, genuine Biblical faith is grounded in trusting God and His Word, even when circumstances suggest otherwise. Romans 10:17 reminds us that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." True faith is simple, yet living it out can be challenging, requiring perseverance and a constant reliance on the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is vital to be aware of the enemy's attempts to substitute true faith with presumption, foolishness, or other counterfeits. Genuine Biblical faith is rooted in a deep trust in God and His Word, not in our experiences, personal philosophies, or even in our faith itself. By staying grounded in Scripture and being led by the Spirit, we can avoid the pitfalls of presumption and foolishness and walk in the fullness of God's promises. Let us strive to live by faith, with wisdom and understanding, always alert to the enemy's schemes, and anchored in the truth of God's Word.

NOTES:

Principle 17

Faith Gives the Victory

The Apostle John boldly proclaims in 1 John 5:4, "*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*" Oh, hear me today! The victory that faith brings is not a mere afterthought, not a secondary prize to be won—it is the very essence of what it means to live as a child of the Most High God! Faith is not passive, not a wishful hope, but a dynamic, world-overcoming force that propels you into the fullness of God's promises.

The Conquering Power of Faith

Faith, my friends, is the bridge between the natural and the supernatural, the visible and the invisible. It is faith that lays hold of the unseen realities of God's kingdom and brings them into our present experience. The devil will try to hurl everything at you—fear, doubt, unbelief—attempting to shake your confidence and silence your confession. But you must hold fast to the word of your testimony, unwavering in your belief that God's Word is true, no matter what the circumstances around you might scream.

Hebrews 10:23 exhorts us to "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)." There it is! The victory of faith is not found in the absence of trials but in the steadfastness of your confession in the midst of them. The enemy would have you look at the storm and forget the Savior, but we are not moved by what we see or feel—we are moved only by the eternal, unchanging Word of God.

Faith Transforms Obstacles into Opportunities

Let me tell you something today: the faith that God gives is not weak, it is not fragile—it is robust, it is resilient, and it is relentless! Faith takes the stumbling blocks that the enemy places in your path and transforms them into steppingstones that elevate you to new heights of glory. When your faith is anchored in the Word of God, every trial becomes a testimony, every obstacle an opportunity for God to show Himself strong on your behalf.

Jesus said in Mark 11:23, "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith." Faith speaks to the mountains in your life and commands them to move—not someday, not in the sweet by-and-by, but right here, right now!

Faith Defeats the Enemy

Let us not forget that faith is a weapon in the arsenal of the believer. Ephesians 6:16 instructs us to take up "the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Faith does not shrink back in the face of the enemy; it advances, it takes territory, it quenches every fiery dart that the adversary launches your way. The enemy may come at you one way, but faith will cause him to flee seven ways!

Do not allow the doubts of your mind to rob you of the victory that is already yours. Faith presses past the limitations of the flesh, beyond the lies of the enemy, and into the very heart of God's promises. The world says, "Seeing is believing," but the kingdom of God operates on a higher law: "Believing is seeing." Faith believes what God has said before the manifestation is evident because faith knows that God cannot lie!

Faith is the Victory

When the Word of God is in your heart and in your mouth, and when you stand firm on that Word, nothing—hear me, NOTHING—can stand against you! We are not moved by what we see or feel; we are moved only by the Word of God. 2 Corinthians 5:7 declares that "we walk by faith, not by sight." Our faith is rooted in the eternal, unchanging Word of God, not in the temporal, ever-changing circumstances around us. It is by faith that we see the victory, by faith that we seize the victory, and by faith that we live in the victory that Christ has already secured for us.

Beloved, let your faith rise today! Let it break through the barriers of doubt and unbelief. Let it overcome every challenge and every trial, for this is the victory that overcometh the world—even our faith!

NOTES:

Principle 18

How Faith Works

Introduction

Faith is a powerful force. It moves mountains, heals diseases, receives answers to prayer, and brings victory. Nothing is impossible when faith is active. But if faith is so powerful, why do some people not always see the positive results they expect? The answer lies in understanding the key ingredient that makes faith truly effective: love. What is that key ingredient?

It is “Love”

Galatians 5:6 reveals a vital truth about faith: *“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”* This verse makes it clear—faith works by love. Imagine owning the most expensive and powerful car in the world. However, if that car has no engine, it won't do you any good; it won't even get you across the street. Faith operates similarly. Without love, faith is like a car without an engine—it has the potential, but it won't take you anywhere.

In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, Paul emphasizes the necessity of love for faith to be effective:

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”

You can possess the most profound faith, capable of moving mountains, but without love, it is meaningless. Love is what gives faith its power to produce real results. If your heart is filled with unforgiveness, judgmentalism, pride, selfishness, envy, malice, or strife, then you are not operating in love. Consequently, your faith will be like that powerful car without an engine—it won't get you anywhere.

Love: The Engine of Faith

The love that makes your faith work is the “God kind of love.” This love is not merely an emotion or feeling; it is a deliberate choice—a decision of your will. You must choose to love, regardless of how you feel. The good news is that, as a Christian, you already have this love within you. Romans 5:5 tells us, “The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.” You just need to choose to let it flow out of you.

Walking in Love: The Key to Faith

I encourage you to walk in love daily. Show people the goodness of God in your actions, words, and attitudes. Treat others the way Jesus would. See people the way Jesus sees them. Be quick to forgive, slow to anger, and let go of grudges. Love is not boastful or proud, and it doesn't seek revenge. This kind of love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:4-8), and it is the very thing that makes your faith work.

If you want to see faith work in your life, you must learn to walk in love. This means putting down your flesh—your carnal nature—and letting the love of God within you come forth. The secret to unlocking the power of faith in your life is simple: choose to love.

How Does Faith Work?

Faith works by love. When love is the foundation of your faith, you will see the mountains in your life move. Your prayers will be answered, and victory will be yours. So, the next time you wonder why your faith isn't producing the results you desire, ask yourself: Am I walking in love? Because the answer to how faith works is rooted in one simple truth—faith works by love!

NOTES:

Principle 19

The Key That Unlocks Your Faith

Faith is one of the most powerful forces in the universe, given to us by God to navigate through life's challenges and seize His promises. However, faith is not a passive force; it demands action. Simply having faith is not enough; we must know how to unlock and release it. The key to unlocking your faith lies in one powerful principle: **declaring God's Word.**

In 2 Corinthians 4:13, the Apostle Paul writes, "*And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believed and therefore I spoke,' we also believe and therefore speak.*" Notice what Paul is emphasizing here—not just believing, but speaking! Faith that produces results believes **and** speaks. If you only believe God's Word without speaking it, the power of faith remains dormant in your heart. It is the spoken word that activates the faith within you.

Releasing Faith through Declaration

When you declare the Word of God with your mouth, you unlock the power of faith that is stored in your heart. Ephesians 2:8 tells us that we are saved "*by grace, through faith.*" But how is this saving faith released? Romans 10:9-10 gives us the answer: "*If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.*"

This passage illustrates the process perfectly: faith begins in the heart but is released through your mouth. The act of declaring with your mouth what you believe in your heart is how you unlock the power of faith. And this principle applies not only to salvation but

to every promise of God. Whether you are believing for healing, provision, or deliverance, the process is the same. Faith develops in your heart and is released through your mouth.

Jesus' Blueprint for Faith

In Mark 11:22-24, Jesus gives us a powerful blueprint for how to release our faith: "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

Jesus is clear: to move the mountains in your life, you must do more than just believe; you must speak! Notice how Jesus mentions "believing" twice but "saying" four times. This is no accident. While both believing and speaking are essential, Jesus emphasizes the speaking part because it is the spoken word that brings the unseen into the seen realm. When you speak God's Word over your circumstances, you are giving life to the faith that resides within you.

The Power of Declaration

Job 22:28 says, "***You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you.***" That's powerful! To declare means to speak out loud with authority and emphasis. But what are we to declare? The Word of God that we believe in our hearts! The spoken word carries immense power and influence. When Jesus was tempted by the devil, He didn't just think about the Word—He spoke it out loud, saying, "It is written..." This is why Proverbs 18:21 warns us, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

Here's the key: **You must choose to declare God's Word.** The choice is yours. What words are you speaking? Are they words of

doubt, fear, and negativity, or are they words of faith, life, and victory? You alone decide what comes out of your mouth. It's natural to speak about the negative things and circumstances that surround you, but it is crucial that you make a conscious decision to declare what God's Word says, even in the face of those negative circumstances. We do not deny the facts or the reality of our circumstances; we simply choose to declare the truth of God's Word instead.

God's Word vs. Our Circumstances

Truth stands forever, but facts change. Circumstances are temporary—they change every day. Fads change, what's popular changes, what's politically correct changes, but God's Word **never** changes. Heaven and earth may pass away, but His Word stands forever (Matthew 24:35). The choice is yours: choose to declare God's Word and speak the truth!

Jeremiah 1:12 tells us that God watches over His Word to perform it. Notice that it's **His Word** that He watches over, not your words or anyone else's. Isaiah 55:11 further confirms this, saying, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." God is responsible for bringing His Word to pass, but you are responsible for declaring it.

Activate Your Faith Today

There is undeniable power in the words you speak. To unlock the power of faith, you must begin declaring God's Word. Whatever you desire from God—whether it's healing, provision, peace, or breakthrough—believe that you receive it and speak it out. Pray it, declare it, and release it through the words of your mouth.

I've compiled 31 declarations of God's Word—one for each day of the month—that you can use to begin activating your faith today. You can download them at this link –

<https://bruce-edwards.com/31-declarations>

Start declaring one each day and watch how your faith begins to unlock the promises of God in your life.

The key that unlocks your faith is declaring God's Word. Make the choice today to speak life, to speak truth, and to speak God's Word into every situation. Your faith will unlock the victory that God has already promised you!

NOTES:

Principle 20

Unshakeable Faith

We live in a broken world. The world around us is constantly being shaken. However, Hebrews 10 tells us we do not need to be shaken. verse 28 says, “Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken”. If everything around us is quaking, trembling, and shaking, how can we not be shaken? It is because we are citizens of the Kingdom of God which CANNOT be shaken. So, regardless of what is happening around us, we can have peace and joy.

How to Stay Unshaken?

It is by faith, an unshakeable faith. The good news is that faith works in every type of circumstance. Faith isn't dependent on what's happening around us because it's rooted in our unshakeable God, who is seated far above it all.

Unshakeable faith is based on total trust in God. Trust is a cornerstone of the Christian faith, woven throughout the Bible's pages. As I study the Word of God, I'm constantly reminded of the unwavering faithfulness of our heavenly Father.

Faith takes us beyond the shakable things around us and roots us in a kingdom with a King that is unshakeable. In a world filled with uncertainty, it's easy to let doubt and fear creep in. But God's Word offers us a firm foundation, inviting us to place our trust fully in Him.

Jesus tells us that trouble and trials will be a part of our life (John 16:33). But what do we do when they hit? What do we do when we can't see God actively working in our circumstances?

The Bible is filled with instruction on having a God kind of faith, how it comes, how it works, and what it is. In this lesson on “Unshakable Faith,” we are going to use Psalm 71 to learn how to have and keep a faith that is unshakeable.

In Psalm 71, we read how the writer is crying out to God for help. His troubles were piling up, and he couldn’t see God at work. Let’s look at five things he did to stand firm on God’s truth when everything around him was shaking.

1. **Ask** – Don’t hesitate to share your need with God and ask for Him to intervene. “Deliver me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked” (verse 4).
2. **Remember** – Reflect on the ways God has worked in your life and helped you in the past. Even stories from the Bible where God stepped in and delivered His people from one calamity after another. Look at what the Lord has done, and He will do it again! “For you have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth. From birth I have relied on you” (verse 5 – 6).
3. **Praise** – This is huge. Too often, we get stuck just complaining and grumbling about our problems. David never got focused on how big the giant was. In Mark 11, Jesus didn’t tell us to complain about the mountain or talk about the mountain. He said speak to the mount – “be remove”. There is power in praise! Glorify God for who He is! It will foster trust in your great God. “My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long” (verse 8).

4. **Hope** – Don't lose hope. Put your hope and trust in God to work in your circumstances. Hope is the prelude to faith. "But as for me, I will always have hope" (verse 14).
5. **Anticipate** – Watch for God to work! Anticipate His deliverance! "You will increase my honor and comfort me once again" (verse 21).

Like the psalmist, even in the midst of his trouble we can stand firm on God and His truth. We can have "**UNSHAKEABLE FAITH**". We may not see Him working, but we can take refuge in our Rock and Fortress (verse 3).

What storm rages around you today? Cry out to God for help. Praise Him and anticipate His deliverance! Unshakeable faith is a principle of faith.

NOTES:

Principle 21

Faith and Patience

“That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Hebrews 6:11-12

Faith is the hand that receives from God. In other words, all the promises and provisions God has for us are appropriated through faith. We are saved through faith. (Ephesians 2:8) The way we receive wisdom, peace, joy, favor, mercy, grace, and all of the provisions of God is through faith. However, here in Hebrews 6, we see another important principle of faith – it is “patience”.

Most of the time, when people don’t possess the promises of God, it is because they quit or give up too soon. In our culture today, people are used to getting things right away. We’ve been programmed for immediacy. People don’t like to wait. They want it now! Most of us don’t like waiting. Yet, when it comes to the Kingdom of God and receiving the promises of God, patience is part of the equation.

IT IS THROUGH FAITH AND PATIENCE THAT WE INHERIT THE PROMISES OF GOD.

God often requires those who believe for His promises to wait longer than expected for their fulfillment. Faith says I have I now even when we don’t see it, patience says I am ok waiting until I do see it.

Sometimes, it’s easy for people to have faith. We declare, “God, I believe I’m going to accomplish my dreams. God, I believe I’m going to overcome this obstacle.” But it gets harder when we have to walk in patience. A person of strong faith must be one of great

patience. We must be willing to wait for God. Faith needs patience. It is through faith *and* *patience* we inherit the promises.

What is Patience?

Patience means the capacity, or willingness, to endure waiting, delay, or provocation without becoming angry or upset. Synonyms of patience are calmness, composure, diligence, even temper, forbearance, fortitude, imperturbability, long suffering, perseverance, persistence, poise, restraint, self-control, serenity, staying power, and tolerance.

This is not a failing on God's part, of course. He has wise and good reasons for his timing in all things. He has a plan for us that is vast in scope and literally stretches into eternity, while we have one situation in view.

Patience is the opposite of frustration, impatience, agitation and intolerance. The patience that we exhibit through all the tough things we go through in life is growing our faith. As our faith grows, we become stronger and more solid in the things of God. Our faith muscles are exercised. Just as physical muscles can only grow through opposition — weights — so our spiritual muscles — our faith — grows through opposition! The more our faith and patience grows, the more we can overcome the trials, temptations and attacks of the enemy. The more we grow in faith and patience, the greater our victories become! We can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens us!

God's Timing

God's timing is perfect. He knows the beginning from the end. His perspective is eternal. We must learn to trust Him and His plan.

Abraham had to wait 25 years for the promise of Isaac to manifest. Josheph waited 14 years for God's dream to come to pass.

So, how do we handle the wait? First, you can pray, "God, I not only believe you for (whatever the promise is), but I trust Your timing. God, I'm not going to get discouraged. I know the set time is the perfect time. I'm going to wait with faith and patience because I know that it's on the way." Then, praise Him. Thank Him for the answer. The moment the doubts or questions start to invade your thinking, take them captive and thank Him; you have the answer.

Remember, through faith and patience we inherit His promises. Trust His Word, trust His timing and trust that your answer is on its way! It is a principle of faith.

NOTES:

Principle 22

Faith is Now

Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is...”. Faith is not something that is going to happen, Faith is not what already has happened. It is NOW! I hear people say, “I am hoping and believing for such and such”. That is not faith. It may be a step they need to take to get to faith, but that is not faith. They are looking for something in the future to happen.

A lot of people just hope—and stop there. And that won't work. *Faith* is the substance of things hoped for. If you say, "Well, I hope God heard my prayer," and that's all you do, He didn't, and there won't be any answer. But your faith can and will give substance to the answer to that prayer.

Remember this: Hope says, "I will have it *sometime*." Faith says, "I have it *now*." I call it “Now Faith”.

“Now faith” says that even though I don’t see or feel it, I know I have it. It is the substance and evidence of the thing that is not presently being seen. I fully persuaded God has already answered and provided.

Therefore, I can stop worrying and just thank him in advance for the work already being done, although the manifestation or the evidence may be days, weeks, months or years away.

Abraham had “now faith.”

Despite not having a child, even though it was promised to him, Abraham had to have “now faith” in order to receive the covenant and to become the father of many nations. He did not see an heir in

the natural realm, so it was probably hard for him to imagine having his descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky, but at that present time, Abraham believed.

As believers, the Bible tells us not to “look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen (2Co 4:18 NKJV). “Now” faith stakes its claim on “something...even if we do not see it” (Heb 11:1 NCV). Paul says, “We walk by faith, not by sight” (2Co 5:7 NKJV). Too often, we base our feelings on what we see instead of what God says in His Word.

Let’s use the law of gravity for an illustration. Faith is a spiritual law, and gravity is a natural law. If you step off a building, the law of gravity goes to work, and you will fall. Gravity is a “now law.” The law of gravity is there, always present tense, even though you can’t see it with your natural eyes.

The spiritual law of faith works in the same way. Even though you can’t see it, when you do the things that scripture teaches you to do to walk by faith, that law goes into effect, but it was there all along.

Faith doesn’t dwell on the mistakes and missed opportunities of the past or the uncertainties of the future because faith is always NOW. God doesn’t live in your yesterday; His name is “I AM,” not “I WAS” or “I WILL BE” – faith is now. When God appeared to Moses, He revealed His name. What is God’s name? I AM. He is not the I was, nor the I will be God, He is the great I AM, always present tense God. Today is what counts, so make a move to be your best today. Tomorrow only belongs to those who take hold of today because today is the springboard for tomorrow.

Faith is now – it is a principle of faith!

Principle 23

Hope - the Prelude to Faith

While hope is not faith, hope is extremely important. It is a principle of faith. Without hope, there will never be faith, but if you only hope, there will never be faith. Hope is one of the greatest gifts God has given us. Hope is indispensable for the Christian life, providing motivation and perseverance. It is a source of joy and strength, enabling believers to endure trials and hardships. Hope is the prelude to faith.

What is a Prelude?

A prelude is an introductory performance, action, or event preceding and preparing for the principal or a more important matter. It is the introduction or prologue. So, hope is what sets up faith. It proceeds and serves as an introduction to the main thing – faith. We need hope to have faith.

What is Hope?

Hope is a word that is used regularly in our language, but if you ask someone to define what they mean when they use it, their replies can be vague. That's because hope is a non-physical entity, something that is real, but you can't touch it. You can't touch it, but you can share it.

There is a difference between secular hope and biblical hope. In the world, hope is defined as a state of mind that wishes for good with no assurance that it will actually happen. It is defined even in the dictionary as “wishful thinking”. People “hope” in things they have no control over. *I hope the traffic will be good. I hope my sports team will win.*

The biblical definition of hope, however, is filled with assurance, certainty, and trust. It is a hope you can believe in because a trustworthy and faithful God has already promised you it will be so. Biblical hope is rooted in God's *promises* to us. **Hope is future tense.** To receive the promises, you must turn your hope into faith. However, without hope, the future is bleak, life is not worth living, and there is nothing to look forward to. Hope looks ahead and sees the possibilities.

Jesus is the Source of Hope

The Bible consistently presents God as the ultimate source of hope. In Romans 15:13, the Apostle Paul writes, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." This verse highlights that hope is not merely a human emotion, but a divine gift imparted by God through the Holy Spirit. God's nature as faithful, loving, and sovereign assures believers that their hope is well-placed.

Jesus Christ is central to the Christian understanding of hope. His life, death, and resurrection provide the basis for the hope of salvation and eternal life. In 1 Peter 1:3, it is written, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy, He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." This living hope is dynamic and transformative, offering believers assurance of their future inheritance in heaven.

Our hope in Christ is for now and for the future. We get to partake of the promises of God here and now, but we will get the full expression of our hope when Jesus comes again.

Hope is the Fuel for Our Faith

Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is the substance of things **HOPED** for”. Faith starts with hope. Hope that is based on the Word of God. Faith brings our hope into being. It is important to move from hope to faith; if you don’t, you will become discouraged and lose hope. Proverb 13:12 says, “*hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life*”. If you lose hope, you lose faith. Faith and hope are interwoven and connected.

While hope is not a substitute for faith, it has a very important and positive role to play in our life of faith. Those who just pray in hope or make a habit of hoping and praying won’t see the results they desire unless they go from hope to faith.

Let hope do its work - to prepare the way for faith. Hope is the prelude to faith – it is a principle of faith.

NOTES:

Principle 24

The Spirit of Faith

In 2 Corinthians 4:13, Paul said, " And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believed and therefore I spoke,'" we also believe and therefore speak, ." Real faith has two major parts – believing and speaking.

BELIEVING WHAT

1. Believe in God

First, we must believe that God is! Hebrews 11:6 says, “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God **must believe that He is**, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

The starting point for faith is a belief in the existence of God. God has given us various proofs in His creation to show us that He exists (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20). Believing in the fact that God created the universe will lead us to believe other things as well. First, we must believe that He is the source of all physical blessings (James 1:17). Second, we must believe that He gives us hope spiritually through Christ (2 Thessalonians 4:14; Romans 6:5; 1 Corinthians 15:20). Paul said in the next verse, “*Knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you*” (2 Corinthians 4:14).

2. Believe His Word

Second, we must believe His Word. Faith is based on and comes by the Word. Romans 10:17 says, “Faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” If you don’t believe His Word, you cannot

have faith. We must have absolute trust in His Word. Even when experience and circumstances seem to contradict what the Word says we choose to believe.

In the first part of 2 Corinthians 4, Paul talks about the ministry he was given in preaching the gospel and how he was persecuted severely and suffered hardship for his preaching. Yet, he continued to preach. This shows us his absolute faith in God's word.

God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). His word is the truth (John 17:17). If we have the spirit of faith that Paul had, then when God's word says something, we will believe it no matter what it is. People today question many things that the Bible teaches (seven-day Creation, global flood, some or all miracles, etc.). What kind of faith do we have if we do not believe what is written in the Bible? If we say we are going to believe one passage but not another, how do we decide what is believable and what is not? We must have a "spirit of faith" that believes what God's word says, just as the psalmist wrote, "*The sum of Your word is truth*" (Psalm 119:160).

The spirit of faith starts with believing God and trusting His Word. If you even doubt the Word of God, there is no way to have faith, and without faith, you cannot receive from God. "***He who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways***". (James 1:6-8)

Only Believing is Not Enough

While believing is extremely important, only believing is not enough for real faith. I have met and ministered to hundreds of people who believe, but they do not receive from God what they say they believe. Why? Because - believing alone is not enough, plus

if they are only believing with their head, it won't produce faith. There are two kinds of believing: believing with your head and believing with your heart.

Believing with Your Head – Mental Assent

Believing with your head is simply giving mental assent to what has been said or presented. It means a mere agreement in your mind without corresponding action. Mental assent means intellectually accepting the Word of God as true – admiring it and agreeing with it but not allowing it to have an impact on you so that it doesn't do any good in your life. In essence, mental assent agrees with God but does not believe in God.

The person who only believes with their head affirms that the entire Bible came from God, that it is God's revelation, and that every Word of it is true, but when a crisis comes, they put a "BUT" in their belief. They will say, "Yes, I believe the Bible is true, **BUT** it does not work for me in this situation." They can even quote scripture, but they don't really believe it. For example, they might mentally affirm the promise, "God will supply all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil 4:19", but they never trust God to do it.

Those who believe only with their head don't take action. They are able to quote scripture and know much about the Word, but there is no right corresponding action. The true believer is a doer of the Word and not a hearer only (James 1:23). The believer builds on rock, while the mental assenter builds on sand. (See Matthew 7:24-27.)

Believing with the Heart – The Spirit

Believing with the heart, on the other hand, is believing with your inward man – your spirit. In Romans 10:9, Paul said, "If you confess

with your mouth Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** God raised Him from the dead you will be saved”. Paul is explaining how now, through Christ, we are made right with God (righteousness) by faith and not by law. He then explains how that happens – believe in your heart and speak with your mouth that Jesus died, was buried, and on the 3rd day rose from the grave (that is what the gospel is).

Paul is defining the same spirit of faith here as he was explaining in 2 Corinthians 4:13, only in the context of being made right with God – being saved, which is to believe and to speak.

The word heart is not referring to the organ in our body that pumps blood to all the parts of our body. He is referring to the spirit of man or inward man. Faith requires believing in our spirit at the very center of who we are. When we believe with the heart, we are fully persuaded that what God has said is true, and nothing that we see or hear to the contrary can convince us differently. We will not waver at the promises of God.

SPEAK WHAT

If we only believe that alone does NOT produce real faith. James tells us that even the demons believe. ***“You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.”*** (James 2:19) James hits the issue of real faith head on – faith is not just believing and uses demons as his proof. Think about it. Demons believe Jesus exists. They see Him. They have watched all He has done through eternity, yet they are not saved; they don’t live a life of faith or receive the promises of God, nor will they experience eternity in heaven.

Now, believing is extremely important. Without believing, you can’t have faith. So, what else does faith need? You need to

“speak”. The spirit of faith is – “I believe, and I speak”. Speak what?

We Speak What God Has Said

Faith confidently speaks what God has said. This is huge. First, we need to understand that faith requires we speak, but second, we need to speak the Word of God. If you speak only what you think, your opinion, your philosophy, your doctrine, or even the facts, or what the news or science is reporting, it will not produce faith. Only God’s Word has the power of faith in it. When we speak the Word of God and believe it in our hearts, He performs it. (Jeremiah 1:12) He makes sure His Word is accomplished when we send it forth. (Isaiah 55:11) He will confirm His Word with signs and wonders. (Mark 16:20) God has obligated Himself to His Word. The heavens and earth will pass away, but His Word will never pass away. The grass will wither, and the flowers will fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.

Your Words Have Power

Your words are powerful. Proverbs 18:21 says, *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits*”. You’ve probably heard the phrase, “You’re going to eat those words.” There is a lot of truth to this! The words we speak are containers for power, and they have the ability to influence our lives—for good or for evil.

You Have What You Say

Jesus makes this very clear in Mark 11. In verse 23 He says, For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes

that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”

Jesus did not say you would have whatever you believe, period; he said that you will have whatever you say (when you believe it in your heart). Until your saying agrees with your believing, you aren’t exercising Bible faith or the faith that receives! It’s not enough to simply agree with the doctrines of the Bible, nodding your head in agreement as the preacher preaches on one of the powerful doctrines of the Bible is not enough. It’s what you’re saying day in and day out about that doctrine that determines what you receive.

Release Your Faith

I encourage you to begin releasing your faith through the words of your mouth. Find out what God’s Word says about you, then speak it out as often as you can. Make the decision to speak God’s Word over your life. Here are some things you can say, “*I am blessed coming and going.*” “*Whatever I put my hand will prosper*”. “*All my needs are met according to His riches in glory.*” “*I am the healed of the Lord*”. “*I have favor with God and man*”. “*My steps are ordered of the Lord.*” “*I have the peace of God in my life.*” “*I have joy unspeakable and full of glory.*” “*I am forgiven.*” “*I am a child of God.*” These are all what the Word of God says. Find the verses and write them down.

Stop speaking negative things about your life, family, finances, job, etc. I hear people say things like, “Well I am just speaking the facts, or I am just being real.” Yes, and you are sabotaging your faith and missing God’s best for your life. We never deny the facts; we just choose to believe God can change the facts, and we are going to release our faith by believing and speaking God’s Word. That’s what the spirit of faith is – a principle of faith!

Principle 25

The Gift of Faith – Special Faith

This book, for the most part, is focused on helping believers develop their faith. We are all given a measure of faith (Romans 12:3), and then it is left to us to do whatever we choose to do with that measure of faith. We can do nothing, or we can develop our faith, grow it. Jesus talked about those with no faith, little faith, and great faith. Paul commended the believers in Thessalonica because their “faith was growing more and more” (2 Thessalonians 1:3). I want to help you grow your faith and become a person of great faith, and I believe this book can help you do that.

In addition to the measure of faith every believer is given the Bible also tells us there is the “Gift of Faith”. *“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit... for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by ¹⁰the same Spirit...”* (1 Corinthians 12:4-8). In these verses Paul is teach us about the 9 gifts of the spirit, one of those gifts is – “the gift of faith”. I believe it is important for us to understand what the gift of faith is in comparison to the spirit of faith every believer has.

What is the Gift of Faith

First, the gifts of the Spirit are manifested through individual believers ONLY as the Spirit of God wills. In other words, believers can NOT decide when or where any of these gifts will be used. The gifts of the Spirit operate only when the Spirit wills them to.

Spiritual gifts are not given to the individual for personal benefit, but to 'profit' a whole assembly or body of believers. When the gifts of the Spirit are in manifestation, they will always exalt the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This is true for the gift of faith.

The gift of faith is also called the gift of special faith. There are times and situations that require someone to have “SPECIAL FAITH” to believe God for something above and beyond the natural – it is supernatural. It is when God grant to someone a special and unique endowment of faith which is beyond the ordinary. The primary use of this gift is to empower the believer in order that he might **receive** miracles. It is a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit whereby a believer is empowered with **special faith, wonderworking faith, unlimited faith** that is beyond simple (saving) or general faith. There is nothing you can do to make it happen or to have it; God does it all for you.

There have been a few times in my ministry that God has asked us to do something that seemed totally impossible. It was beyond my ability to develop the faith to believe so, God dropped “special faith” into my spirit a unique special ability to believe God beyond the ordinary and stand until the thing He has asked us to do happens.

Special Faith is Different

Special faith is different than the faith God gives for salvation and different than the measure of faith God gives us to grow and develop. Every person is given saving faith, which is also a gift. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." The faith that you are

saved by is a gift of God, but it is not one of the nine gifts of the Spirit.

Special faith is different than general spiritual faith. Every believe is give a “measure of faith”. This is the faith we live by. It is the faith we use to get prayers answered. It is the faith we use to obtain the promises of God. If the gift of faith had to be in manifestation in order to get an answer to prayer, to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, to receive healing for our body, or to have a financial need met, then we could never get our prayers answered until the gift of healing was in operation.

Special faith is something other than general faith or saving faith. It is a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit whereby a believer is empowered with special faith as the spirit wills, and it is beyond general spiritual faith.

Special faith is all God and is given to some believers as the Spirit wills. Saving faith and the measure of faith is given to all by God and is used and released as the person wills.

Knowing what special faith is and how it is different than faith is key to correctly understanding faith and developing your faith and to be able to live a life of faith.

NOTES:

Principle 26

Right Thinking

Our faith is impacted by our thinking. As a man thinks so is he. (Proverbs 23:7) If your thinking is not right you will never be able to have a God Kind of faith. What you think becomes what you believe, what you believe becomes your core values, and your core values determine who you are and what you do – your actions.

If we are to have strong faith, we have to think right. If we think right, then we will believe right and speak right – then we will walk right. If we think wrong, we will believe wrong and speak wrong – then we will have wrong things happening.

God can only work through right thinking, but the devil can only work through wrong thinking. That's why he seeks to interject wrong thoughts into our thought life. Wrong thinking opens the door to the devil and closes it to God. But right thinking opens the door to God and closes it to the devil.

What is right thinking? God's thoughts – thinking in line with the Word of God. Wrong thinking is thoughts that aren't in line with the Word of God.

Be Transformed

Romans 12:2 instructs us, *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye TRANSFORMED by the RENEWING OF YOUR MIND....”*. The first step we need to take to get our thinking right is to “Renew our Minds”. We need to renew our minds with the Word of God – taking on God's way of thinking. When we do we are – transformed!

Christians who fail to renew their mind with the Word of God will live harassed, troubled, and defeated lives. But we don't have to live that way. We are not supposed to live in fear, guilt, torment, and defeat while on this earth. Our lives can be transformed as we renew our minds.

What to Do When You Have Wrong Thoughts

Learn that every thought that comes TO you doesn't come FROM you. The devil will speak thoughts to the mind, and we must recognize them when he does. The world is blasting us with images and thoughts that are ungodly.. What do we do when our minds are bombarded with ungodly thoughts of doubt, fear, condemnation, etc.

We put the Word into practice. 2 Corinthians 10:4-6 tells us, "For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ". It has been said, "You can't stop the birds from flying over your head, but you can stop them from building a nest in your hair." In other words, thoughts may come, but it is up to us whether we think on them and meditate on them or cast them out and take them captive. Don't let negative, antigod, or ungodly thoughts stay in your thought. Bind them and cast them away.

What to Think On

Once you take those wrong thoughts captive you need to replace them with right thinking. The mind will think on something, so what should we think on? Once again, the Bible gives us the answer; "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever

things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

We can’t make the devil leave us alone, but we can learn how to be completely untroubled by him – by not listening to him and not giving his thoughts our attention. Not only must we cast down wrong thinking we need to speak the Word of God. When the devil tempted the Jesus with wrong thoughts He responded, “IT IS WRITTEN...”. The Word is the sword of the spirit (Ephesians 6:17). Be armed and ready to speak the Word.

Get Rid of Stinking Thinking

If we are to build our faith and live a life of victory we need to “get rid of stinking thinking”, we need to get our thinking right – it is a principle of faith.

NOTES:

Principle 27

Jesus is the Author of Our Faith

An author is someone who creates or originates a written work, such as a book, article, or play. The term can also refer to someone who creates any original work of most any kind. The story of the Christian faith was written by Jesus, who is the “Author and Perfecter” of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). Other translations use the word founder, pioneer, and source. The Good News translation says, “Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends, from beginning to end.”

Our faith begins with and ends with Jesus. Obviously, if there was no Jesus, there would be no faith called Christianity, and in that sense, He is the founder of “the faith” of Christianity, but He is also the one who is the initiator and finisher of our individual walk of faith.

I believe we must understand Jesus is the source of our faith, it is in Him we live, move, and have our being. (Acts 17:28) If we don’t keep our eyes fixed on Him and our lives anchored in Him, we will sabotage our individual faith.

How Is Jesus the Author of This Faith?

Jesus is One with God, the author of Scripture by which our way of life is defined. Jesus Christ pioneered or founded the Church. He is the Christ, and upon that revelation, the Church is built. (Matthew 16:18) He gave us the example to follow and provided us the teachings to follow, and He sealed our trust in it at the resurrection.

Everything Jesus told us to do, he did first. He submitted to the will of the Father: “not my will, but yours” (Luke 22:42). He fed the hungry, healed the sick, and cared for them all.

Even as he grieved the death of his cousin John, Jesus did not send the people away but “he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd” (Mark 6:34).

Jesus gave his life for his friends (John 15:13), so even when he tells us to take up our crosses and follow him, we know Christ understands how hard this is.

As a pioneer, he taught both Jews and Gentiles how to love the Lord and each other with their hearts, not merely their actions. Jesus rejected all of Satan’s temptations in the wilderness after his baptism.

Our Savior was “zealous for good works,” performing many miraculous acts of healing, even raising people from the dead.

Then he gave the disciples, by his Spirit, the fullness of himself so that they would yield spiritual fruit. “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Every good work that comes from us is a result of what God has done in us by his grace and our willingness to let him refine us. Although we have free will to shut Christ out of our lives, no Kingdom work is possible in our own strength. Everything we do for the kingdom is by faith.

Jesus is the Perfector of Our Faith

Not only is Jesus the one who starts, deposits, and begins our faith walk with Him, but He is also with us, helping us develop and

perfect our faith. He is the perfecter of our faith. Other translations say finisher, the one who completes our faith, and the Good News Translation says the “end” of our faith.

Not Faith in Our Faith

Never let go of this truth – it is all about Jesus. He is the one who begins our faith, and it is only because of Him and our continued dependence upon Him that our faith is complete. Sometimes, in our earnest desire to develop our faith, we get our focus on OUR FAITH. It is never about OUR FAITH; it is always about the faith we have because of Jesus. At the heart of real faith is fully trusting God and His Word. Trust is based upon relationship. Our relationship is based on abiding in Jesus. So, keep your eyes fixed (focused) on Jesus because He is the author of our faith. It is a principle of faith.

NOTES:

Principle 28

Faith Pleases God

I believe every true Christian desires to please God, but how do we please God? We may think that if we pray, witness, give, serve, worship, or obey His commands, we will please Him. All of these things are important, and God expects those things from us, and they may please Him, but Hebrew 11:6 says, “**But without faith it is impossible to please Him**”. This verse makes it very clear that the one thing that is required to please God is FAITH. All those other things if they are done without faith, will not please God. Faith is required to please God!

What Kind of Faith Pleases God

If pleasing God is impossible without having faith, then we need to ask ourselves, what kind of faith pleases God? The rest of Hebrews 11 goes on to tell the stories of great men and women of faith. This chapter is referred to as “the Hall of Faith”.

We read how Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Joseph, Moses and others “by faith” obey God and live their lives with faith. They were not perfect and all had issues, disappointments, and obstacles to overcome. By faith they kept their trust in God and never gave up. Some even died before receiving what was promised. They please God and gained His approval through their faith. (verse 39)

We all have the opportunity to be a hero of faith that someone looks up to. A. W. Tozer stated, “We can be in our day what the heroes of faith were in their day - but remember at that time they didn’t know they were heroes.” Even when our circumstances do not change, we

can have a faith like David's. We can face our giants with faith because God is on our side!

Faith that pleases God does not waver, it remains steadfast, it is based on trust in Jesus and the promises in His Word.

Verse 6 gives us two key ingredients that faith must have in order to please God. 1) Believe that God exists and 2) believe God is a rewarder of those who earnestly seek him.

Believing that God exists is more than believing there is a God. Even the demons believe that—and shudder (Ja 2:19). The word **“exists”** is related to God's existence as revealed to Moses when God said, **“I am who I am”** (Ex 3:14). God met Moses personally and showed himself to be living, eternal and almighty. This God is concerned about his people and redeems them from miserable bondage. This God is holy, loving and good. Moses surrendered to this God and lived as his servant the rest of his days. We can believe this God exists when we meet him.

When we face difficulties and persecution, or when injustice prevails, the enemy may try to flood you mind with thoughts like, “Where is God?” “Why does he allow these things to happen?” But we will not be moved because our faith believe God is and He is a good God.

By faith you can penetrate beyond the surface of things to perceive the good purpose of an almighty God at work even in the most difficult times. When Apostle Paul exercised this kind of faith with a broken heart for his Jewish people, he found the amazing sovereign rule of God and could not but burst into a song of praise to God (Ro 11:33-36). This faith pleases God. On the other hand, if we do not trust him, it is offensive. It is comparable to a child telling

his parents that they do not exist. When we trust God fully, he is pleased with us and is ready to bless us.

Faith that pleases God also knows He rewards those who earnestly seek him. Some people think that to seek a reward from God is dishonorable. But when we do not seek a reward from God, we may seek a reward from people. Moreover, we may suffer from a sense of loss. What is God's reward? God's reward is eternal life and his kingdom. Furthermore, it is God himself. God said, "I will be their God, and they will be my people" (8:10b). God said to Abraham, **"I am...your very great reward"** (Gen 15:1b). To freely come to God and have fellowship with God is a great reward. When heroes of faith believed that God rewards them, they could overcome all kinds of hardships and live a victorious life.

Faith pleases God it is a principle of faith!

NOTES:

Lesson 29

Faith Begins Where the Will of God is Known

Faith begins where the will of God is known. Faith cannot be exercised where there is an uncertainty concerning God's will in the matter. The lost cannot call upon Jesus to save them if they don't know that it is God's will that they be saved. If we don't know God's will, we can't have faith.

God's will is revealed through His written word, the Bible and God does nothing apart from His word. Therefore, if the lost are to know that God's will concerning their salvation, they must hear what His written word reveals about salvation for the lost.

Faith Comes by Hearing: Romans 10:17

So then, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. When the sinner hears the gospel of salvation, how Christ bore their sin in His own body on the cross, faith arises in their hearts and they are able to call upon the Lord to save them, because they have confidence that Christ has taken their sin away.

This process is the same for every provision or promise of the Bible. It is true for peace, wisdom, provision, healing, direction, protection, etc. Every need you have for life is included in the Bible. (2 Peter 1:3) However, if you don't know that it is in the Bible or if you don't believe it you cannot have faith. Faith begins where the will of God is known.

How Can You Know the Will of God?

The simplest and shortest answer is read the Word of God. Study it, listen to it, meditate on it and learn what it says. The Word of God

is the will of God. However, I want to give you a more in-depth study of how you can know the will of God.

God's will is not meant to be a mystery—He desires for His children to know and walk in it daily. He is not trying to keep His will hid from us. However, discovering and fulfilling God's will requires spiritual sensitivity, biblical knowledge, and an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Here are **7 actionable steps** you take to help you discover the will of God. You will learn how to recognize God's leading and avoid common pitfalls that can hinder your understanding.

1. Renew Your Mind with the Word of God

The first and most crucial step in knowing God's will is renewing your mind through Scripture (Romans 12:2). The Word of God is the foundation of His will. When you fill your heart and mind with Scripture, you will begin to think, desire, and act in alignment with God.

How to Apply This Principle:

- Spend time daily reading and meditating on the Bible.
- Align your thoughts and desires with God's Word—His will is never contrary to Scripture.
- Replace fear, doubt, and confusion with biblical truth.

A renewed mind is a mind that can recognize God's leading. Without this, it is easy to be misled by emotions, circumstances, or worldly opinions.

2. Develop an Intimate Relationship with God Through Prayer

I cannot overstate how crucial this step is. God reveals His will to those who seek Him in prayer (Jeremiah 33:3). If you want to know God's plan for your life, you must cultivate a consistent prayer life and learn to listen to His voice.

How to Apply This Principle:

- Set aside time daily to pray and communicate with God.
- Don't just talk—learn to listen in prayer. God often speaks in a still, small voice or through an inner witness.
- Pray in the Spirit (praying in tongues) to build spiritual sensitivity.

When you develop a close relationship with God, recognizing His will becomes more natural. Just as you learn to recognize a close friend's voice over time, spending time with God helps you recognize His leading.

3. Learn to Follow the Inner Witness of the Holy Spirit

The primary way God leads His children is through an **inner witness**—a deep sense of peace or uneasiness about a decision (Romans 8:14, 16). It is that still small voice on the inside. Everybody wants a burning bush experience like Moses where God speaks a thundering voice. God can still do that, but it is not how He speaks to us on an everyday basis. God is talking to you every day. The issue is, are you listening and discerning it?

How to Apply This Principle:

- If you have peace about a decision, move forward; if you feel uneasy or troubled, wait.

- Don't rush—God's will is never pressured by fear, anxiety, or urgency.
- Learn to distinguish between your emotions and the Holy Spirit's prompting.

Remember God primarily speaks through the inward witness. Sensitivity to this inner prompting comes from a lifestyle of prayer and Bible study.

4. Walk in Love and Obedience

God's will is revealed to those who walk in love and obedience. Disobedience and unforgiveness can cloud spiritual discernment, making it harder to hear from God (1 John 2:10).

How to Apply This Principle:

- Examine your heart—are you harboring bitterness, unforgiveness, or rebellion? If so, repent.
- Make walking in love a daily priority. Love is the nature of God, and when you walk in love, you walk in His will.
- Obey God in small things. The more you obey, the clearer His voice becomes.

If you are struggling to hear from God, ask yourself: Am I truly surrendered to Him? Am I holding onto something that contradicts His Word? Obedience brings clarity.

5. Recognize that God's Will is Revealed Step by Step

God rarely reveals His full plan all at once. Instead, He leads us **step by step** (Psalm 37:23). Many people hesitate to move forward

because they want to see the whole picture, but faith requires trusting God with each step.

How to Apply This Principle:

- Take action on what you already know. If God has given you a small direction, obey it before expecting more revelation.
- Don't wait for every detail—trust that God will guide you as you move forward.
- Be patient. God's timing is perfect, and delays are often divine preparations.

You don't need to know every detail to walk in God's will. Be faithful in the present, and He will guide you into the future.

6. Understand the Role of Peace and Confirmation

God often confirms His will through supernatural peace. Colossians 3:15 says to let the peace of God rule in your heart. If you are confused, anxious, or unsettled about a decision, that is often a sign to pause and pray further.

How to Apply This Principle:

- If something is truly God's will, it will be accompanied by His peace.
- If you feel confusion or restlessness, wait—God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33).
- Seek wise counsel from mature Christians, but always confirm advice with the Holy Spirit's leading.

Peace is a guiding force. If something "feels off," don't ignore it—pray until you receive clarity.

7. Avoid Common Pitfalls That Hinder Knowing God's Will

Don't let distractions or deceptions lead you away from God's will. These include:

- **Being Led by Emotions:** Feelings change, but God's Word remains steady. Never make major decisions based solely on emotions.
- **Rushing Ahead of God:** Patience is key—many believers miss God's best because they move prematurely.
- **Ignoring the Word:** If a decision contradicts Scripture, it is NOT God's will.
- **Neglecting Prayer:** A weak prayer life leads to poor discernment.

By staying rooted in God's Word, maintaining a strong prayer life, and being sensitive to the Holy Spirit, you can avoid these pitfalls and walk confidently in God's plan.

Final Thoughts: Walking in God's Will is a Journey of Faith

Knowing God's will is not a one-time event—it is a lifelong process of renewing the mind, seeking God in prayer, following the inner witness of the Holy Spirit, walking in love, and trusting God's step-by-step guidance.

If you apply these biblical principles, you will grow in spiritual sensitivity and be able to confidently walk in the perfect will of God for your life.

When the Will of God is Known, then Faith Begins. We cannot have any confidence that God will give us anything if we are unsure of His will for us to have it or not. “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him”. Faith begins where the will of God is known. It is a principle of faith.

NOTES:

Principle 30

Contend for Your “Faith”

Do You Ever Struggle with Your Faith?

Do you ever doubt or question what you believe? If so, you're not alone—your faith is challenged every day. That's why I want to encourage you to “**contend for your faith**.” This concept isn't new; Jude urged first-century believers to do the same when he wrote,

“Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people.” (Jude

Why Contend for Your Faith?

Why do we need to contend for our faith? For the same reason the early believers did—the truth of God's Word was under attack, causing them to question their faith. This same attack is happening today, perhaps more subtly but just as destructively.

Truth Under Attack

Jude was deeply concerned that Christians were "asleep at the wheel," allowing the truth to be stolen from them. History shows this pattern repeating, and it's happening right now.

Today, secular values are replacing the core Biblical beliefs upon which our nation was built. Behaviors and lifestyles that were once considered unacceptable are now being normalized. We live in a world increasingly shaped by pluralism and secularism.

Generations of socialism, humanism, and relativism have eroded the

absolute truths of God's Word. The gospel is under constant attack, systematically minimized, and marginalized. Biblical Christianity is being abandoned in favor of political correctness, post-modernism, social tolerance, and a value-neutral worldview.

Be Strong in the Lord

In such a world, knowing what we believe and why we believe it is more crucial than ever. We must be firmly rooted in our faith in Jesus, the gospel, and the truth of His Word. To successfully contend for our faith, we need to remain spiritually strong. Paul urges us in Ephesians 6:10, ***“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”*** This is not the time to waver or lose hope. We must stay strong—not in our own strength, but in His power. Being strong in the Lord is a vital part of contending for our faith.

NOTES:

Principle 31

Faith Never Quits

Genuine faith never quits or gives up! Why? Because the God kind of faith is anchored in the certainty that God always has the final say. Faith isn't just a feeling—it's a steadfast assurance that, no matter how impossible things may seem, God's promises are true, and His Word is unbreakable.

Real faith never throws in the towel because God never fails. Even when the odds are stacked against us, when every sign points to defeat, we can stand firm, knowing that God is still in control and working on our behalf.

Faith Power in the Midst of Desperation

Consider the Apostle Paul for a moment. In 2 Corinthians 1:8-10. Paul shares about a time when he faced extreme adversity, saying, *"We were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death." But then comes the powerful revelation: "But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him, we have set our hope that he will deliver us again."*

Even in the darkest moments, when it feels like hope is lost, remember this: God is the One who brings life out of death. When everything seems hopeless, God is able to breathe resurrection into our circumstances. He is always at work, even when we can't see it, and He will fulfill His promises – IF you don't quit.

The Unwavering Faithfulness of God

Hebrews 10:23 encourages us to "*hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering*; (for he is faithful that promised;)." God's Word is the ultimate truth—unchanging, unshakable, and eternal. Circumstances may shift, opinions may change, but God's promises stand firm forever. So, keep declaring God's Word with confidence, knowing that it's the final authority. If you continue to trust in Him, He will never let you down.

This is how Abraham received the promise of God to be the Father of many nations. (Genesis 17:4) In Romans 4:20 it says Abraham, "*did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.*" True faith stays steady, it does not waver, it doesn't give up!

Don't Lose Heart—Your Harvest is Coming

Galatians 6:9 reminds us, "*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up.*" When you truly believe something is yours, you'll fight to hold onto it. And when you see in the Bible that God has already provided something for you, don't let the enemy steal it from you. Stand your ground, resist the devil, and refuse to give up!

Anything that seeks to steal, kill, or destroy is from the enemy. Acts 10:38 tells us that all those healed by Jesus were oppressed by the devil. But here's the good news—the Bible commands us to resist the devil and his works. That means never giving in, never backing down!

The Power to Overcome

Ephesians 4:27 tells us not to give any place to the devil, while James 4:7 encourages us to "*Submit yourselves therefore to God.*

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." The enemy has no choice but to retreat when you resist him in faith!

1 Peter 5:8-9 paints a clear picture: "*Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*" The devil can't devour everyone—only those who fail to stand firm in their faith. But that doesn't have to be you!

Luke 10:19 empowers us with this promise: "*Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.*" No matter how terrifying your situation may seem, you've been given authority in Christ Jesus over all the power of the enemy. So, use it with boldness and confidence!

Victory is Yours—Never Give Up!

Just like the heroes of faith in the Bible—who faced lions, fires, and countless trials—you too can come through unscathed if you keep believing. Never giving up on your faith, even when everything around you screams to quit, isn't easy. But with God as your Helper, it's possible! You can overcome and receive the blessings reserved for those who persevere.

Declare this boldly: God never quits, so I will never quit believing God's Word! Your victory is assured—just keep the faith and refuse to quit!

NOTES:

22 Powerful Bible Scriptures on Faith

Romans 1:17

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Galatians 3:11

But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”

Hebrews 10:38

Now the just shall live by faith; But if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

Habakkuk 2:2

“Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.

Romans 10:17

Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

2 Corinthians 2:13

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak,

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

James 2:19

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

1 Corinthians 13:13

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 John 5:4

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1 Timothy 6:12

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.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 6:16

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.

Galatians 2:16

Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Hebrews 12:2

Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

James 1:6

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

James 2:17

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Luke 17:5

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

Mark 10:52

And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Mark 11:22

And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God."

Closing Thoughts

The ultimate goal for each of us should be to hear the father say at the end of our life, “*Well done, good and faithful servant!*” This means being committed to living a life of faith, trusting the Lord in all that we do, following the lead of the Good Shepherd, and fulfilling our divine purpose bringing glory to God. The life of faith is exciting yet challenging. I encourage you to study these lessons to help you grow your faith and to finish your race.

We all should be able to say like the apostle Paul, “*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* (2 Timothy 4:7)

Faith Is a Fight

Here’s the problem, faith is “fight”. Paul encourages us to “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Timothy 6:12). Notice he calls it a "good fight". Why? Because it’s one we are destined to win—if we keep the faith. The enemy's strategy is to rob us of our faith by sowing doubt and unbelief. When these attacks come, we must be ready to fight back, holding firmly to our faith (Hebrews 4:14). Understanding what we are truly fighting and how to defend our faith is key to victory.

Are You Fighting the Wrong Fight?

As Christians, we often find ourselves in battles, but many are unaware of what the real fight is or how to engage in it effectively.

Focus on the Right Fight

It's common to hear believers say they're fighting the devil or sin. However, Jesus has already won those battles for us. He defeated the devil and provided the cure for sin at the Cross. The real danger

is getting caught up in fighting the wrong enemy—whether it's other people or external circumstances. The true fight we face is the "good fight of faith."

The Devil is Defeated

At the Cross, Jesus disarmed and defeated Satan and all his demons (Colossians 2:15). While the devil is still active, our focus shouldn't be on fighting him but on maintaining our faith. The devil preys on those who lack faith, which is why it's crucial to strengthen your spiritual foundation daily through the Word of God. Recognize your authority in Christ and hold firm to your confession of faith. Don't be distracted by fear, impatience, or negative thoughts.

Faith is Our Victory

1 John 5:4 reminds us that our faith is the victory that overcomes the world. God calls us to live by faith (Romans 1:17), and it's faith that pleases Him (Hebrews 11:6). Our task is not to make God act on our behalf—Jesus has already secured our victory. Our fight is to maintain our faith, focusing on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Put these lessons on faith into practice and live a life of faith and victory. Remember the battle is not against the devil or other people—it's about maintaining and strengthening our faith in Christ. Stay focused, stay grounded in the Word, and remember that victory is already yours through faith.

31 Lessons on Biblical Faith



FAITH EVERTH

Unlock the Power Faith in Your Life

Bruce R. Edwards