

# LIVING BY FAITH

WRITTEN BY GREGG LEE

COLOSINIANS 1:27

**To whom God would make known**

**what is the riches of the glory**

**of this mystery among the Gentiles;**

**which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

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## LIVING BY FAITH

The foundation of living by Faith is to Believe God's Word. Our relationship with God starts with believing His Word. Jesus even said many times to believe on Him. Jesus was the word in flesh; He was our living epistle. **Mt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.** The Words that Jesus spoke were the Word of God, and the Works that He did were all examples, so that we would believe on Jesus, and be reconciled to God. Another way to say this is that living by faith is rooted in believing the words of God. To be rooted in God's Word means that you are tapped into the foundation of faith. It is similar to how the roots of a plant work; they hold the plant in place. The roots bring the plant water and nutrients from the soil. Similarly, the roots of our believing reach into God's Word to bring our much needed spiritual nutrients. In 11 Peter 1:3 God says **"According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, (past tense – this has already been given to the people of the Church of God) through the knowledge of Him (this knowledge of Jesus Christ is found in the words of God's Word) that hath called us to glory and virtue."** These words that are found in God's Word are our nourishment, which feeds our understanding of the spiritual life that God has for us. This is a gift that is to every member, this means that we can all use what is in this gift at the same time. Only God could give a gift that is this big.

**Ro 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** This word faith which is the word "pistis <4202>" in biblical Greek, and the word believe which is the word "pisteuo <4100>" in biblical Greek, are both from

the same root word. One of these two words is a noun, a naming word that describes something. This word is faith, which is “pistis” in the Greek. The other word is believe, which is a verb, a word which describes action. You will see this word used sometimes as believe, believing, or believed. This word is “pisteuo” in the Greek. These two words operate like the words run, and runner. Runner is a noun which describes a person running. Whereas run is the verb, which describes the action a runner has to take to be a runner. The same is true of faith and believe. We must believe the words in God’s Word, we must act on these words in God’s Word to start the path that leads to our faith.

Believe the words in God’s Word by acting of them is the action, or the verb, part of the relationship; there are two parts we need to look at. The action part, and the naming part. The naming part is just that. We point at something and name it. He is a runner; that is a chair, that is a rock. Somebody needs to run for a period of time before we call them a runner; we also need to believe God’s Word steadfastly for a period of time, before God accounts our faithfulness as faith. The noun is the part of the relationship that uses words to describe what we are looking at. At this point the action is over. God uses the word faith to describe our action of living by God’s Words. Let us look at this word closer to see why God used this word “faith” for the naming part of the relationship.

**Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. Ga 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.**

God mentions in three different places here, for all of us that are Christians, that to be just in his sight we need to live by faith. God names an unknown something here “faith,” but gives no understanding of what this word means. Let us look some more at this quote **“The just shall live by faith.”** These words are first found in the Old Testament. What is very interesting is that even though this quote is found in the Old Testament, God did not require Israel to live by faith. God only asked Israel to believe the words that He gave to His Prophets, and to live by those words. These words, “the just shall live by faith,” are part of a prophesy found in Habakkuk found in chapter 2 verse 4.

**Hab 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith <0530>.** This word “emuwnah <0530>” used as faith here is used several times in God’s Word, in the Old Testament; although in the Old Testament, this is the only time it is used as “faith.” God uses this word “emuwnah <0530>” as: faithfulness 18, truth 13, faithfully 5, office 5, faithful 3, faith 1, stability 1, steady 1, truly 1, verily 1;49 49 times altogether, but as faith it was only used once.

Let us go to the first time that God uses this word “emuwnah <0530>” in His Word.

**Ex 17:12 But Moses’ hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady <0530> until the going down of the sun.** One thing important to notice out of this verse is that we can have help, with our living by faith. We are allowed too steady each other, with our obedience to God’s Word. Today we can help each other, to be obedient, to God’s Words: 1. By speaking the words that are written in the bible

to each other, we strengthen not only ourselves but those we are talking to. 2. By helping when temptation comes, through reminding each other of what God's Word says. 3. By reminding each other of these words that we are to live by, we are sharpening each other in our daily walk. **Pr 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.** We keep each other sharp by keeping God's Word in the conversation.

This word translated as steady <0530> in Ex 13:12, is the same word translated as faith "emuwnah <0530>" in Hab 2:4; and it is the same word that is used as faith in the Greek as "pistis <4200>". Remember earlier in verses Ro 1:17, Ga 3:11, and Heb 10:38. We are to be steady when we believe God's Word. Steady means not to let distractions stay in our thoughts; do not let ourselves get distracted from God's Word. God says this in **Jas 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.** We are to be focused on what we are expecting of God. God has already talked to us through His Word. We have already been given by God, Words of Faith to Believe. It is now up to us to reach into God's Word, hold these words of faith in our mind, and to act on what we have already been given by God. **11 Pet 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.** It is in the words of God's Word that that we find knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is through this knowledge that we know how to receive, and what to accept of the things that are already given to us from God. We receive the things we have been given by God when we act on knowledge we get from the words in God's Word. While all things have already been given to us, all things are not needed for every situation we find ourselves in. Part of walking in faith is walking in the learned wisdom that comes from experience that we have

received as we walk with Jesus Christ. Do not be afraid, God has already provided for every need that we might encounter in life.

When we believe steadfastly without doubt upon the words that we find in God's Word; God counts our believing and trusting His words as Faith. **Ro 4:20 He (ABRAHAM) staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith <4102>, giving glory to God;** Let's talk about Abraham for a minute. **Ge 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.** God gave Abraham a promise which Abraham had to believe to be able to receive this promise. It shows several times in the bible that Abram and God talked to each other. This itself is remarkable, Abram talked to somebody that he could not see, and believed them.

**Ge 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. Ge 17:17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, (laughter of joy) and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? Ge 21:2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. Ge 21:3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.**

Abraham waited 25 years for that promise of a son to come too past. That is faithfulness.

**Genesis 22:1 ¶ And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold,**

here I am. 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. 3 ¶ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? 8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. 9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11 ¶ And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt

**offering in the stead of his son. Genesis 23:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.**

God gives credit to Abraham here for obeying His Word. By acting on the things that God had told him, Abraham was believing the words from God. Look at the things that Abraham was asked of God to do, and he did.

1. Leave all that he knew and go to a land that he had never been, to where he knew nobody.
2. Go to another land to a mountain and sacrifice his child.
3. Answered when his son asked where was the lamb being sacrificed; the Lord will provide a lamb for sacrifice. Even in face of his son being the sacrifice, Abraham was faithful and trusted God to his word, **“Unto thy seed will I give this land”**
4. Started to kill his son with a knife when he was stopped by an Angel.
5. **Hebrews 11:19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.**
6. Abraham believed God so deeply that he even thought that God would raise up his son that he was getting ready to kill, just to keep the promise that God gave to him. It was in Isaac that his seed was called. Abrahams is just one of the examples that God has given to us in His Word to teach us to believe His word.

This Faith (steadfast believing upon God’s Words) is the super highway unto receiving the blessings that God has already given to us. **Heb 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not**

**profit them, not being mixed with faith <4102> in them that heard it.**

.....Have faith, believe the words of God's Word, in full trust, without doubt.

Here are a few of the verses that talk about what we get through God's Word, by Faith. **Php 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith <4102> of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith <4102>** God gives to us of that which He is, Righteousness.

In Romans it says that it all starts when we believe. **Ro 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith <4102> of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:**

**Ro 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith <4102> without the deeds of the law.**

We will not find how to walk in faith through the words of the law. It is only through the words found in the New Testament Epistles, and by watching the actions of Jesus Christ that we find how to live by faith.

**Ro 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith <4102>, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:**

We are made righteousness by faith, Justified by faith, having faith leads to peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: All this starts with believing God's Word. This reminds me of a children's song I heard at church. "I believe God"; I believe God, I believe God, ask what ye will and it shall be done, trust and obey, believe him and say, I believe, I believe God**

- We have assurance by faith. **Heb 10:22** **Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith <4102>, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies**

- Faith purifies our hearts. **Ac 15:9** **And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith <4102>.**

- We are sanctified by faith. **Ac 26:18** **To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith <4102> that is in me which is by faith <4102> of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:**

- We have access to God by faith. **Ro 5:2** **By whom also we have access by faith <4102> into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

- Faith is the substance when we pray, the evidence that we will get what we have prayed for, even though we do not see it.. **Heb 11:1** **Now faith <4102> is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

- Faith is also a fruit of the spirit. **Ga 5:22** **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith <4102>,**

- Faith and love are our breast plate against spiritual attack. **1Th 5:8** **But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith <4102> and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.**

We need to offer ourselves to God through faith. **Heb 11:4 By faith <4102> Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.** Our sacrifice is to live by God's Word; this lifestyle is a witness to others of Christianity.

Seeing all of these things that we have through faith, it is easy to understand why God said that the just shall live by faith.

Just a little reminder..... **Ga 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith <4102> Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith <4102>: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. Ro 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**

I know that it seems a bit overwhelming to believe that we are able to do what we read about in the bible. These people seem like super believers, extra touched by God, or something that made them extra special. God says no, that is not true.

**In Col 1:26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:** God has now put Christ in us, Christ is inside of all who believe on Jesus. The Christ in us enables us to accomplish all things spiritual; we now have what Adam lost on that day, in the Garden of Eden. This is the fulfillment of the promise God gave to Adam, and to

Eve, and to satan in the Garden of Eden. **Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee (satan) and the woman, and between thy (satan's children ) seed, and her seed** (this seed of the woman, is the promise of Jesus Christ whom God sent to fix the sin that Adam and Eve did. Adam and Eve died spiritually that day; They were body, soul, and spirit, but the spirit part left them. This spiritually separated the human race from God until the promised seed of Jesus Christ could reconcile those of mankind who would believe, with God) **Heb 11:4 and by it he being dead yet speaketh.** Adams sin passed death unto all after him until Jesus Christ the victorious. **Ro 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. 1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.** The flesh is death, and the spirit from God is life.

**10: 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.** You see, it all starts with believing what God has told us about Jesus, in His Word. This word "saved" also has a meaning of to be restored, made whole. The Christ in us is the same spirit that Adam and Eve lost when they sinned in the Garden of Eden. We are the finished work that God envisioned before the foundations of the world. **Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.** A workmanship is the pride of a craftsman's work. We are the pride of God.

**1Co 15:45** And so it is written, **The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.** The first man Adam was made a living soul, there is no creation talked about here. [**Genesis 2:7** **And the LORD God formed man [the body was formed like clay] of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life [the soul was breathed into Adam's nostrils]; and man became a living soul.** Again Adam is shown here in Genesis as getting a body which is made out of dust. No creation here. Adam got his breath when God breathed into his nostril's, and still no creation here. **1Co 15:45** **the last Adam was made a quickening spirit** [*Mt 3:16* *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him*]

Mr 1:10 *And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:*

Lu 3:22 And the **Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him,** *and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.*

Joh 1:32 *And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.* Adam's body was formed, his soul was made, and his spirit was created (I will cover this in just a moment.) Adam started, and lived his life in obedience without sin, until he did sin, while he was still a spiritual man. Jesus began his life as we do, and lived as a man until He was baptized by John the Baptist. He received spirit from God at this time having not ever sinned, and then finished his life as a spiritual man without sin. The first Adam failed God by choice, the second Adam (HE BEGAN AND FINISHED HIS

LIFE IN FAITH, **Heb 12:2** **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**) lived and succeeded in His life with no sin, by choice. The victory of God is now ours, and Gods. We get access to God, and a new father; God now has people who will worship Him in spirit and in truth.

**Genesis 2:17** **But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**

God told Adam and Eve that to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was immediate death. The words that God used were **“in that day”** and **“thou shalt surely die”**. When they ate they would die. Adam and Eve died that day in the garden. We need to read on to find out more.

Adam was in charge of the whole world. God gave Adam dominion over all the earth. It does not describe in Genesis all of the authority that the first Adam had. God had to send a second Adam to correct the failings of the choices of the first Adam. To learn more about how this dominion works, we have to watch how the second Adam, who is Jesus Christ used this dominion over all the earth. Jesus had power over the air, which He used to calm storms. He had power over water, which he used when he walked on it. He had power over mater, which He used when He walked through walls. God gives authority to faithful men, He has done this throughout the history of the bible. Adam and Eve were created to be the perfect people, who would worship God in spirit and in truth. Is it a wonder that God would give Adam and Eve so much more? God gave them every chance to be the successful man and woman of God that He wanted for them. They had every chance to succeed, yet they failed. God has now given a second chance to mankind, to be faithful to Him, and worship Him in spirit and in truth.

**Gen 1:26** And God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:** (God is spirit, His likeness, and image is spirit also) **and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.** (the dominion that Adam and Eve [*let them have dominion*] had was spiritual authority over all the sea, air, earth, and life over the earth.) **27** So **God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him;** (the spirit of Adam, and Eve was created) **male and female created he them. 28** And **God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.**

**Isa 43:7** **Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. 1Th 5:23** **And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Adam was formed, made, and created; he had a body, a soul, and a spirit.

This is how we can have what God has promised in His Word. **Gen 3:15** **And I will put enmity between thee (satan) and the woman, and between thy (satan) seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy (satan) head, and thou (satan) shalt bruise his heel.** This was the first promise of Jesus Christ found in the bible. God says He will put enmity, (the state or feeling of being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something.) between the woman and satan. This enmity – (the state or feeling of being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something.) **is between thee (satan) and the woman, and between thy (satan) seed and her seed** In the manor that God has servants, and now children that worship Him in spirit, and in

truth, satan has children also. This seed of satan are his children, who are people. He uses his seed to impede God's desires on this earth.) The only seed that the woman has is that which was promised by God, the Savior of mankind. We know this Savior as Jesus Christ. This promise was a one-time occurrence that came to fulfillment on the day that Mary believed the words that the angel spoke. **26 ¶**

**And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.**

Mary is saying here to the angel; you have spoken and I believe. You have my permission.

This promised seed we know as Jesus Christ is now in us; This promise (found first in Gen 3:14, 15 when God was talking to satan) was spoken, by God, out loud, because part of this promise was to Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve could no longer talk to God via the spirit that was created in him. This spirit was lost to them the moment they ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

With the loss of the spirit which was from God, Adam died spiritually and lost all spiritual authority that he had been given. God is giving a promise (without all of the details) that He will fix what they lost. This fulfilled promise to redeem mankind from the sin of Adam is now our road back to God. God gave us spiritual life out of that which He is. This life which is now in us is described in the bible as:

- **Col 1:27 Christ in you the hope of glory**
- **Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost**
- **Joh 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth**
- **Joh 20:22 Receive ye the Holy Ghost**
- **Act 2:17 I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh**
- **Ro 8:15 but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father**
- **Ro 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the**

**dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you**

- **Ro 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God**
- **1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God**
- **1Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?**
- **Col 1:27 Christ in you the hope of glory**

**Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** When we believe and confess these words which are found in God's Word, God brings us unto righteousness. For people to open their mouth and speak requires a decision, and a choice to be made. "Do I confess this or not? Why do I have to do this?" .....To choose is to act; acting by speaking is proof of our believing God's Word. With this act of confessing Jesus as our Lord, and believing in our heart that God raised Him from the dead; God restores us, by bringing us unto wholeness. God puts Christ in us the hope of glory. You cannot get a bigger gift than this. We are now once again Body and soul (which we get from our parents), and spirit (which we get from God).

A few chapters later in Colossians 2 we find.....

**Col 2: 8 - 10 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**

**9 For in him (Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him (Christ), which is the head of all principality and power:** God teaches us here that everything that He is, is in Christ. God is in Christ, and now Christ is in us (Col 1:27) when we confess Jesus as Lord, and believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead (Rom 10:9, 10).

This is why we can have faith. Jesus was the author and finisher of our faith. **Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.** It is because of Jesus that we can have faith. He finished faith, and now is in us as the hope of glory.

Do you ever wonder if you can ever have enough faith? God made that simple through Jesus. **Ro 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith <4102>.** Because it is Christ in us, it is now the measure of finished faith in us. Everything that is in Christ is in us.

We access this finished faith by steadfastly believing the words of faith found in God's Word. We can now have access to the finished faith of Jesus Christ. Never worry that you do not have enough faith. God gave everyone that believed on the Lord Jesus Christ the same measure of finished faith. The measure of how much, and how faithfully we believe on God's Words is the measure of how much access we have to that finished faith we have been given.

**Hebrews 11:1 ¶ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report. 3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. 4 ¶ By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. 5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. 7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. 8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country

from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. 20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. 21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones. 23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. 24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. 28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. 29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. 31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace. 32 ¶ And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of

Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: 33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: 36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. 39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect. Hebrews 12:1 ¶ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

In the Old Testament People believed God's Word; when they were steadfast in their believing the words of God, God counted their believing on His Words as "faith". This is our example so that we too will believe God, and take Him at His Word. This is still true today, as we believe on God's Words, and do not doubt as we act of these words, God counts our faithfulness as faith.

**Romans 4:20 He (Abraham) staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what He (God) had promised, He (God) was able also to perform. 22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 23 ¶ Now it was not written for his (Abraham) sake alone, that it was imputed to him; (Abraham) 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him (God) that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;**

**Heb 11:6 But without faith <4102> it is impossible to please Him: (God) for he that cometh to God must believe that He (God) is, and that He (God) is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (God).** Again it all starts with believing God's Words. Believing God's Words is our path to faith, and pleasing to God. God gives us three things to do here in this verse.

1. Believe that God is. God told Moses **"I Am,"** in other words, God says "anything that you come across Moses", I am always capable of dealing with it. Here God tells us that **"He Is"**, I am is the past form of the verb "to be". **"He Is"**, is the present form of the same verb. God wants us to believe that: God is here now, and He is with us, and He is ready and willing to help us.

2. Believe that God is a rewarder. God wants us to believe that He wants to reward us. That He has something to give us. While it is true God wants to do all of this; He put a condition in this gift.

3. Believe that God wants us to diligently seek Him. To be diligent takes a little bit of work. This means that all of these rewards are not free: we need to be diligent in our thoughts of God, diligent is seeking out the words of God's Word, diligent in keeping God's Word on in our mind and thoughts, Diligent in turning away from

those thoughts of the world; We all are familiar with these things of the world. We cannot stop these images from coming into our mind as we walk through the street, flip the channel, listen to that joke, or any of the other many things we are confronted with daily. This little jingle might help. “A HESITATION IS NOT A DOUBT, THERE IS STILL TIME TO KICK IT OUT.” The temptation itself is not the sin, sin starts when ... well, as it says here in James. **Jas 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.** (there is no sin here yet, the enticement is not the sin) **15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.**

The temptation itself is not the sin. Temptation is a recognition of something, or someone that could draw your attention away from God, it is only a hesitation; whereas doubt is a prolonged attention when your thoughts are drawn and stayed (this is where lust is conceived) on the object of your temptation.

Doubt is a period where there is no believing on Jesus Christ. Jesus was sent into the desert to be tempted. Before he was tempted he fasted for 40 days and nights. That is 40, 24 hour periods of not eating. After this period of time the hunger could have been a bit of a distraction to Jesus. At this time satan came to Jesus, with different types of temptations. Every temptation that any man or woman had ever succumbed to, Jesus had to deal with, without sin; Jesus did not allow His attention to be turned from God. Jesus did not doubt God at any time. Jesus knew God’s word, and used these words from the Word of God in the face of temptation. Remember the words “IT IS WRITTEN” These words are shown to us three times for an example

of how to deal with temptation. This is how Jesus dealt with the master of temptation, who is Lucifer AKA- satan. This is our example from Jesus, of how to deal with temptation.

**Mt 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

**Mt 4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.**

**Mt 4: 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

Believe the words from God's Word to defeat your enemy. It is these words that are given by God, which hold all of the needs of our life and godliness. These words are our shield of Faith and Love, which will stand in the face of all temptation and accusation. "It is written" is how we access the tools we need to face our temptations. Look to the written word to access your freedom from temptation.

Keeping God's Word on in our mind, and in our thoughts, in face of temptation is walking by faith.

**11 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue**

Just for fun take a look at wherever the words "It is written" are found in the new testament; God's Word was the standard of thought and action of the people to whom the New Testament was first given to. God's Word is our guide for living, thinking, and deciding how to live life.

Do not put your faith in people, or what they look like. **James 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.** Always take what you hear or think, to God's Word, and if you have questions then get clarity. It is in the words of God's Word that we find all things that pertain to life and godliness. **11 Pet 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.** This verse is in the past tense. We have already been given all things. **Ac 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.** God gave credit to the people of Berea, (verse 10) because they checked what they had been taught each day against what the scripture taught; as long as what they had been taught was backed up by the scripture they were satisfied. Again, we are taught by this example that the Words in God's Word are the standard of what we are to live by. This is an example we can use in our lives today; in some of the churches of our time, opinion is worth more than the value of

the words found in God's Word. When we set aside the knowledge found in God's Word, which holds us to a truth, and then take the traditions, doctrines, and religions of whatever church we are in as truth, our footing is lost and our direction is no longer guided by the Word of God.

When dealing with the subject of faith, works will most always come up. It is not our works that God desires. We cannot work our way to: righteousness, or justification, or heaven. **Ro 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith <4102> is counted for righteousness. Joh 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.** When we believe on Jesus Christ, things happen. To believe on something, while you are acting upon what you believe is trust. To believe in something is just mental assent and is empty, as it requires no action. **2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.** In prayer Jesus says believe on Him, this is what Jesus calls the work of God.

The works that come out from our faith are the proof of that faith. The strength of your personal faith (the extent that you believe the words of God's Word) is measured by the works of that faith, by the actions you take based upon God's Words; God does not grade us on our works, instead He accounts us to righteousness because of our steadfast believing upon His Word. This all starts with believing the words that are in God's Word, and acting on them without doubt.

**Jas 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.** Be like the sponge, absorb God's Word.

**Tit 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.** Hang on to this word like you were on the edge of a cliff. Do not get talked out of God's Word, for your life, and those around you depend on it.

**Php 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.**

Speak this word to everybody: all of the time, when it is time to speak, and when it is not time to speak. Share God's Word with all people, along with examples of faith (act on the things that God tells you): when you speak with them, against them, or for them.

**11 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

You are saving their life, by holding forth the word of life.

Everything starts with believing the Words from God. First thing first, how do we start to believe in something that is so big. God had his Words written down so we would have something to hold onto, in our minds and in our thoughts. These words are our anchor, the rock that holds us in place. It is words that describe everything: that we see that we think, that we feel, that we hope, that we touch, and even that we are. Words describe everything in our life.

Now God has used these same words to describe not only the road that leads to Him, but also the things that God has described that He has done for us, or will do for us when the right conditions are met. These words describe everything He has already given us. By accepting that these words are true, and acting on the things that these words of the Word of God describe, while we are believing steadfastly without doubt what these words are saying, we are walking by faith. The extent that we are successful in this walk is a measure of our trust in God.

One of the ways that we approach God, when we believe (act on) the Word of God is prayer. Jesus talked about prayer, and gave us three specific things that we could pray for. These things are **whatsoever**, **what ye will** (a version of whatsoever), **all things**, and **anything**. While we read these following verses, look at the conditions that God put in these verses, for us to receive these things that we ask for, from Him.

Two things in the first verse are notable; the first thing we see is that we need to ask for what we want in prayer, while we are believing. Believing is stated in this verse but what we are to believe is not described here. In the second verse it gives us more direction on what we are to believe. These words teach us that we are to believe that we will receive that which what we are asking for, in order to receive from God. Five times we are told to ask in the name of Jesus Christ, (ask in my name): We are also told that we can ask for each for these three things. **1. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will; 2. whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight; 3. if we ask any thing according to his will, He heareth us.** Everything in prayer wraps around Jesus Christ. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, while we are believing that God will be

faithful to His Word; God says here that He will give us the things that we have prayed for, because of what Jesus Christ did for us.

**Heb 11: 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him (God): for he that cometh to God (*in prayer*) must believe that He (God) is, and that He (God) is a rewarder (*gives us what we ask*) of them that diligently seek him.** If you remember, faith is steady believing.

1. **Mt 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.**
2. **Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**
3. **John 11:22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.**
4. **John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**
5. **John 14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**
6. **John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**
7. **John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**
8. **John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.**

**9. John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**

**10. 1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.**

**11. 1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us:**

**12. 1 John 5:15 And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.**

All believing starts with words. We either accept or deny those words that we hear. We even talk with these same words (that we have heard), in the positive when we believe, or deny those things (that we have heard,) which we do not accept, with negative words. These same words guide our life with a positive or negative attitude. As we accept or deny words that we hear, we act on these words, and choose the direction of our life.

This is why God chose words as the way to reach us. Words are so powerful that they are the tools that God chose to build this very world that we live in. Now God has chosen words to build, design, and guide our lives.

We are allowed to help each other to believe. While we support each other, we are all stronger in Christ.

**Mr 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe <4100>; help thou mine unbelief.**

While leaders of the church should be an example of living by faith, as Paul was. It is not the people that are around us that are our main example; it the Words of God that are to light our path. **We lead people to God's Word. God's Word teaches us about Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ teaches us about God.**

**Ro 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith <4102> of God without effect?** Believe God's Word and be safe.

**Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.** This is a command; we are to search the scriptures to learn about Jesus Christ.

**2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** Let us all shew ourselves unto God as a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

- A workman works hard at their job
- They get tired because it takes an effort to do a good job
- The longer they do the same job, the better they get at it
- Study will take an effort
- Shew is to put in front of
- Approval from God comes from doing a good job
- Workman is the manner in which we are to work
- Not Ashamed: We are to be proud of our efforts

- **Rightly Dividing:** There is only one way to understand God's Word, from his point of view. This word rightly divided is the Greek word - orthotomeo. It is # 3718 in the Strong's numbering system. this word is only used once in God's Word. It means a straight cut.

1) to cut straight, to cut straight ways

1a) to proceed on straight paths, hold a straight course, equiv. to doing right

2) to make straight and smooth

- This means we can get our understanding of God's Word wrong, so be careful how you handle God's Word.

- It is ok to talk with other people who are competent in handling God's Word to check your understanding

- **Ga 2:2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.**