



## The Walk of Faith

Usable – Working Formulae – for Living Faith


We have all at one time or another experienced the natural excitement of receiving some new supernatural revelation? During those exciting times we are obviously enthusiastic and usually just want to get alone so we can put the new revelation into action.

However, in other instances we believe that we have a new understanding but by the time we get alone and attempt to put the new revelation into operation we discover that it just didn't work as we had earlier expected! Why? Is this normal among Christians? Are there reasons that these beliefs did not prove fruitful?

In these frustrating situations, we often feel that we are acting as mere men, “. . . are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” (1 Cor 3:3). We should not simply accept this fruitless outcome as the natural experience of all Christians. What is the solution to these spiritual predicaments?

Jesus Christ is always the answer to all of life's problems! Peter says we get answers to our problems “**through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.**” Notice this concept in Peter's letter, “Grace and peace be multiplied unto you **through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord**, According as his divine power **hath given** (*past tense*) unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, **through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue**: (*we get these things through knowledge!*) Whereby are given unto us **exceeding great and precious promises**: that by these ye **might** (*this word expresses merely – a potential*) be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:2-4). The last part of the passage uses the word “might;” therefore, it is conditional and certainly possible that a Christian might not!

Jesus died to redeem us from every aspect of the curse that was introduced by satan the devil! The complete will of God for us is neither suffering nor pain nor problems nor anything evil! Instead, we have “**exceeding great and precious promises**” through Christ who has made us overcomers.

Jesus taught, in Luke 8:11 – “**The seed is the word of God.**”  Please notice that we must capture the idea that the “seed” identified in that specific parable “**is the word of**

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**God!”** This is actually from the great parable where Jesus commanded, “**Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower**” (Matt 13:18)! The seed that was sown in us is not just common seed it is good seed, “Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed **good seed** (*Sperma, what does that sound like?*) in his field” (Matt 13:24). This is the first time that the word “*sperma*” appears in the bible! The apostle John used the word when he wrote, “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed (*sperma*) remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1 John 3:9). Paul told us, “if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed (*sperma*)” (Gal 3:29).

The concept of seed for the purpose of production of a harvest is extremely important to God who said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding **seed**, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose **seed** is in itself, upon the earth” (Gen 1:11).

A parable is something thrown alongside: (1) *para* – alongside; (2) *ballo* – to throw. Jesus identified this parable as the most important because it holds the key to all parables, Mark 4:13-15 “**Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? The sower soweth the word** (*Here again, we see the word as being equivalent to seed*).” In other words, within the parable of the sower, there exists a potential to unlock the other parables! Through understanding that specific parable, we literally can unlock much of the Bible! The parable of the “sower” is clearly a fundamental parable! How would you like to unlock the Bible?

We discover that the word of God (*the seed*) is “sown in the heart” and immediately Satan the devil comes along and takes away what was sown in the heart! We would be wise to realize that Satan actually spends significant effort and time studying the word of God that has been sown into our hearts! “And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but **when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.**” (Mark 4:15). So let’s break down this important passage into its component parts that we may review this five-fold seed-stealing process,

- (1) – “The seed is the word of God,
- (2) – “which is sown in mans heart;”
- (3) – “When any one heareth the word of the kingdom,”
- (4) – “and understandeth it not;” . . . the natural conclusion is
- (5) – “**Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.**”

This is the biblical five-fold process that graphically illustrates the course of action regarding the destiny of the seed that was sown as expressed in the parable of the sower. Let us examine this process more carefully.

Now pay close attention! *satan* the devil immediately comes along and steals away what was sown in the heart! “Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one



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heareth the word of the kingdom, **and understandeth it not**, then cometh the wicked one, and **catcheth away that which was sown in his heart**” (Matt 13:18-19).

Notice, this takes place only, “When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and **understandeth it not.**” We must clutch the concept that our lack of understanding is what permits the seed to be stolen! This teaches us that Satan can only steal the word “sown in our hearts” when it is not understood!


We have been taught that “faith cometh by hearing.” We all have been taught openly or privately that when we hear something over and over; eventually we will acquire the complete understanding! After all the word says, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom 10:17). So then if we hear over and over and over; finally we will get the concept. But what happens if we don’t understand? Let’s realize that Jesus taught something quite different! He said, “but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts” (Mark 4:15). Satan always comes immediately after the word has been sown through our hearing. Haven’t we all experienced that immediately after we hear some wonderful new biblical concept that Satan immediately shows up to water-down the idea in our hearts!

The Biblical concept is clear; when we hear something **and don’t understand it** then immediately the devil comes and takes it away! Well what if we hear something ten times and don’t understand it? Satan comes and takes it away all ten times. 10 X 0 is still 0! What about 1,000 times? 1,000 X 0 is still 0! The notion is not how many times we hear something sown into our hearts; rather, the important thing is the

**understanding!** 

Understanding is the important component! Luke tells us, “Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures” (Luke 24:45). The Holy Spirit is the means given to us by God through which we gain understanding, “And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, **the spirit of wisdom and understanding**” (Isa 11:2). Jesus said, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things** (*in other words He will give to us the important component of understanding*), and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26). Notice that Jesus said that it is the Spirit of God which gives us the revelation of the (*seed*) or the word of God!

Let us realize that the Holy Spirit has the job of bringing the understanding to us. Remember, it is not how many times we hear a thing that is important! What is important

is to get the understanding  of the (*seed*) or the word of God into our lives. Often times we are in the “faith” process of believing for something from God; yet we do not observe



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the “hoped for” thing come to pass! We perform all that we know to do; yet nothing is comes to pass. We sometimes say to ourselves, “Well he got his healing;” or “She got her answer, why doesn’t God give me the what I have asked for?” “Doesn’t God love me?” “Why do they get their prayers answered and I don’t get mine?” This precarious period between the planting of the seed in our hearts and the manifestation of our hope is when satan performs his ignoble deeds.

What we are all actually seeking after is to cause the word to bring forth its promised harvest or fruit! The good news is that the word of God will definitely work in our lives;

but, it has a definite path that it must travel in order bring forth its fruit! We previously read about the “exceeding great and precious promises!” Yet the scripture says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos 4:6). Let’s not let the lack of knowledge work against us! Let’s observe the botanical truth which came from the very lips of Jesus “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground

and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit” (John 12:23-24). What we are seeking after is the much fruit! The word of God is a seed; yet, we are seeking after the harvest (*fruit*) that the seed produces! In reality we are seeking after the promised harvest! The Bible gives us hope, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever **a man soweth, that shall he also reap**” (Gal 6:7).

Most of us have been taught to use the word of God as a sword, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword” (Heb 4:12). Yet too many people use the word of God as a sword before it has more properly been used as a seed! Jesus said, “Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone (*that one seed remains simply that one seed*).” Now what does “die” mean for the seed in that verse? We would use a much different word in today’s English to describe the biological process that Jesus was referencing! Do you know what that biological word is? What happens to a seed when it is placed into the earth?

Jesus said, “but if it die(*germinates*) **“it bringeth forth much fruit”!**

A seed will remain a seed until it germinates. It remains in the form of a seed until it germinates or is consumed as food! Archeologists have found 2,000-year-old wheat seeds stored in the Egyptian pyramids! They actually planted the seeds and produced an actual wheat harvest from that ancient seed! Many of us Christians have bountiful stores of seeds yet we do not yet see the promised harvest! We are literally turning into massive grain bins of seed! We need to use the word as a sword; however, we must first learn to use it as a seed!

The world has learned well from the saying inspired by satan, “Seeing is believing!” Notice this exact concept through the reaction of the mockers of Jesus while on the cross, “likewise also the chief priests **mocking said** among themselves with the scribes, He



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saved others; himself he cannot save. Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, **that we may see and believe.**” Here we observe the saying, “Seeing is believing!”

However, just like almost everything else we have learned through the word, the Bible teaches the exact opposite, “Believing is seeing!” Notice the exact words that Jesus used in this same context, “Thomas, **because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed:** blessed are they **that have not seen,** and yet **have believed**” (John 20:29). There was a certain nobleman who came to Jesus one day and asked that Jesus heal his son, “Then said Jesus unto him, **Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.**” Jesus actually preached to the man that he **must believe even what he did not see,** “Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And **the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him,** and he went his way” (John 4:50). The next day the man met his servant on the road and discovered that the boy was healed when he first believed! But what if the man would have allowed satan to steal away his seed of belief “**the word that Jesus had spoken?**” In the same fashion as the nobleman, we must learn to be like a pregnant mother!

We must learn to nurture the seed while it is in us! The just shall live by faith! If we nurture and speak/proclaim the seed which was planted in our hearts, the Holy Spirit will come and germinate the seed! Part of our nurturing process is to “see” the thing that we are believing on the inside! This is called insight. Our very imagination must get involved in this process toward germination. God Himself had to stop an evil imagination that began in Babylon, “And now **nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do**” (Gen 11:6). Imagination (*insight*) is a very powerful tool! Before we can see something on the outside we must see it on the inside. God actually stopped the evil imagination that was being promulgated by confusing the people’s tongues!

Consider this example with respect to using the word as a seed –vs– using the word as a sword — How many of you are going to heaven? Raise your hands if you believe that. Have you stayed up for long nights confessing that you indeed are going to heaven? Have you confessed this over and over against Satan in an attempt to beat him into submission to this concept? No! You simply add the revelation knowledge from God’s word to your faith and that is good enough for you! The seed has taken root in your soul and you don’t need to use your belief as a sword!

In the gospels we never observe Jesus building up his faith and then working hard or “white knuckling it!” Do you think that Jesus had any doubts when He called out “Lazarus, come forth?” Jesus wasn’t grunting or shaking! He simply had the revelation knowledge from God, “I speak that which I have seen with my Father,” (John 8:38); then He simply spoke the word and the resurrection took place!

On many occasions we open our mouths and begin to speak and confess the things of faith. However, when they don’t immediately show-up we get a little gun-shy. We enter that period where satan performs his work of unbelief. If we are not careful, this can tend



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to transform us into mere nominal Christians! Without revelation knowledge, we can become more timid in our approach to God's promises!

Whenever we hear in church or in these bible studies that one person got healed and that another had some revelation and then we begin to wonder, "Wow, it really is possible to receive things through faith?" At this point, a seed of faith has been sown! However, when we try to use the word **before it is germinated** we naturally experience frustration!

Remember the five-fold process,

- (1) – "The seed is the word of God,
- (2) – "Which is sown in man's heart;"
- (3) – "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom,"
- (4) – "and understandeth it not;" . . . the natural conclusion is
- (5) – "Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts."

You should at this point have the following question in mind, "So how do I keep the seed in my hearts so it may get germinated?" Notice how Isaiah describes the process of making one to understand, "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and **whom shall he make to understand doctrine?** them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. (*this sounds as if it is meant for those who are mature*) For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: **For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.** To whom he said, **This is the rest** wherewith ye may cause the weary **to rest**; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear" (Isa 28:9-12). We discover that we must enter into this **rest** of God! "Let us labour therefore to enter into that **rest**, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief" (Heb 4:11). We labor to enter; after that we simply **rest**! This process has the appearance much the same as when the children of Israel were taking over the Promised Land!

Jesus lived his entire life with the benefit of revelation knowledge, "And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, **the spirit of wisdom and understanding**, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD" (Isa 11:2). John the Baptist was witness of Jesus being filled with the Holy Spirit, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him" (John 1:32). Germination of the word is revelation knowledge or understanding which comes through the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit brings things to our remembrance and gives us understanding! Just like the revelation knowledge that we have concerning going to heaven, we need to have the "word" germinated in us before we begin to see it produce its harvest!

We experience victory in this life through the things that we believe! Not by our actions, but simply by resting in Jesus! We often say, "This is the key that I needed!" We always seem to be lacking something and searching out some new seven point technique! When



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all the while all we really needed was to enter into that restful condition! Jesus himself gave the promise of rest, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest**” (Matt 11:28). When we fully realize that we of ourselves cannot do it; only then are we almost there! It is not a matter of getting the proper seven keys or anything else that we can accomplish through our own intellect. Jesus died that we might enter into His rest and cease from our works, “For he that is **entered into his rest**, he also hath **ceased from his own works**, as God did from his” (Heb 4:10).

Everything we need has already been accomplished for us in Jesus Christ, “Grace and peace be **multiplied** (*this concept is first used with regard to seed in Gen 16:10 “And the angel of the LORD said unto her, **I will multiply thy seed exceedingly**, that it shall not be numbered for multitude*) unto you **through the knowledge of God** (*Biblical multiplication comes through knowledge*), and of Jesus our Lord, 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: whereby are given unto us **exceeding great and precious promises**” (2 Peter 1:2-4). Through our own strength we cannot make any of the promises come to pass; all we can do is receive!

Living the victorious life is having the healing when we need it; or having the prosperity, which we have confessed; or having a stable and happy family. These are part of the promises, “Whereby are given unto us **exceeding great and precious promises**: that by these ye **might** be partakers of the divine nature.” Did you get the concept that it is actually God’s very nature that is being imparted to us?

We need to realize that all of God’s Word essentially comes in the form of seed! From Genesis through Revelation we have uncounted seeds of the Messiah. We need to view every scripture as a divine seed about Christ! Every scripture is a different revelation of the Christ; and in Christ (the Messiah) is everything that we will ever need! We must learn merely to receive everything that Jesus has already done for us! The process, through which we learn what Jesus has already done for us, begins with His word! It doesn’t matter how many times we hear it; what matters is how much we understand the word! We can be sure that whenever we don’t understand the word we must battle for what has been sown in our hearts! Overcoming faith requires revelation understanding of the word that has been sown!

Simply knowing the scripture is not enough. There are people who can quote more scripture than you know. The Pharisees memorized the first five books of the Bible; yet, they did not recognize their Messiah (*Christ*)! So what good is just knowing the word, “but the word preached did not profit them, **not being mixed with faith** in them that heard it” (Heb 4:2). Obviously, knowing and quoting scripture is one thing; but, understanding the Word of God is something quite different!



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The job of the Holy Spirit is to germinate the word in our hearts! Without the Holy Spirit we become like the people that Isaiah prophesied over, “But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; **that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken**” (Isa 28:13). This is a picture of religious people like the Pharisees who merely knew what the word said; yet, without the spirit giving them any revelation!

Notice that Isaiah teaches that it is with stammering words through which the Holy Spirit speaks to the people, “**For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people**” (Isa 28:11). True, speaking in tongues is a pretty strange activity. It is actually quite bizarre anytime someone speaks words that they don’t know what they mean! The point is that speaking unknown words takes faith! Remember what Isaiah said regarding the milk and meat of the word. The writer of Hebrews expands on this same concept, “But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb 5:14).

Remember Peter’s words tell us that we have “exceeding great and precious promises” which come “though the knowledge of Christ!” Jesus said, “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.” Jesus meant that without the Holy Spirit the disciples were unable to hear Him! He continued, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but **whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak**; and **he will shew you things to come**” (John 16:12-13). Notice that he said, “whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak” Once more, let’s break down an important passage into it’s component parts:

- (1) the Holy Spirit of Truth will come to us;
- (2) the Holy Spirit of Truth will guide us in to truth;
- (3) the Holy Spirit of Truth will not speak of himself;
- (4) the Holy Spirit of Truth will hear from God;
- (5) the Holy Spirit of Truth will speak what He hears;
- (6) and, the Holy Spirit of Truth will show us things to come.

Notice number (5) above; how does the Holy Spirit speak? Revelation comes through speaking in stammering lips or in an unknown tongue! The Holy Spirit does the speaking and gives the revelation! The job of the Holy Spirit is to reveal things to us! The process does not work as some say, “getting things deep down into our hearts.” Just the opposite is true, we are to bring things up out of our spirits and out into the world! That is why Paul wrote, “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue **speaketh not unto men, but unto God**: for no man understandeth him; howbeit **in the spirit he speaketh mysteries**” (1 Cor 14:2). The Holy Spirit actually speaks mysteries through our tongues. The Holy Spirit produces the germination with the seed that we already have in our hearts!

Now get this, there are different kinds of manifestations of tongues, “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh **not unto men, but unto God: for no man**



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**understandeth him**” (1 Cor 14:2). Notice that when you speak in an unknown tongue you speak not unto men but unto God! Here is a key point, on the day of Pentecost they were speaking **unto men**, “because that every man **heard them speak in his own language**” (Acts 2:6)! Therefore, since they had understanding, they were speaking a different kind of tongue (language) than we see in the verse, “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue **speaketh not unto men**” (1 Cor 14:2).

There are two different forms of speaking in tongues. One form of speaking in tongues was used to communicate to men of other languages; this form came about on the day of Pentecost. However, another kind of speaking in tongues is used as a prayer language, “if I pray in an unknown tongue, **my spirit prayeth**, but my understanding is unfruitful” (1 Cor 14:14). Our understanding is unfruitful because our brain does not comprehend. However the spirit will reveal the things generated out of that prayer at some later time. The Bible describes this second form of speaking in tongues as, “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, **but unto God**” (1 Cor 14:2).

On the day of Pentecost they began to speak in other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance! Now let’s come to a realization, either they were making up a false babbling language **or** they were hearing the inner voice of the Holy Spirit and repeating the utterance that He was giving to them! The bible says they “began to speak with other tongues, **as the Spirit gave them utterance**” (Acts 2:4). Whenever a Christian speaks in other tongues then, he/she obviously hears the voice of the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit gives the utterance! The Holy Spirit will reveal things line upon line and precept upon precept!

All word and no spirit, you dry-up;  
All spirit and no word, and you blow-up;  
But, when you mix the spirit with the word you grow-up!

Many don’t understand the Holy Spirit; yet, it is He who Jesus promised would give us the understanding.

We don’t experience success by simply spitting out the word of God toward Satan like a sword! For example we might be saying, “by his stripes I am healed;” “by his stripes I am healed;” “by his stripes I am healed;” etc. Rather, we must use the word of God as a seed before it becomes a sword! We must believe it in our hearts (*the word is sown in our hearts*) and have no doubt! Through building a close worshipful relationship with Jesus, we begin to discover that God’s love for us through Jesus Christ is what actually performs the healing in our bodies. This revelation knowledge from God causes the seed of the word to germinate within us and it takes root! Then, whatever mountain that we face, when we speak it naturally obeys our voice, “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. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire,



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when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them” (Mark 11:23-24)! When Jesus spoke these words, what specific OT scripture was He quoting from? (Answer) – “None!” There is no OT scripture, which gave Him that concept! There is nothing wrong with quoting scripture! Yes we need to understand and quote from the Bible. But more importantly, what we really need is to speak unto the mountain **while experiencing a close personal relationship with God** and it shall be done!

Often times we make things much too hard! We just need to chill! When we get into a relationship with Jesus, we do things out of a “want-to” mentality not out of a “have-to point of view!” When we are living out of a “want-to” mentality, we no longer need to function! At this point we aren’t having to perform; or working to bind the right devil; or having to quote the correct scripture! Rather, we are simply enjoying victory through a close relationship with our daddy, the creator of the universe!

The Holy Spirit continually germinates the word in our hearts, “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual” (1 Cor 2:13).

Praying in tongues is simply a spiritual gateway into the spiritual things of God! We should pray often in the Holy Spirit! When we pray in tongues spiritual things begin to be revealed to us! As we continue to receive from the Holy Spirit our relationship grows and we naturally enter into the rest of God!

The bible teaches us, “the just shall live by faith!” But what is that specific “faith” that the just actually live by? Our problem is that many Christians don’t know what the true Bible meaning of “faith” really is! Most people understand faith as a form of deep believing or having a strong conviction about something. Isn’t that what most of you feel? Yet, that concept is incomplete! The concept of true Bible “faith” is too often elusive. James chapter two has long been the source of major theological disagreements regarding the relationship between “faith” and “works.”

However, in order to understand just what “faith” is, we must have the proper and complete Bible definition of “faith.” Next, we must put that “faith” into operation! Misunderstanding “faith” can result in frustration and certainly produce unfruitful results; if anything at all!

Jesus left clear instruction regarding our walk of faith, “Behold, **I give unto you power to tread** (walk) **on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy:** and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19). Obviously He gave us the spiritual power to tread or (walk) on the unsavory elements of the spiritual realm. The bible teaches, “For we **walk by faith**, not by sight” (2 Cor 5:7). Jesus’ words clearly mean that we have God on our side as we **walk by faith** and tread on serpents (*demons*)! This clearly implies that we are assured of defeating the devil and his emissaries in every aspect



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of our lives! **That specific power to tread down our enemies is expressed as our walk by faith!**

But, let's make sure of our understanding! When I was a teenager, if anyone said that something was "cool" they certainly didn't mean that it was characteristic of a low temperature; rather it meant that the thing was wonderful or outstanding in nature! Another expression from that era is the phrase "out of sight!" The phrase in no way meant that one experienced obscured vision! Rather, "out of sight" was another euphemism meaning that the thing or concept was wonderful or outstanding in nature!

There is always an important need to have a clear and proper understanding regarding the specific meaning of words in the vernacular. It is significant that we understand the Biblical meaning of important concepts such as "faith." This is especially true when the words have a direct bearing on our daily lives! The words "faith" and "works" as used in the second Chapter of James are two such concepts that need clarification!

Let us search out more carefully the words "faith" and "works" as we seek a more complete understanding of the concepts that James, penned. The Greek word "*pistis*" meaning "*conviction or persuasion*" as found in James chapter 2, is translated into the English word "faith." Likewise, the Greek word "*ergon*" which means "*corresponding action*" is also found in James 2. We get the English word "energy" from the Greek word "*ergon*" and it is most often translated into the English word "works." Therefore, in order for us to fully get the complete understanding of the passage in James chapter two, we will substitute the corresponding definition noted above in order to bring out a clearer meaning of the passage.

In every instance from the second Chapter of James where we see the word "faith" we are going to replace that corresponding Greek word "*pistis*" with its literal meaning, "*conviction or persuasion*." And everywhere we see the word "works" we will replace the Greek word "*ergon*" with its meaning "*corresponding action*." Going through this effort will bring out some important clarification from this passage.

Let's begin the process with James 2:14, "what doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath "*conviction or persuasion*" **faith**, and have not "*corresponding action*" **works**? can "*conviction or persuasion*" **faith** save him (*meaning to deliver rescue or set free*)?" Next we go to verse 17, "Even so "*conviction or persuasion*" **faith**, if it hath not "*corresponding action*" **works, is dead, being alone.** (*We must stop here in verse 17 as we capture the important Biblical concept that there is such a thing as Biblical **dead faith!** This **dead faith** is equivalent to "*conviction or persuasion*" without any "*corresponding action!*" Therefore, the opposite or **living faith** should be characterized by "*conviction or persuasion*" along with "*corresponding action!*" The following two formulae identify these concepts more clearly!*

- **Living Faith** = "conviction or persuasion" + "corresponding action!"



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- **Dead Faith** = “conviction or persuasion” – *or without* “corresponding action!”

Every time we come across Biblical miracle-producing “faith” it is always characterized by the type of faith as identified in the **Living Faith** formula noted above. The **Living Faith** always includes the component of a “*corresponding action*” notice the action verbs:

- widow **gave the prophet** Elijah her first cake from her final provision;
- woman with the issue of blood **reached out for the hem** of Jesus’ garment;
- Naaman **dipped himself in the Jordan** seven times;
- man born blind **washed in Siloam** and came seeing;
- centurion **said, speak the word only**, and my servant shall be healed
- the Hebrews, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego **said**, “**we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up**”

Returning to James chapter 2 we read in verse 17, “Yea, a man may say, Thou hast “*conviction or persuasion*” **faith**, and I have “*corresponding action*” **works**: shew me thy “*conviction or persuasion*” **faith** without thy “*corresponding action*” **works**, and I will shew thee my “*conviction or persuasion*” **faith** by my “*corresponding action*” **works**. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that “*conviction or persuasion*” **faith** without “*corresponding action*” **works is dead**” (James 2:17-20)? (*Notice the definition of **Dead Faith** as listed in the bullet above.*) “Was not Abraham our father (*in the faith*) justified (*made right with God*) by “*corresponding action*” **works**, (*Abraham took what he believed or his “conviction or persuasion” and combined it with his “corresponding action”*) **when he had offered Isaac** his son upon the altar” (James 2:21).

Abraham fulfilled the whole formula as follows: **Living faith** = “conviction or persuasion” + “corresponding action!” What we discover in this passage is that we must get our “*conviction or persuasion*” **faith** operational along with our “*corresponding action*” or **works**! When we completely perform this we fulfill the scripture concerning faith! Notice that verse 23 confirms this idea: “And **the scripture was fulfilled** which saith, **Abraham believed God** *this means that in order for Abraham to believe he had to take his “conviction or persuasion” + his “corresponding action” and this became his living faith*), and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God” (James 2:23). Abraham’s **faith** was not just composed of the “*conviction or persuasion*” which he possessed inside his mind! Rather, he took his “*conviction or persuasion*” **faith** and combined it with “*corresponding action!*” We continue with verse 24, “Ye see then how that by “*corresponding action*” **works** a man is justified, and not by “*conviction or persuasion*” **faith** only. 25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by “*corresponding action*” **works**, **when she had received** “*conviction or persuasion*” the messengers, and **had sent** “*corresponding action*” them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so “*conviction or persuasion*” **faith** without “*corresponding action*” **works** is dead also” (James 2:24-26).



## The Walk of Faith

*Usable – Working Formulae – for Living Faith*

This last week I conducted a funeral for Corinne Bueno. It took her body plus her spirit to make the individual known as Corrine. In the same manner it takes “*corresponding action*” added to “*conviction or persuasion*” to compose **a living faith!**

Let’s follow Jesus’ words, “Behold, **I give unto you power to tread (walk) on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy:** and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19). Notice that Jesus told us that nothing shall by any means hurt us! Yet, God said, “it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Gen 3:15). Is this a contradiction? Absolutely not! Jesus was killed on the stake in fulfillment of the scripture “bruise his heel!” However, Jesus bruised his head, “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8).

Just as the spirit gives life to the body so “corresponding action” **works** gives life to “conviction or persuasion” **faith** and thus produces **God’s Living Faith!** Now we have the complete two-step treading advance toward spiritual success:

When we walk by faith we will, “tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19).