

PRINCIPLES
OF
BIBLICAL FAITH

By: William G. Arvan

P R E F A C E

Francis (Frank) William and Marie Garmoe Whaley were our mentors in Biblical Faith. In 1902 Marie's family immigrated from Hammerer, Norway to Grantsburg, Wisconsin where Frank's family, were nearby neighbors. In 1917, after seven years of courtship, Frank (29) and Marie (25) were married, moved to Minneapolis, MN, and raised a family of five children.

Through the death of their daughter, Mavis, Frank (43) came to faith in Christ with this testimony - "If I'm going to be a Christian I'm going all the way and not be a half-way Christian like so many people I've seen." That same night "Joy flooded my soul," said Marie, as she, along with her husband, also received Christ as her personal Savior.

As they prayed about serving Christ full-time, God eventually led them to the Plymouth Gospel Mission in Minneapolis and the establishment of a Children's Mission School in Lakeville, MN. This was a care ministry for homeless children ranging from six months to teens. It was at this Children's Mission that my wife, Pat, and I were introduced to the Whaleys through their daughter & son-in-law, Valarie and Gordon Renne. Since then, 1946, our spiritual lives have never been the same.

I worked in a large Supermarket. Frequently, at closing time on Saturday nights, I was allowed to box up leftover breads and pastries which Pat and I took to the Whaleys on Sunday afternoons. On such occasions we had opportunity to see Frank and Marie's faith in action and to receive encouragement from them to serve God and to live by faith. The following represent some of the high-lights of our experience.

- Frank had taken children from the Mission to a dentist in Lakeville. Frank explained that he had no money but if the dentist would fix the children's teeth he would pay him as God provided the finances. The dentist agreed.

One Sunday afternoon, while eating "bean sandwiches" with another visiting family, this family's daughter (20-21) began to weep. When asked why, she confessed, "I have been unfaithful to God in tithing." She proceeded to give Mr. Whaley a check for 90 some dollars. The amount was almost to the penny of the dental bill.

- Frank would share with Pat and me how God had used John 6:27 to confirm that he should pursue a full-time Christian ministry. He would quote "*Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give you ---*" (KJV). Then he would say, "Bill, don't waste your life on temporal things but invest your life in that which has eternal value."

In July, 1947, with a welding mask covering my face, that verse came to me as an audible voice, and like Frank Whaley, I knew that God was calling me to serve Him in a full-time ministry. I entered the St. Paul Bible Institute that September.

- On a cold Minnesota winter night the oil burner at the Children's Mission School stopped functioning. The children were dressed and wrapped in blankets. Without financial resources, Frank and Marie prayed for God's help. The next morning a new oil burner was sitting on the front steps. Later in the day, a person showed up to install it.

- Matthew 6:25-34 (KJV) was a favorite passage of Frank and Marie. Please read it. As they related how God provided for their ministry needs, they would encourage Pat and me to consider the “birds” (6:26) and the “lilies” (6:28) and all that God does for them and then apply it to this fact. “If God knows how to provide for them, then surely He will provide for you, for are you not more valuable to God than they?” “Bill and Pat, seek God’s will for your lives and simply trust Him to provide for your needs,” they would encourage.

These dear servants of Jesus Christ, Frank and Marie Whaley, “*were still living by faith when they died,*” Frank at age 67 and Marie at 107. Their testimonies and experiences motivated me to examine the Scriptures as to how faith works in a believer’s life. That’s what this booklet, **Principles Of Biblical Faith**, is all about: **Eight Practical Steps in the exercise of Biblical Faith.**

It is my prayer that this booklet will be **an asset** to **pastors, teachers and group discussion leaders** in challenging people to: “*Live by faith, not by sight*” (II Corinthians 5:7). For, “*Without faith it is impossible to please God*” (Hebrews 11:6).

In order to easily understand this teaching, the material is written in the form of **Principles** followed by **illustrations** from personal experiences.

All scriptural quotations are from the New International Version unless otherwise indicated. To receive the fullest understanding of these **Principles**, scriptural references should be **diligently read and digested.**

This material may be used in any form without prior permission from the author.

I lovingly dedicate “Principles of Biblical Faith” to **Patricia**, my wife of 65 years, who shares with me in this adventure of believing God. Expressing thoughts, wording, sentence structure and grammar are her forte. Without her I would have been **miserably inadequate** for this task.

I deeply appreciate the expertise, time and effort of my grandson, David B. Arvan and his wife Sarah, in preparing this material for electronic transfers.

This material was revised and printed in the Fall of 2011..

MAY IT BE USED FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction ----- Pages 5-12

Principle One ---- “Biblical Faith Is A Continuous
Way Of Life” ----- Pages 13-14

Principle Two ---- “Biblical Faith Is Centered In
The Person Of Christ”----- Pages 15-18

Principle Three --- “Faith’s Foundation” ----- Pages 19-22

Principle Four ---- “God’s Offer” ----- Pages 23-26

Principle Five ---- “Personal Trust” ----- Pages 27-30

Principle Six ----- “God’s Faithfulness” ----- Pages 31-32

Principle Seven – “Faith’s Reward” ----- Pages 33-36

Principle Eight — “God’s Glory” ----- Pages 37-38

“Faith Without Expectation Is Dead” ----- Pages 39-40

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL FAITH

LAYOUT and DESIGN

The following information will inform you of the **Page Setup** used for Principles of Biblical Faith.

1. **Page Layout** --- Portrait
2. **Paper** --- Width 8 ½ inches and Height 11 inches
3. **Margins** --- Top 0.4 and Bottom 2.5 inches

For **Even numbered pages**
Left 1.6 inches and Right 0.8 inches

For **Odd numbered pages**
Left 0.8 inches and Right 1.6 inches

Gutter 0 inches --- Gutter position left

Headers and Footers --- Headers 0.5 inches and Footers 0.5 inches

4. **Printing** --- The pages are laid out for printing them “**back to back**”. If your computer is not able to print pages “back to back”, then download this material onto a “flash drive” and have a printing company print it for you off of the “flash drive”.
5. **Cutting or Trimming** --- For the **finished size** of the booklet, cut or trim 1 inch off of the **right hand side of odd numbered pages** and 2 ½ inches off of the **bottom** of the pages.
6. **Binding** --- Use **Combind** binders or fasteners for binding the book together.
Apply the Binder to the **left hand side of the odd numbered pages** – which will be the **right hand side of the even numbered pages**.

INTRODUCTION

Webster's Dictionary defines **PRINCIPLE** as "A fundamental truth or law; a moral rule or settled rule of action." This study presents **Eight Principles** or essential truths concerning **Biblical Faith**. The diagram on page 11 reveals how these Principles operate as a **process of eight practical steps** in the exercise of **Biblical Faith**. These Principles are primarily seen in Romans 3:21-4:25 and Hebrews 10:35-12:3.

First, a few introductory thoughts about **Biblical Faith**.

BIBLICAL FAITH DECLARED (To show, reveal, make known)

"See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright - but the righteous will live by his faith." Habakkuk 2:4

This verse presents two Philosophies of Life.

The first pictures a proud, self-centered, arrogant person who struts in the presence of God, saying in effect, "I am self-sufficient and have no need of you." This person is "puffed up" and eventually, like a burst balloon, his exploits collapse in utter failure and ruin. **Self-sufficiency is the opposite of Biblical Faith.**

The Chaldeans (Babylonians) are an example of this philosophy. Habakkuk 1:5-11, 2:4a; Daniel 5:22-31

The second philosophy pictures a person who trusts or relies upon God, and by his faith in God, lives. This Principle, "*The righteous will live by his faith*" is quoted three times in the New Testament. In each instance it is used to **illustrate victory as a reality in Christian life.**

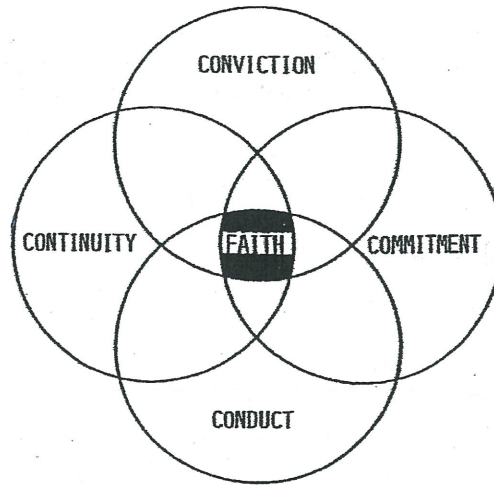
- In Romans 1:16-17, the reality of salvation.
Deliverance from God's wrath / judgment.
- In Galatians 3:10-14, the reality of redemption (freedom).
Freedom from the curse of the law.
- In Hebrews 10:35 – 11:40, the reality of triumph.
Triumph over human impossibilities.

In the exercise of Biblical Faith, this philosophy is **indispensable**.

The "Heroes" of Faith in Hebrews chapter 11 **exemplify** this philosophy.

BIBLICAL FAITH DESCRIBED (To picture in words; To give a detailed account of ---)

The New Testament concept of Biblical Faith includes **four main elements** which are **mutually connected** and **indispensable** to each other. (See following diagram.)



- **CONVICTION** ----- **Being convinced or persuaded by the Holy Spirit, a person repents of that which he formerly accepted or trusted and admits as true what God's Word reveals to him.**
John 16:5-11; II Timothy 1:12
- **COMMITMENT** --- **Surrendering one's will to the will of God as revealed in His Word. Entrusting one's life / soul to the saving / delivering power of God.**
Philippians 3:4b-9; Acts 16:25-34
- **CONDUCT** ----- **Behavior stimulated by and consistent with a committed life. Living a life that conforms to the will (Word) of God. Allowing one's actions and decisions to be guided and managed by God's Word.**
Ephesians 4:17 - 5:15 (Summarized in 4:22-24)
- **CONTINUITY** ---- **Uninterrupted perseverance until one possesses all that God has promised in His Word.**
Philippians 3:12-14, 20; Hebrews 11:13-16

In the exercise of Biblical Faith these four mutually connected and indispensable elements are essential.

BIBLICAL FAITH DEFINED (To give distinguishing characteristics)

WHAT IS BIBLICAL FAITH?

In order to “live” by faith or to “exercise” faith we must first understand what **biblical faith is**. There is but one definition. It is simply **BELIEVING GOD**. **Believing God’s Word. Believing God’s Promises.**

Romans 4:1-3

The phrase, “**By Faith**”, is used 24 times in Hebrews chapter 11. It expresses **the manner** by which individuals, such as Moses (11:23-28), and groups of individuals, such as the prophets (11:32), **responded** to God’s Word and Promises to them. **They believed God’s Word. They believed God’s Promises.**

FAITH’S AREA / SPHERE OF OPERATION

In what areas of Christian life does biblical faith operate? What situations in Christian life call for its exercise?

- The area of “*What we hope for.*” Hebrews 11:1
Hope refers to that which is **still future**. It is the patient **waiting** for that which is **ahead of us**, beyond our reach in time. Romans 8:22-25
Example: Abraham’s 25 year wait – Hebrews 6:13-15.
- The area of “*What we do not see.*” Hebrews 11:1
Those **unknown unexperienced things** not yet **comprehended** nor **fathomed** by the mind.
Example: Noah – Hebrews 11:7
- The area **beyond which human abilities perform.**
Examples: The Red Sea --- Hebrews 11:29 (see also Exodus 14:13-16, 21-22).
Jericho --- Hebrews 11:30 (see also Joshua 6:2-5).

Faith: “Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man’s power ends.” George Muller

In relation to the forgiveness of sins, Jesus said, “*It is not the **healthy** who need a doctor, but the **sick**. I have **not come** to call the **righteous**, but **sinner**s to repentance*” (Luke 5:32); “*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost*” (Luke 19:10).

Jesus is teaching that if you are **trusting in the sufficiency of your own righteous ways** (whatever they may be) to make you **acceptable** with God, then you consider yourself “**healthy, with no need of a doctor.**” Christ’s “**call**” or His desire “**to seek and save you**” goes **unheeded**. You are unwilling to **exercise biblical faith** for your salvation. You are **satisfied** with your **self-righteousness**.

However, if you **acknowledge** that you are **spiritually ill**, that is, that **your sin of unbelief** towards God and His Word has left you **separated** from God and **humanly helpless** of reconciliation with Him, then **repent**, turn from your sin and accept by faith the **medicine** Jesus Christ has provided for your sickness. This is how **His prescription** reads.

One time for all time (Hebrews 10:11-14) “**I died** (paid for) **for your sins**” (I Corinthians 15:1-8). “**For God so loved you that he gave me** (Jesus Christ) **his one and only Son, that whoever believes in me** (trusts Christ alone for his salvation) **shall not perish but have eternal life**” (John 3:16).

FAITH'S EFFECT

*"Faith is **being sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see."* Hebrews 11:1

*"Faith is **the confident assurance** that something we want is going to happen. It is **the certainty** that what we hope for is waiting for us **even though we cannot see it up ahead.**"* Hebrews 11:1 – The Living Bible

This is the **quality** of faith *"The Ancients (our spiritual forefathers) were all **commended for**"* (Hebrews 11:2, 4, 5, 39).

Now, for the mind boggling question. "How could **all of these** mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11 be so **sure** (assured), so **certain** (confident)? The answer lies in the **character of their God.**

"God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" Numbers 23:19

Their faith rested in a God who **cannot lie** nor **change** and who is **always faithful** to fulfill His Word (Promises).

Examples: Abraham, Hebrews 11:11 with Romans 4:20-21

Joseph, Hebrews 11:22 with Genesis 50:24-25, Exodus 13:19 and Joshua 24:32.

These "Heroes of Faith" constitute a *"Cloud of Witnesses"* **who encourage us in our life of faith.**
Hebrews 12:1-2

FAITH, MIGHTY FAITH THE PROMISE SEES AND LOOKS TO GOD ALONE.
LAUGHS AT IMPOSSIBILITIES AND CRIES --- "IT SHALL BE DONE!"
AND CRIES --- "IT SHALL, IT SHALL BE DONE",
AND CRIES --- "IT SHALL, IT SHALL BE DONE."
LAUGHS AT IMPOSSIBILITIES AND CRIES --- "IT SHALL BE DONE."
Author Unknown

F-A-I-T-H ... WHAT IS IT? HOW DOES IT WORK??

Rev. Richard LeBar

It asks no other evidence than God's Word. It begins where sight and sense cease! Faith always counts on the faithfulness of God. It is always triumphant. It has nothing to do with feelings, impressions or outward appearances, but rests on the naked Word of God.

The whole question is: Has God spoken it in His Word? Then, we rest on the simple promise and fully rely on Him. You see, an eternal, sovereign, wise, powerful, loving and holy God stands behind that promise!

Faith operates in a realm beyond human wisdom and understanding. Yet is not mere expectation of future things, but a present receiving of that which is promised. God cannot lie; He cannot deny Himself. *"If we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot disown Himself"* (II Timothy 2:13). What God says is true and He will act in full accord with what He said!

It is the joy of God's heart to bless all His redeemed ones, but He waits for us to act on what He has spoken. Take Him at His Word; govern your asking by what you know to be His perfect will, and get involved in that which is closest to His heart!

Be assured, no man knows enough to challenge the Word of God successfully. Wherever man's thoughts run against divine revelation, they will one day be utterly dashed to pieces on the reality that God is true, and cannot change.

At the heart of the Christian faith is the Person and work of our Lord Jesus. Because we learn about Him in the Bible, we must beware of anything that downgrades it. Whether man admits it or not, the Scriptures are the **only infallible rule of faith and practice**. They speak with incomparable power and authority (II Peter 1:21). The further men drift from the Scriptures, the further they get away from the Christ of the Scriptures. The more men insist that only scholars can understand the Word and that you must add worldly wisdom to it ... the more they get away from the Holy Spirit who inspired that Bible, and **who alone** can teach the deep things of God to those who want to know its contents bad enough to stay rightly related to Him.

The just (those justified by faith in Christ) are to live by faith. Genuine faith acts, laying hold of what God has spoken. It is never passive! It is alive, linking us up with Jesus Christ, who is alive forevermore! No genuine faith ever says, "Yes, I believe that," and fails to move right into obedience and reality!

Faith needs food to grow on, and sometimes God uses even defeats for this purpose. Certainly we must allow Him to teach us through trials, obstacles, troubles, bereavements. When they come, we must simply say, "My Father knows what He is doing; I will accept it and learn what He desires, and rejoice in His loving arrangements. He will, in some way, glorify Himself in it; therefore I just leave myself in His hands with expectation of grace, deliverance, or whatever He chooses to bring forth as His own will."

The same faith that receives, will also **decline** some involvements. In Hebrews 11:24-27, we find a declaration that by faith, Moses *"Refused to be known as the son of pharaoh's daughter."* By faith he chose to suffer affliction with the people of God instead of reveling in the pleasures of sin. And by faith, Moses forsook Egypt (typical of the world).

What kind of faith is yours? What is it doing? Is it alive? Growing? Active? Fruitful, to the glory of God? See II Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 12:2; I Peter 1:7

Faith is a **prime ingredient** of the Christian life. But we still try to justify ourselves, walk by sight and as a result live in frustration and defeat. Faith sprouts the quickest in a soil of expectancy ... expect a great God to do mighty things! We read that *"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ."* Romans 10:17

God delights in **exercising** our faith; it is **strengthened** by use. We need to have our faith **stretched** by saturation in the Word. Claim a promise and see His full performance. Fix your eyes on Jesus Christ Himself; get your heart centered on Him and upon the will of God. Feast on the Word through reading, study, meditation and obedience ... and grow up in the Lord (Ephesians 4:15; Hebrews 5:12-14). Faith is contagious. It excels when all odds are against it, shining brightest in the darkest night.

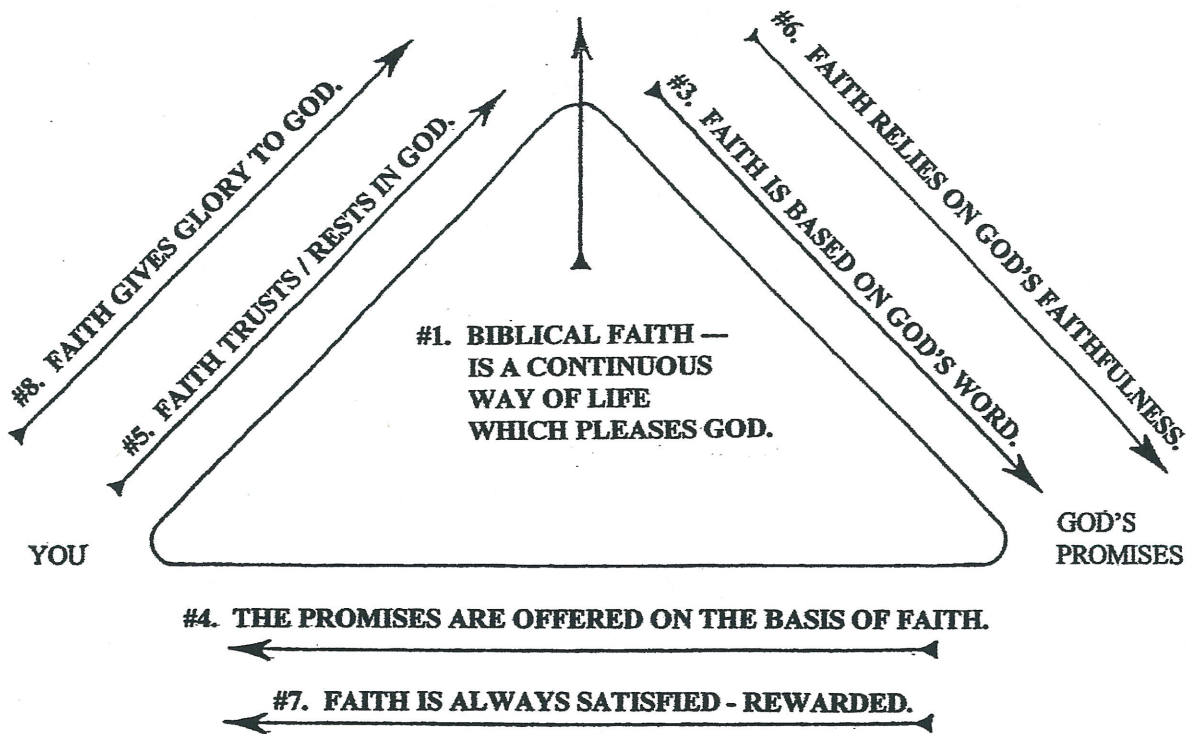
"LORD, I BELIEVE; HELP THOU MINE UNBELIEF."

Mark 9:24 KJV

EIGHT PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL FAITH



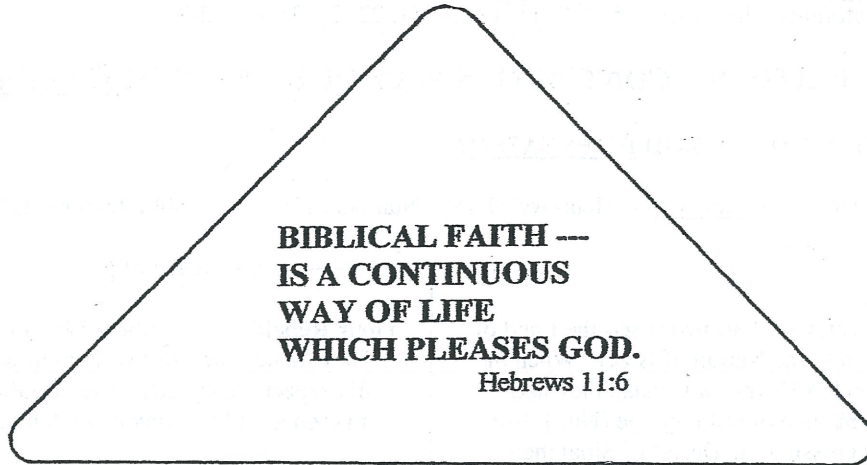
#2. FAITH IS CENTERED IN CHRIST.



EIGHT PRACTICAL STEPS IN THE EXERCISE OF BIBLICAL FAITH

1. Whenever in our life of faith –
 2. We look away from ourselves and unto Jesus –
 3. He responds to our needs through His Word of Promise –
 4. Which is offered to us on the basis or condition of faith.
 5. When by faith we trust Christ and His Word of Promise –
 6. He is faithful to keep / fulfill that Word of Promise –
 7. So that our faith in God is satisfied or rewarded –
 8. And thereby He receives the Glory.

PRINCIPLE ONE



BIBLICAL FAITH IS A CONTINUOUS WAY OF LIFE

Hebrews 12:1 portrays the Christian life as a “**race**,” a contest. In I Timothy 6:12a and II Timothy 4:7, the same Greek word, “*Agon*,” is translated “**fight**,” thus depicting a **conflict**. Every believer is **engaged** in this **spiritual** contest or conflict. To successfully run this race **four things** are to be observed and obeyed. We find them outlined for us in Hebrews 12:1-3.

- **LET US** --- “*Throw off everything that hinders.*” 12:1
Metaphorically, any weight or encumbrance that restrains, impedes, holds back, or hampers you in running the race.
- **LET US** --- “*Throw off the sin that so easily entangles.*” 12:1
The encompassing or ensnaring **sin of unbelief** (Hebrews 3:12-19) which manifests itself in **rejection** (3:12), **rebellion** (3:16) and **disobedience** (3:18) towards God.
- **LET US** --- “*Run with perseverance ----- our marked out race.*” 12:1
Perseverance means, “To abide or remain under.”
Just as those in Hebrews chapter 11 remained in their **race** until the end of their lives (11:13, 21), so we are to remain in **our race**, “*Imitating those who through faith and patience (perseverance) inherit what has been promised.*” Hebrews 6:10-12
- **LET US** --- “*Fix our eyes on Jesus.*” 12:2
Allow the **example** of Jesus’ endurance / patience **encourage** you to bear up courageously in your life of faith. Hebrews 12:2-13

<p>Persevering in doing the will of God until the race is completed at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 10:35-39</p>
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Hebrews 10:35-39 teaches that believers in Christ **live and persevere** by the means of faith. They go on to the **full possession** of all that **God has promised them**.

Those named in Hebrews chapter 11 are examples of Biblical Faith as a continuous way of life. Read their "**By Faith**" testimonies in verses 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 31 and 32-34

BIBLICAL FAITH IS A CONTINUOUS WAY OF LIFE - WHICH PLEASES GOD.

- **WITH WHOM IS GOD DISPLEASED?**

With them that **believe not** (Hebrews 3:7-19). Numbers 13:1 – 14:45 illustrates this truth.

In Egypt, God **had promised** the Land of Canaan to the Nation of Israel. When the Nation left Egypt for Canaan they had **603,550** men of military age (Nu. 1:1-46). After crossing the Desert of Sinai they arrived at the southern border of Canaan. Reports from those who explored Canaan caused **unbelief** and the army to **rebel**.

(A breach of promise)

Their Rebellion – Numbers 14:1-11

They treated the Lord with **contempt** (disgrace, disrespect, disregard). They **doubted God's presence** and **His power** to deliver them.

Their Recompense – Numbers 14:22-39

A 40 - year desert wandering until **all 603,548** rebellious army men **died**.

Unbelief causes a "**breach**" of promise – a **non-fulfillment** of the promise. "*You will suffer for your sins (unbelief) and know what it is like to have me against you.*" (for 40 years).

Numbers 14:34

(A breach of promise)

- **WITH WHOM IS GOD PLEASED?**

With those who **believe Him**. These He **recompenses** or **rewards**. Hebrews 11:6

Caleb and Joshua, **two survivors** out of the twelve sent to explore Canaan (Numbers 14:5-9, 38-39) and also, **the only survivors** of Israel's rebellious 603,550 man army that **perished** in the desert wandering (Numbers 14:26-30), are **illustrations** of this truth - "**with whom is God pleased.**"

For his faith in God, **Caleb was awarded the city of Hebron** in the Land of Canaan (Joshua 14:6-15).

For his faith in God, **Joshua was awarded the city of Timnath Serah** in the Land of Canaan (Joshua 19:49-50).

"But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him. But we are not of those who shrink back (like the 603,548 men of war) and are destroyed, but of those (like Caleb and Joshua) who believe and are saved." Hebrews 10:38-39

PRINCIPLE TWO

“BIBLICAL FAITH IS CENTERED IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST”



Biblical Faith is a continuous way of life which pleases / honors God. In order to live this life of faith we are admonished to:

*“Fix our eyes on Jesus, the **author and perfecter** of our faith.”* Hebrews 12:2a

The New English Bible translates this verse as ---

“Having your eyes fixed upon Jesus, upon whom faith depends from start to finish.”

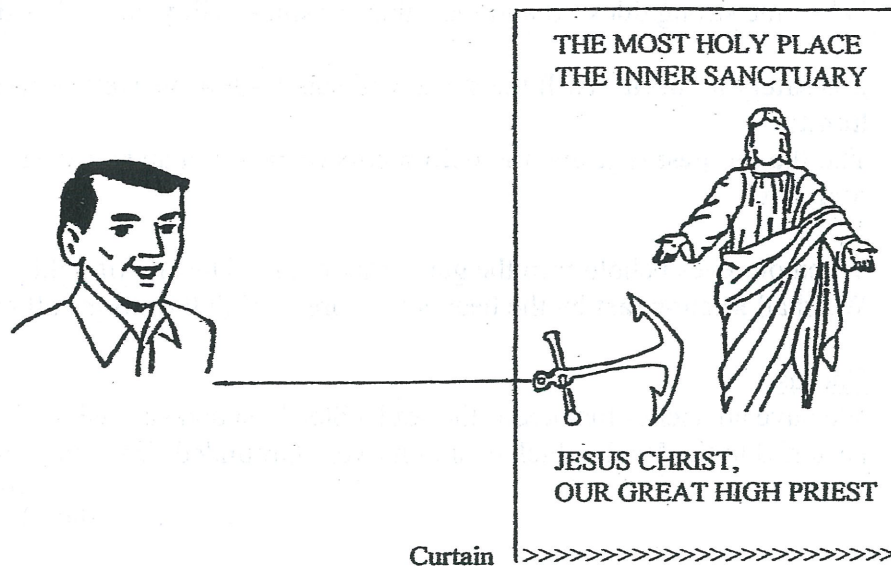
The word “**fix**” means, “To look away from one thing so as to see another.” In our life of faith, we are to **look away from ourselves and others and concentrate our gaze upon Jesus Christ**. We are to “**behold**” Him. We are to “**consider**” Him. In so doing, we behold two views of Him as seen / understood through the use of the word “**set**.”

CHRIST - SEATED IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS Ephesians 1:15-23

In Ephesians 1:20, the Greek word *kathizo* is translated “**seated**.” It means, “To appoint; To place; To cause to sit.” God demonstrated His **incomparably** (exceeding, surpassing, immeasurable) **great**, *mega* in Greek, (meaning a **million times more** than a specified unit of measurement) **power** (mighty strength) **when He:**

- Made Christ **alive again** and raised Him out from among the dead;
- And **seated** the resurrected Christ at His own right hand in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 1:19-20

- This hope (the priestly ministry of Jesus Christ) is like an **anchor** for the soul. Hebrews 6:19



This anchor is **firm** (sure, safe, certain). 6:19

As an **anchor**, firmly gripping the sea bottom, **pivots a ship** to face the wind and thus **ride out the storm**, so as you look away unto Jesus He will **stabilize your "storm"** --- the situation you are in.

You will not **be swamped** or **overwhelmed**. You will not **capsize**. You will not "go under."

This anchor will **securely** hold you. It is steadfast, unmovable. 6:19

This anchor is **fastened** to the rock, Jesus. This anchor **will not break** under stress or strain.

Biblical Faith depends upon Jesus **from start to finish**. For the spiritual race (contest / conflict) in which you are **engaged**, you are to "*Fix your eyes on Jesus*" and **He will sustain you**.

"TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS,
LOOK FULL IN HIS WONDERFUL FACE,
AND THE THINGS OF EARTH WILL GROW
STRANGELY DIM
IN THE LIGHT OF HIS GLORY AND GRACE."
Helen Howarth Lemmel

We Have An Anchor

Will your anchor **hold** in the storms of life, - When the clouds unfurl their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift and the cables strain, - Will your anchor **drift** of **firm** remain?

It is safely **moored**, 'twill the storm withstand, - For 'tis well **secured** by the **Savior's hand**;

Tho the **tempest** rage and the **wild winds blow**, - Not an angry wave shall **our bark o'er flow**.

When our eyes behold thru the gath-'ring night - The city of gold, our harbor bright,
We shall **anchor fast** by the heavenly shore, - With the storms all past forevermore.

Chorus

We have an anchor that keeps the soul - Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the **Rock** which cannot move, - Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.

Lyrics By: Priscilla J. Owens

Music By: William J. Kirkpatrick

My Anchor Holds

Though the angry surges roll - On my tempest driven soul,
I am peaceful, for I know, - Wildly though the winds may blow,
I've an anchor **safe and sure**, - That can evermore **endure**.

Mighty tides about me sweep, - Perils lurk within the deep,
Angry clouds o'er-shade the sky, - And the tempest rises high;
Still I stand the tempests shock, - **For my anchor grips the rock**.

I can feel the **anchor fast** - As I meet each sudden blast,
And the cable, though unseen, - Bears the heavy strain between;
Through the storm I safely ride, - Till the turning of the tide.

Troubles almost 'whelm the soul; - Griefs like billows o'er me roll;
Tempters seek to lure astray; Storms obscure the light of day:
But in Christ I can **be bold**, - **I've an anchor that shall hold**.

Chorus

And **it holds**, my anchor **holds**: Blow your wildest then O gale,
On my bark so small and frail: By His grace I shall not fail,
For my anchor **holds**, my anchor **holds**.

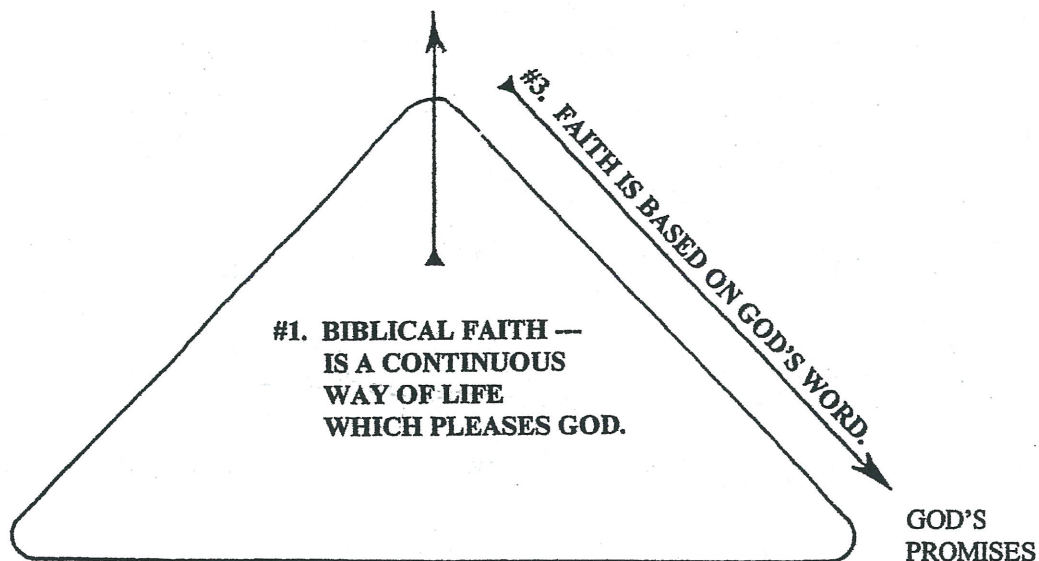
Lyrics By: W.C. Martin

Music By: D.W. Towner

PRINCIPLE THREE

“FAITH’S FOUNDATION”

#2. FAITH IS CENTERED IN CHRIST.



Biblical Faith is centered in the person of Jesus Christ, “the hope offered to us” (Hebrews 6:18). When in your need you by faith look away unto Jesus (upon whom faith depends) God responds to your need with His Word of Promise.

In Hebrews 6:17-18 we find three truths concerning God’s Word of Promise.

#1. THE PROMISES ARE GOD’S COUNSEL FOR YOU. 6:17

When examining the Greek word *boule*, which is translated “purpose” in the NIV and “counsel” in the KJV, we find the following applications.

- God, knowing the individual’s need, responds with a Word of Promise suitable or fitting for that precise need or concern --- for *boule* carries this thought – “the result of determination.”

God has promises deliberately designed for your personal needs / concerns.

- God’s promises have a specific purpose --- for *boulema* (noun) stresses the idea of “deliberate intention”, and *bouleau* (verb) “to resolve.”

God’s deliberately designed promises are intended to solve your needs / concerns.

- God's promises reflect His counsel --- for the root meaning of *boule* is "a will." Hence, "a word of counsel" concerning an individual's need / concern.

God's deliberately designed promises, which are intended to solve your need / concern, become God's counsel to you.

ILLUSTRATION

God had said to Abram (Abraham), "I will make you a great nation" (Genesis 12:2). But Abram had no heir, no son. Never-the-less, when by faith Abram looked away unto God (Genesis 15:2-3), God responded with deliberately designed promises intended to meet Abram's need.

"A son coming from your own body will be your heir." "Look up at the heavens and count the stars --- so shall your offspring be." And, "Abraham believed the Lord." Genesis 15:4-6

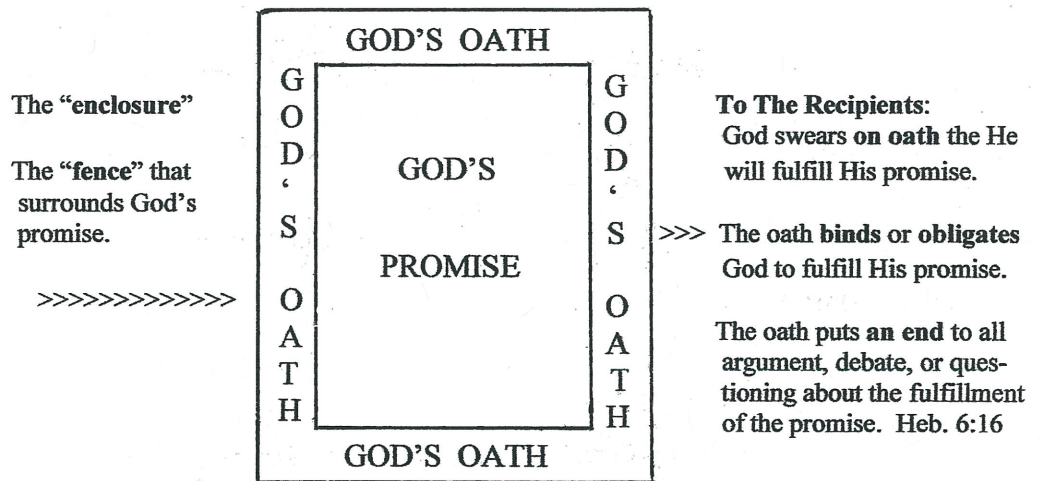
GOD'S Word of Promise became Abraham's counsel.

#2. THE PROMISES ARE CONFIRMED BY GOD'S OATH. 6:17

In Hebrews 6:13 the word swear and swore means "to affirm or deny by an oath."

The word oath (Hebrews 6:16-17) means, "a fence; to enclose; to surround." It means "to interpose or place between" so as "to give assurance / guarantee."

God places His oath between His Promise and the recipient as a guarantee of its fulfillment.



ILLUSTRATION

God had promised Abraham "I will make you into a great nation" (Genesis 12:2a, 15:5), and that "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:3b; Hebrews 6:13).

Then, to guarantee what He promised, God interposed His oath between the promise and Abraham (Genesis 22:15-18) thus binding Himself to the fulfillment of the promises (Hebrews 6:17).

#3. THE PROMISES ARE UNCHANGABLE. 6:17-18

God's Word of Promise and His oath are unchangeable because **God is unchangeable**. His character is such that He cannot **lie** nor **change**. **What He promises, He fulfills**. Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 6:17-18

ILLUSTRATION

"Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as He had said and the Lord did for Sarah what He had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him." Genesis 17:21-22; 21:1-2

GOD'S PROMISES ARE THE BASIS OR FOUNDATION FOR FAITH / ACTION

The superhuman accomplishments recorded in Hebrews chapter 11 were based upon **God's promises** which in turn became the **basis** or **foundation** for their "**BY FAITH**" actions.

ILLUSTRATION (Note Hebrews 11:29 with Exodus 14:10-31)

- The Israelites **need** or **concern**.
The pursuing Egyptians and the formidable Red Sea. 14:10a
- The Israelites and Moses **looked away unto God**.
"They were terrified and cried out to the Lord." 14:10b
"Moses, why are you crying out to me?" 14:15
- God **responded** to Moses with **His Word of Promise --- His counsel**.
"Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water." 14:16
"Tell the Israelites to move on." 14:15
- God's Word of Promise **became the Basis or Foundation for their Faith / Action**.
"Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea --- the waters were divided." 14:21
"The Israelites went through the sea on dry ground." 14:22

When, in **your need**, you by faith **look away** unto Jesus (upon whom faith depends), God will also **respond** with a Word of Promise **deliberately designed to solve your particular need / concern**.

"HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION, YE SAINTS OF THE LORD,
IS LAID FOR YOUR FAITH IN HIS EXCELLENT WORD!
WHAT MORE CAN HE SAY THAN TO YOU HE HATH SAID, ---
TO YOU, WHO FOR REFUGE TO JESUS HAVE FLED?
TO YOU, WHO FOR REFUGE TO JESUS HAVE FLED?"

Rippon's Selection, 1787
Author Unknown

A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

It was August, 1951. My wife, Pat, and I and our son, Billy (2), were in the front seat of our 1938 Plymouth sedan. I had recently graduated from the St. Paul Bible Institute and now we were headed for Birkenfeld, Oregon for a one-year rural mission ministry prior to leaving for the Philippines as missionaries. I had just placed our 4x6 foot trailer on its hitch when the car sagged so that the rear tires were almost scraping the top of the fender wells. As Pat's grandfather viewed the situation he said, "Bill, you will never make it." The pastor was more diplomatic. He prayed and then suggested, "Take the southern route and skirt the mountains." What now? Was God really directing our lives? A Christian Businessmen's Organization, whose purpose was to evangelize rural areas of Washington and Oregon, had rented a cottage for us but we chose not to receive any other support from them. This was to be our 'Adventure in Faith'. We wanted to experience God's faithfulness in this situation even as our mentors, Frank and Marie Whaley, had in theirs. What should we do? There was only one thing we could do, - "**Look unto Jesus.**"

From the cramped confines of our cars front seat we prayed, "Lord, everything up to this point indicates we should go." Then God graciously **responded** with this Word of Promise, - "*Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee*" (Matthew 8:13 KJV). The NIV translates it "*Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.*" This promise became **God's counsel to us**. It became the **basis or foundation for our faith**. I turned on the ignition, pressed the starter, the engine came to life, and it was, "Oregon - here we come."

Our "parish" was strung out for 17 miles along state highway 202 between the small towns of Mist, Birkenfeld, and Jewel with numerous side roads like the Fishhawk Road. As I began visitation people responded by giving eggs, fruit and meat - including wild game. At times we had so much food that we had to preserve it. I made myself available to any rancher that needed occasional help. I mowed and baled hay, moved irrigation pipes, cleared wood slabs from the carriages of home made - individually owned sawmills, & even pitched manure. Meetings were held in schoolhouses, our cottage, and in the 20x36 foot closed Lutheran church in Mist. Three women attended the first worship service. Pat played the portable pump organ. The offering was \$2. By God's grace this ministry grew to include two small Sunday Schools, a Youth Meeting and church services with about 40-45 in attendance. The greatest part of the story is that today, after 60 years, the Birkenfeld Community Church still stands as a testimony of God's Faithfulness.

"Bill," you ask, "**what about the car?**" That is another **incredible part** of our adventure in faith.

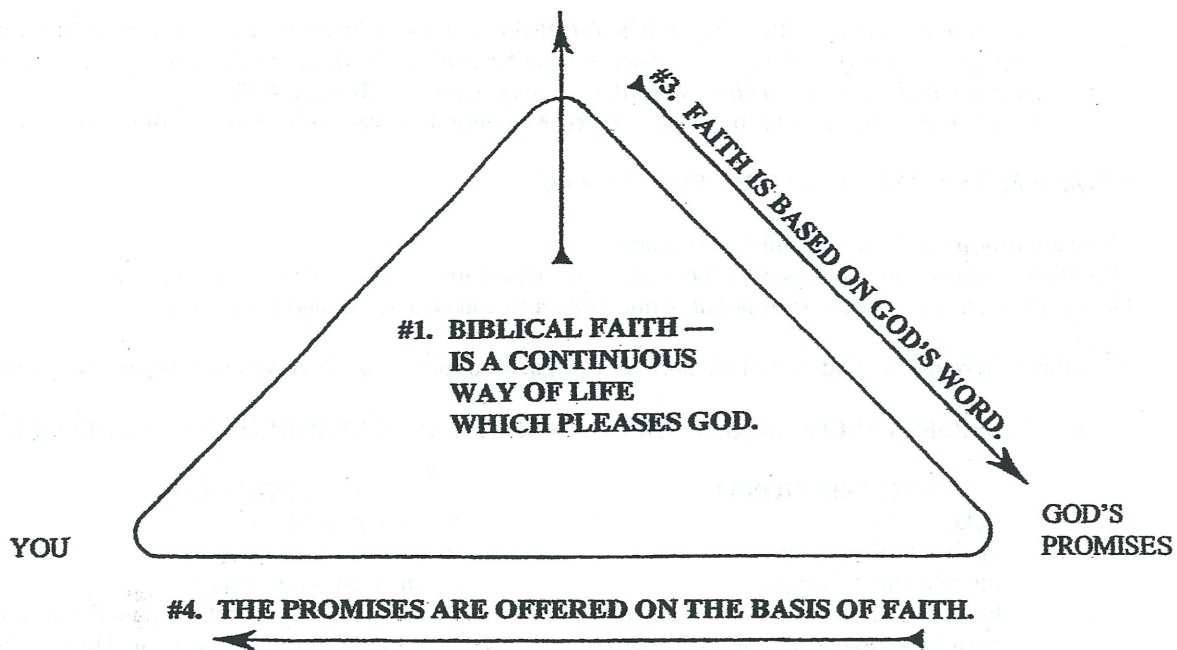
- In Wyoming, in the middle of nowhere, the engine abruptly stopped. I disengaged the clutch and let the car free-wheel to a stop. There, believe it or not, was the largest auto junkyard I had ever seen. God had an ignition coil waiting for us.
- In Oregon, engine smoke became so unbearable that we drove with the windows & front car doors open, Eventually Pat and I tore down the engine (the easy part) and then step by step prayed our way through replacing piston rings, bearings, etc., and all this without proper tools. The result? The engine was re-assembled so tightly that the car had to be pushed to start and it constantly overheated.
- Pat's brother, Tay Kersey, rode with me on the return trip to Minneapolis. For cooling purposes we took off the car's hood, drove all night through the mountains, and stopped at bodies of water to douse the radiator and engine. We drove back into the same yard from where Pat and I and Billy had left a year earlier. I stopped the engine. **The car would never start again.** It had to be junked. **However, God's counsel from Matthew 8:13 was true** - "*Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.*" **PTL**

William G. and Patricia E. Arvan

PRINCIPLE FOUR

"GOD'S OFFER"

#2. FAITH IS CENTERED IN CHRIST.



When in your need you by faith look away unto Jesus (upon whom faith depends) God responds to your need with His Word of Promise.

Now, as we consider the fourth Principle of Faith, that promise which God specifically designed for your need is graciously offered to you. It becomes yours on the basis / condition of faith.

GOD'S WORD OF PROMISE

- The word "promise" (*epangelia*), when used of a promise of God, is "a summons or invitation; an announcement; a proclamation."
You are summoned / invited to hear a proclamation of the promise of God which offers an answer to your present need / concern – the need you feel to be beyond your ability to cope with or solve.
- God's promise is graciously offered to you, for the word "promise" also signifies "to give something" or a "gift graciously offered."

- God's promises are "*from faith to faith*" (Romans 1:17).

The promises are **from God** on the **basis or condition of faith**.

Example: "*It was **not through** the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, **but through** the righteousness (dikaiosune - a just or right act) that comes from God by faith*". Romans 4:13

God **offered** His promise to Abraham on the **basis or condition of faith**.

The promises are **to faith**. They will be **fulfilled if and when** the promises are **received by faith**.

Example: "*Against all hope, Abraham in hope **believed** and **so became** the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him – so shall your offspring be.*" Romans 4:18

God **fulfilled** the promise to Abraham **when Abraham believed God**, the Giver of the promise.

PROMISES YOU MAY LEGITIMATELY CLAIM

There are **conditional** and **unconditional** promises.

Conditional means **that fulfillment** of the promise is **subject to** conditions, stipulations, or terms.

Unconditional means that **the fulfillment is not subject to** conditions, stipulations, or terms.

Keep this **difference** in mind as we look at **three categories** of promises which you may **legitimately claim**.

- **PROMISES WHICH ARE UNIVERSAL IN SCOPE AND INTENDED FOR ALL PEOPLE.**

UNCONDITIONAL

- > Luke 2:8-11
- > Spoken to Shepherds
- > Intended for **all** people
- > Promise – God offers Good News of great joy to **every** person. A Savior has been born for **all** people – He is Christ the Lord.

CONDITIONAL

- > John 3:16-18
- > Spoken to Nicodemus
- > Intended for **all** people
- > Promise – Christ's death paid the penalty for the sins of every person. His sacrifice canceled God's judgment and now offers Eternal life to all.
- > Condition – Faith, belief, trust

- **PROMISES WHICH ARE YOURS BY VIRTUE OF BELONGING TO JESUS CHRIST.**

CONDITIONAL

These are "**IF**" promises.

- > John 15:7
- > Spoken to the Apostles
- > Intended for **all** believers
- > Promise – "*Ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.*"
- > Condition – "***IF** you remain in me and my words remain in you.*"

As a **second example** see I John 1:9.

UNCONDITIONAL

These promises have **no "IFS"**.

- > Philippians 4:6-7
- > Spoken to believers at Philippi
- > Intended for **all** believers
- > Promise – "*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*"

As a **second example** see Hebrews 13:5-6.

- **PROMISES STATED IN A CONTEXT IN WHICH YOU ARE INVOLVED.**

If you are **involved** in the **activity** or **purpose** of which the **context** speaks, then you have "**CLAIM RIGHTS**" to the promises found in that context.

NEGATIVE

- > Joshua 6:1-5; Hebrews 11:30
- > Spoken to Joshua
- > Context - The conquest of Jericho
- > Promise - The walls of Jericho will collapse.
- > Claim - You have **no "claim rights"** to this promise as you are not **involved** in the **same activity** of which this context speaks.
You can only use the message of the context as an **illustration** or a **spiritual application**.

POSITIVE

- > Philippians 4:19
- > Spoken to believers at Philippi
- > Context – Material / financial support for Christian workers & the gospel ministry.
- > Promise – *"God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."*
- > Claim - If you are **involved in the same activity** of which this context speaks, then you have "**CLAIM RIGHTS**" to this promise.

As a **second example** see Matthew 28:18-20

Not every promise in the Bible is for you. However, those promises you may **legitimately claim** are surely **blessings** of God's love, grace and mercy and are **offered to you** on the **basis** of faith.

STANDING ON THE PROMISES

Standing on the promises of Christ my King, Thru eternal ages let His praises ring;
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing, Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail, When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living word of God I shall prevail, Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ my Lord, Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword (God's Word), Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall, Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all, Standing on the promises of God.

Chorus

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Lyrics and Music by R. Kelso Carter, 1849 – 1928

'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take Him at His word,
Just to rest upon His promise, Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to trust His cleansing blood,
Just in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing, cleansing flood!

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, Just from sin and self to cease,
Just from Jesus simply taking Life and rest and joy and peace.

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that thou art with me, Wilt be with me to the end.

Chorus

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

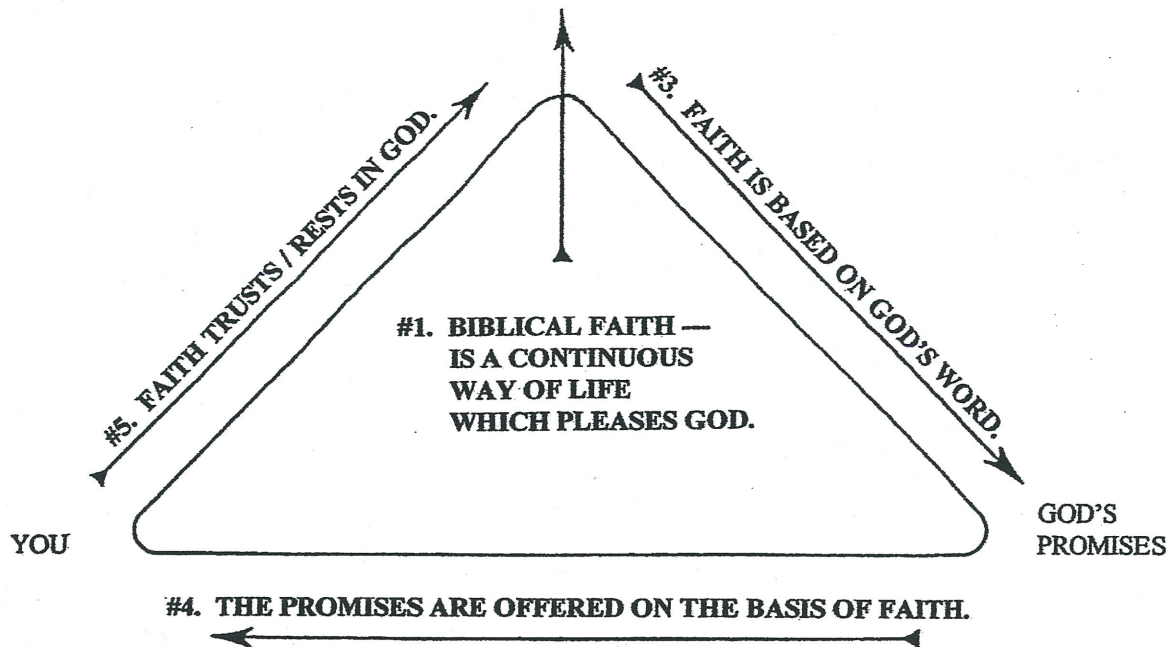
Lyrics by Louisa M. R. Stead, 1850 - 1917

Music by William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838 - 1921

PRINCIPLE FIVE

“PERSONAL TRUST”

#2. FAITH IS CENTERED IN CHRIST.



When in your need (#1) you by faith look away unto Jesus (#2) God responds to your need with His Word of Promise (#3). That promise is graciously offered to you on the basis / condition of faith (#4).

Now, in Principle Five, you simply receive / believe the promise and trust God for its fulfillment because Biblical Faith is “personal trust” in the person of God - Christ.

THE PRINCIPLE ILLUSTRATED IN THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

- At 75 years of age an heir was promised to Abram. Genesis 12:1-4; 15:2-5
- After 10 years God's promise had not yet been fulfilled. At age 86, and after 11 years of waiting, a son, Ishmael, was born to Abram in the natural way through Hagar, Sarai's Egyptian handmaid. Genesis 16:1-3, 15-16

Abram and Sarai had forgotten that God's promises are offered on the basis or condition of faith (Genesis 15:2-5) and therefore could not be fulfilled through human effort. They had forgotten that Biblical Faith operates in an area beyond which human abilities perform, and has for its foundation God's Word of Promise. Genesis 17:1-8, 15-17, 19, 21-22

- After a 24 year spiritual struggle Abraham, now 99, discovered something about faith (Romans 4:1). What was it? That faith is simply believing / trusting God - the Giver of the Promise. For what does the Scripture say? "*Abraham believed God.*" Abraham's faith in God's Word of Promise was counted as righteousness - a "right act" of faith which opened the way for God to fulfill the promise. Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3

ABRAHAM'S FAITH (The Kind Of Faith Abraham Exercised)

1. AN UNWAVERING FAITH

Thirteen years had passed since the birth of Ishmael. Abraham is now 99 years of age and Sarah 89 (Genesis 17:1, 17). These are their circumstances.

- **Abraham's Circumstance**
Abraham was past age for fathering children (Hebrews 11:11). His ability to reproduce was dead (Romans 4:19). Dead (*nekroo*) means, "deprived of power; impotent; inactive."
Abraham's ability to reproduce was not dead at 86 years of age (Genesis 16:16 - Hagar) nor when he was over 100 years of age (Genesis 25:1-2, 6 - Keturah) but at 99 it was dead.
- **Sarah's Circumstance**
Sarah was barren (Hebrews 11:11). She had passed that particular time of life when child bearing was possible (Genesis 18:11). Her womb was virtually dead (*nekrosis*). Humanly speaking her reproductive process could never function again (Romans 4:19).

For a number of years these staggering circumstances were a hindrance to Abraham's and Sarah's faith. It caused their faith to waver (Abraham, Genesis 16:1-4; Sarah, Genesis 18:9-15). Eventually, the "wavering / staggering" ceased for their faith came to rest in God - the Giver of the Promise.

"Without weakening in his faith, Abraham faced the fact that his body was as good as dead — since he was about 100 years old — and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God." Romans 4:19-20a

2. A CONFIDENT FAITH

Abraham exercised the distinctive characteristics of Biblical Faith - that of "being sure, being certain" (Hebrews 11:1). He came by a process of persuasion, to a settled conclusion that "*God had power to do what He had promised.*" Romans 4:21

Abraham was confident that:

God "*gives life to the dead*" - his own as well as Sarah's dead reproductive organs.

God "*calls things that are not (no heir) as though they were.*" Rom. 4:17; Gen. 17:15-17, 19, 21

"And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendents as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore." Hebrews 11:12

3. **A QUALITATIVE FAITH (Not Quantitative)**

Faith is not something a person **generates** or **produces**. It is not **quantitative**. Some may exercise faith more than others but **the quality** of their faith remains the same. It is simply **believing / trusting God**.

Romans 4:3

Although faith is not quantitative, **it can be cultivated or developed** by a greater understanding of what **God is like** and how **He acts**. Numbers 23:19

Faith **rests** in the Giver of the Promise. This is the **ultimate perimeter** in which faith functions for we are incapable of **fulfilling** the promise. We can only believe the promise and wait upon God for its fulfillment.

*“Against all hope, Abraham in hope **believed** and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, - so shall your offspring be.”* Romans 4:18

To seek fulfillment beyond **this quality of faith** leads to **extremes** outside of God's will, because fulfillment of the promise is the prerogative of **God alone**.

Being our father in the faith, we are to **follow Abraham's example** (Romans 4:17). We are to **exercise his kind of faith**. A faith that **believes / receives** God's Word of Promise and **trusts Him alone** for its fulfillment.

“Faith is **affirming** the presence of God **in spite of circumstances**.”

“Faith leads to action **commensurate** with its perception of the **character** of God and **His commitment** to His creatures.”

“Strong faith **expresses itself** in strong and startling acts of obedience because it sees beyond **the present circumstances** to the character and commitment of an infinite God, our very own Heavenly Father.”

“Weak faith, timid faith, acts out of a **limited perspective** and leads to **limited productivity** --- *without faith it is impossible to please Him!*” Hebrews 11:6

Dr. Joseph C. Aldrich
Multnomah Miniature
Multnomah School of the Bible
Vol. 29 No. 4, May-June 1979

A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

"Dad," our 17 year old daughter, Jane, inquired, "do we have enough money for my school tuition?" It was August, 1970. Jane, a recent graduate of Faith Academy in Manila, Philippines, was enrolling at the Midway School of Nursing in St. Paul, MN. The tuition for one trimester was \$400. "Yes," I replied, "but it will take all the money we can put together and we will be left with very little until the end of the month." "Jane," I asked, "are you sure nursing is God's will for you?" Jane had spent a summer vacation helping at the Good News Clinic and Hospital, our missions facility in the mountains of northern Luzon which provided medical assistance to Ifugao tribes' people. This was a positive experience which solidified God's direction for Jane's immediate future. "Yes," Jane answered. "Then," I replied, "we can have confidence in God's Word of Promise" --- *"That if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him."* I John 5:14-15

The next morning my wife, Pat, and I accompanied Jane in the enrollment process at Midway School of Nursing. The last step in the process was an explanation of our financial obligations, and instructions concerning payment at the Business Office. We had taken but few steps in that direction when a voice called out "Just a moment, Jane! My record shows that you have never been informed of a scholarship the administration granted you." The ensuing conversation went like this. "How much is the scholarship?" "Six hundred dollars." "Would you like to apply \$200 to each of the trimesters or \$400 now and the balance to the second trimester?" "I believe the latter would be my best option," replied Jane. "Thank you and congratulations, Jane."

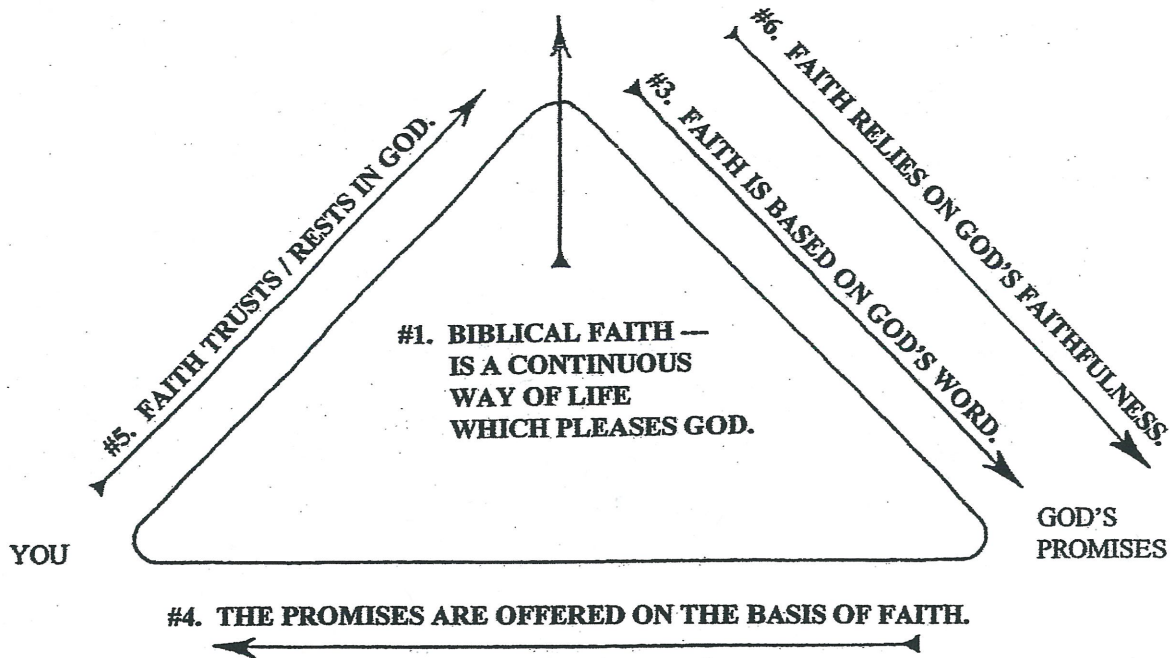
You see we had looked to God in our time of need and He responded with His Word of Promise, I John 5:14-15. As we trusted God and His Word, He was faithful to do as He promised so that our need was cared for. And for this, we praised Him.

William G. and Patricia E. Arvan

PRINCIPLE SIX

“GOD’S FAITHFULNESS”

#2. FAITH IS CENTERED IN CHRIST.



Every action has a reaction. When in your need you by faith look away unto Jesus (#2) God responds with a promise deliberately designed to meet your need (#3). When you by faith believe God’s Word of Promise (#5) He also responds to your faith in Him by fulfilling the promise (#6).

Remember, it is not faith in your faith that fulfills the promise but your faith in God’s faithfulness to fulfill what He promised. Christ becomes the “perfecter” or “finisher” of your faith. Hebrews 12:2

ILLUSTRATION

When Abraham cried to the Lord, “*I am childless, I have no heir*” (Genesis 15:2-3), God responded with a deliberately designed promise, “*from your own body*” (Genesis 15:4) and “*from Sarah*” (Genesis 17:16), a son would be born.

As Abraham believed God’s Word of Promise (Genesis 15:6) God in His faithfulness also responded by fulfilling the promise to him (Genesis 21:1-2).

FAITH RELIES ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS / ABILITY

- **GOD IS FAITHFUL**

The Scriptures state that:

Christ (God) **is called** "Faithful and True." Revelation 19:11

God **is faithful**. I Corinthians 1:9, 10:13; I Thessalonians 5:24; II Thessa. 3:3; Hebrews 10:23

God **abides** (remains) **faithful**. II Timothy 2:13

"Abraham considered him faithful who had made the promise" (Hebrews 11:11). The word "considered" in Hebrews 11:11 means, "to compute, to take into account." We are to constantly consider or rely upon this truth – "God is Faithful."

See Numbers 23:19; I Kings 8:56; Psalm 89, particularly verses 33-34.

- **GOD IS ABLE**

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Genesis 18:14a

God had promised Abraham a son (Isaac) as well as descendants through him. Gen. 15:4-5, 17:19 Before there were any descendants, God tested Abraham's faith / obedience by telling him to sacrifice Isaac, "his one and only son" (Hebrews 11:17-18; Genesis 22:1-18). When Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, Hebrews 11:19 states that he "reasoned" (*logizomai* - "to calculate or deliberate") upon something. What did he reason out? "That God could (*dunatos* - is able) raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from the dead."

The **validity** of a promise is based upon the ability of the person making the promise to fulfill it. Abraham was "Fully persuaded that God had power (*dunatos* - is able) to do what he had promised" (Romans 4:21). Luke 1:37 states that "Nothing is impossible with God." A free translation reads, "No word (promise) from God shall be without power." God has the ability (power) to do as He promised.

Our faith "Depends on Jesus from start to finish" (Hebrews 12:2, New English Bible).

In our life of faith we are to live "By faith in the Son of God" or "By the faithfulness (fidelity) of the Son of God" (Galatians 2:20) – that is to say, by His trustworthiness to do what he promises.

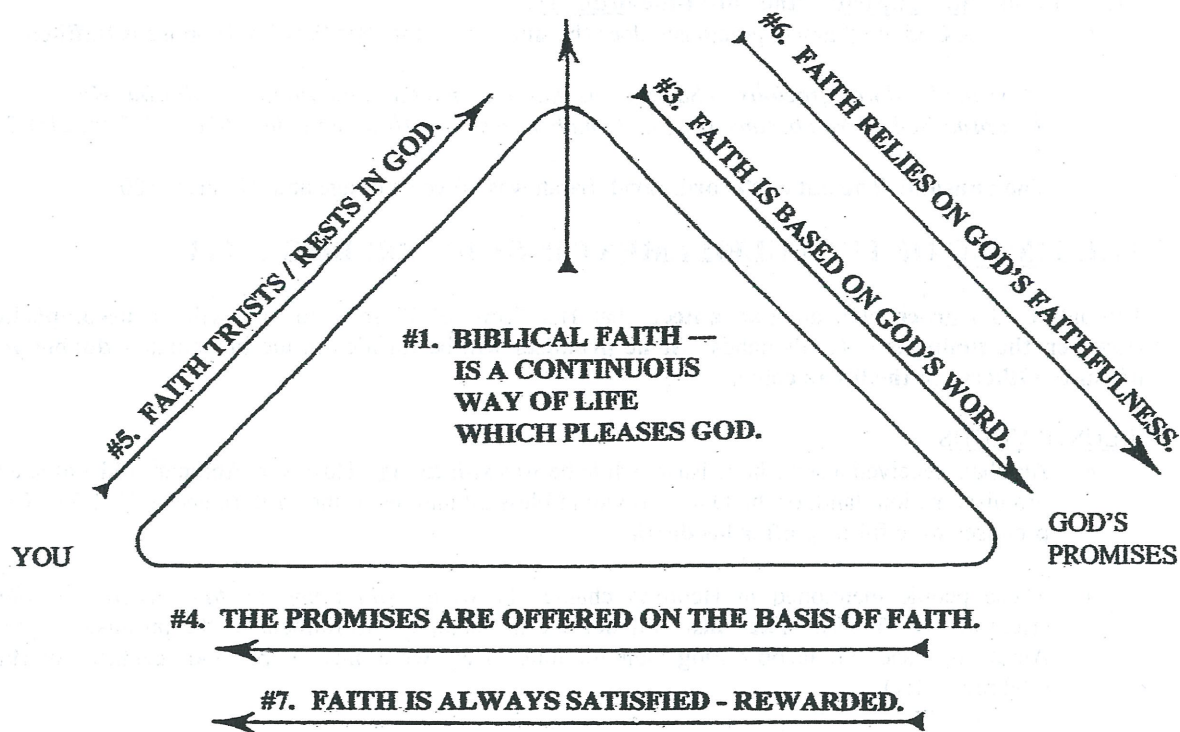
Nothing is impossible when you put your trust in God;
Nothing is impossible when you're trusting in His Word.
Hearken to the voice of God to thee: "Is there anything to hard for Me?"
Then put your trust in God alone and rest upon His Word;
For everything, oh everything, yes everything is possible with God!

Eugene L. Clark, Billy Graham Crusade Songs

PRINCIPLE SEVEN

"FAITH'S REWARD"

#2. FAITH IS CENTERED IN CHRIST.



As you believe the promise offered to you on the basis / condition of faith and trust in God's Faithfulness to do as He promised, your faith will be rewarded. You will experience the fulfillment of the promise.

GOD'S GRACE GUARANTEES THE FULFILLMENT

"Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring – not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all." Romans 4:16

The word **guaranteed** (*bebaios*) means, "firm, steadfast, realized" - (put to your account as done). It could be thus stated. *"Therefore, it (the promise) is by faith, that it might be by grace, to the end it might be realized to all the seed."*

The Scriptures state that:

- God is a “*gracious God*” (Exodus 34:6; Psalm 116:5).
- God is “*the God of all grace*” (I Peter 5:10).
- God is “*able to make all grace abound to you*” (II Corinthians 9:8).

Grace means, “the unusual”, “the out-of-the-ordinary.”

- God, the God of all grace, graciously does **the unusual** so that His Word of Promise is **fulfilled**.

*“Now the Lord was **gracious** to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah **what He had promised**. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age.” Gen. 21:1-2*

The unusual! The out of the ordinary! Sarah was 90 years of age and Abraham 100.

THE TIMING OF THE FULFILLMENT IS GOD’S PREROGATIVE

Through **God’s grace**, you are **guaranteed** that His Word of Promise to you will be **accomplished**. However, **the timing** is in God’s hands. **Some promises** will be fulfilled in the immediate - **during your lifetime**. **Others - in the life to come**.

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Abraham received a son / heir, Isaac, while he was **still living**. However, Abraham **did not see** the promised nation, land, or the One who would bless all nations of the earth (Genesis 12:1-3). Those promises were fulfilled **after his death**.
- Those people mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11 were “*still living by faith when they died*” (Hebrews 11:13, 39). **They also did not see** the complete fulfillment of the promises given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob during their lifetime. They were only “**sure**” and “**certain**” of them (Hebrews 11:1).

WHILE WAITING FOR THE FULFILLMENT. EXERCISE PATIENCE

*“And so after **waiting patiently**, Abraham received what was promised.” Hebrews 10:35-36*

The word “**patience**” (*makrothumes*) has the following **subjective** meanings:

- **PERSEVERANCE** – “persistence; stubborn or enduring continuance” Hebrews 10:35-36
- **FORTITUDE** – “the courage to endure misfortune” Hebrews 10:32-34
- **ENDURANCE** – “the ability to wait or endure without complaint” Hebrews 6:15

When in **your need** you look away unto Jesus, He **responds** to you with His Word of Promise. **In His time**, God will graciously **fulfill that promise**.

Meanwhile, “Do not throw away your confidence (*parrhesia* – courage or boldness in the fact that God is faithful to do as He promised); *it will be greatly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God you will receive what he has promised.*” Hebrews 10:35-36

ONE STEP MORE, ONE STEP MORE,
GIVE ME FAITH FOR ONE STEP MORE.
ONE STEP MORE, MY SAVIOR, ONE STEP MORE,
FAITH FOR ONE STEP MORE.

Author Unknown

A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Upon graduation from Faith Academy, a school for MK's (Missionary Kids) in the Philippines, our son, Bill, was a member of the "Confirmed Bachelors Club." While attending Moody Bible Institute, Susan, a dazzling redhead and PK (Preachers Kid), brought about a change in "club" status. "Mom and Dad," Bill wrote, "I've met this girl, Susan, that I **really like**." The following year it was, "Mon and Dad, Susan and I became **engaged** on Valentines Day - but we will not consider marriage until your next furlough (Home Service) in 1970." And then, it was "Mom and Dad, Susan and I are planning August 30, 1969 as **our marriage day**."

In our correspondence we assured Bill and Susan that we trusted them to discern God's leading for their lives and that we would back their decisions. We also reminded them of **our life style** which financially left us, apart from God's goodness, with **no possible way** of being at their August wedding.

As time passed my wife, Pat, and I came to the conclusion that God **did want us** to attend the wedding and that **He would provide a way for us**. That is when God, through **His grace**, began to do the **unusual, the out of the ordinary**.

- Bill's mother, a widow of 36 years, wrote, "Son, I have saved \$3,000 as an inheritance for you and your sisters. I want to give you that inheritance **now** for it is necessary that you be **at the wedding of your only son**." Enclosed was a check for \$1,000.
- Bill was speaking at a US Servicemen's Conference at Camp John Hay in Baguio City, Philippines. A newly arrived single missionary lady, in great emotional distress, was **blessed** by the Word of God and Pat's encouragement and counsel. Later she wrote, "When I attended the conference I was on the verge of suicide but God met my needs and **has brought change** in my life. In appreciation for your ministry to me please accept the enclosed gift of \$200 towards your going to **the wedding of your son**."
- One evening, Mrs. Dunn, who supported students at our mission's Bible Institute (FEBIAS), stopped by with their support money, chatted for awhile and left. A few minutes later she was back with this **unusual story**. "As I was driving away God **impressed me** with this thought - **that I should return and give you \$50 as a help in going to the wedding of your son**."

As we in our need looked away unto Jesus He was **unfailingly faithful**. Through various acts of **His grace** one gift after another came in until we had received a total of \$1,800. Pan American Airways provided us with special discounted tickets and swore us to "**tell no one**." The cost!! \$1802. Praise the Lord, we had the privilege of being **at the wedding of our son**.

Could there ever be a **greater climax** to this adventure of faith and grace? **Yes!** We had the joy of hearing our brother-in-law, Knearl McCusker, say "**YES**" to **faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior**.

"Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it might be by grace and may be guaranteed ---."

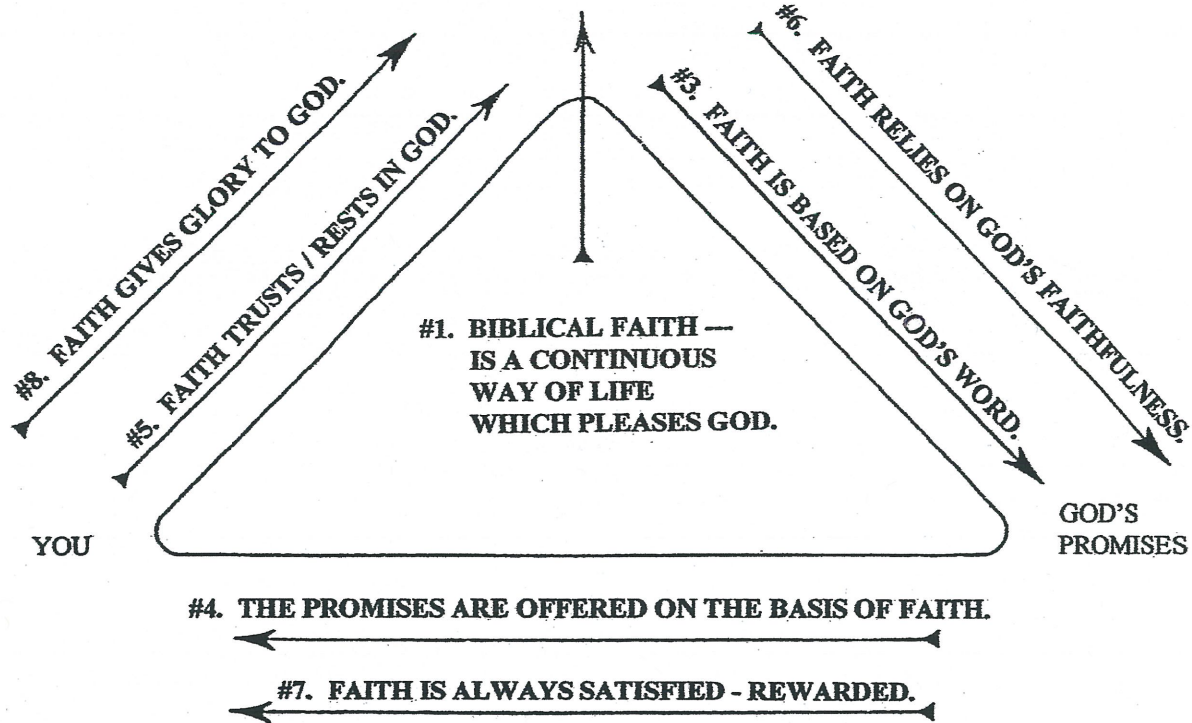
Romans 4:16

William G. and Patricia E. Arvan

PRINCIPLE EIGHT

"GOD'S GLORY"

#2. FAITH IS CENTERED IN CHRIST.



When in your need you looked away unto Jesus (#2) God responded to your need with His Word of Promise (#3). When you believed the promise, God in His Faithfulness rewarded your faith (#6) by fulfilling the promise (#7).

Now, there remains but one more step in the practical exercise of Biblical Faith - give God the glory.

Noah, Abraham and Moses (all members of the Hebrews 11 "BY FAITH" club) gave God the glory.

NOAH GAVE GOD THE GLORY. Genesis 8:15-22

Noah glorified God **through worship** (at the altar of sacrifice).

"Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it." Genesis 8:20

ABRAHAM GAVE GOD THE GLORY.

“Abraham did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.” Romans 4:20-21

Abraham glorified God through a feast of praise.

“On the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast.” Genesis 21:6-8

MOSES AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL GAVE GLORY TO GOD. Exodus 15:1-21

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

*“I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted.
The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation (deliverer).
He is my God, and I will praise him,
My father’s God, and I will exalt him.” Exodus 15:1-3*

“Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. Miriam sang to them:

*‘Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.’”
Exodus 15:20-21*

AS GOD FAITHFULLY FULFILLS HIS PROMISES TO US WE ALSO MUST GIVE GOD THE GLORY.

*“Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress —
Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men.
Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.” Psalm 107:19, 21-22*

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - *the fruit of lips that confess his name,*” Hebrews 13:15

BLESSED BE THE NAME, BLESSED BE THE NAME,
BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD!
BLESSED BE THE NAME, BLESSED BE THE NAME,
BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD!

Ralph E. Hudson, 1843-1901
Great Hymns Of The Faith
Zondervan Publishing House

FAITH WITHOUT EXPECTATION IS DEAD

Expectation and faith, although alike, are not identical. An instructed Christian will not confuse the two.

True faith is never found alone. It is always accompanied by expectation. The man who believes the promises of God expects to see them fulfilled. Where there is no expectation there is no faith.

It is however, quite possible for expectation to be present where no faith is. The mind is quite capable of mistaking strong desire for faith. Indeed faith, as commonly understood, is little more than desire compounded with cheerful optimism. Certain writers make a comfortable living promoting that kind of so-called faith which is supposed to create the "positive" as opposed to the negative mind. Their effusions are dear to the hearts of those in the population who are afflicted with a psychological compulsion to believe, and who manage to live with facts only by the simple expedient of ignoring them.

Real faith is not the stuff dreams are made of, rather it is tough, practical and altogether realistic. Faith sees the invisible but it does not see the nonexistent. Faith engages God, the one great Reality, who gave and gives existence to all things. God's promises conform to reality, and whoever trusts them enters a world not of fiction but of fact.

In common experience we arrive at truth by observation. Whatever can be verified by experiment is accepted as true. Men believe the report of their senses. If it walks like a duck, looks like a duck and quacks like a duck it is probably a duck. And if its eggs hatch into little ducks the test is about complete. Probability gives way to certainty; it is a duck. This is a valid way to deal with our environment. No one dare complain about it for everyone does it. It is the way we manage to get on in this world.

But faith introduces another and radically different element into our lives. "By faith we know" is the word that lifts our knowing onto a higher level. Faith engages facts that have been revealed from heaven and by the nature of them do not respond to scientific tests. The Christian knows a thing to be true, not because he has verified it in experience but because God has said it. His expectations spring from his confidence in the character of God.

Expectation has always been present in the church in the times of her greatest power. When she believed, she expected, and her Lord never disappointed her. *"And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord."* (Luke 1:45 KJV)

Every great movement of God in history, every unusual advance in the church, every revival, has been preceded by a sense of keen anticipation. Expectation accompanied the operations of the Spirit always. His bestowals hardly surprised His people because they were gazing expectantly toward the risen Lord and looking confidently for His word to be fulfilled. His blessings accorded with their expectations.

One characteristic that marks the average church today is lack of anticipation. Christians when they meet do not expect anything unusual to happen; consequently only the usual happens, and that usual is as predictable as the setting of the sun. A psychology of no expectation pervades the assembly, a mood of quiet ennui which the minister by various means tries to dispel; the means depending upon the cultural level of the congregation and particularly on the minister.

One will resort to humor, another will latch on to some topic currently dividing the public, such as fluoridation, capital punishment or Sunday sports. Another who may have a modest opinion of his gifts as a

humorist and who is not sure which side of the controversy he may safely support will seek to arouse expectation by outlining enthusiastically the shape of things to come: the Men's Banquet to be held at the Chicken-in-a-Basket Tea Room next Thursday evening; or the picnic with its thrilling game to be played between the Married Men and the Single Men, the outcome of which the jocular minister coyly refuses to predict; or the coming premier of the new religious film, full of sex, violence and false philosophy, but candied over with vapid moralizing and gentle suggestions that the enraptured viewers should be born again.

The activities of the saints are thus laid out for them by those who are supposed to know what they need better than they do. And this planned play is made acceptable to the more pious-minded by tagging on a few words of devotion at the close. This is called "fellowship," though it bears scant resemblance to the activities of those Christians to which the word was first applied.

Christian expectation in the average church follows the program, not the promises. Prevailing spiritual conditions, however low, are accepted as inevitable. What will be is what has been. The weary slaves of the dull routine find it impossible to hope for anything better.

We need today a fresh spirit of anticipation that springs out of the promises of God. We must declare war on the mood of no expectation, and come together with childlike faith. Only then can we know again the beauty and wonder of the Lord's presence among us.

The Alliance Witness
The Editorial Voice
August 22, 1962

TRUSTING THEE MORE

Lord, keep me trusting Thee day after day,
Trusting whatever befalls on my way.
Sunshine or shadow I take them from Thee,
Knowing Thy grace is sufficient for me.
Trusting Thee more, trusting Thee more,
May every day find me trusting Thee more.
Cares may surround me and clouds hover o'er,
But keep me, Lord Jesus, still trusting Thee more.

Author Unknown

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Meeting and getting to know Frank and Marie Whaley was a turning point in the lives of William G. and Patricia E. Arvan.

Frank and Maries' testimonies and experiences concerning their walk of faith with God motivated Bill to examine the Scriptures as to how faith operates in a **practical way** in the life of a believer in Jesus Christ. That's what this booklet, Principles of Biblical Faith, is all about - **eight practical steps in the exercise of Biblical Faith.**

Previously, before knowing Frank and Marie Whaley, Bill and Pat exercised a shallow limited faith. They perceived God as only working within the confines of their own human understanding, abilities and resources.

Then, their faith came to rest in a God "*who is able to do immeasurably more than all they could ask or imagine, according to **His power that is at work within them***" (Ephesians 3:20).

Bill and Pat came to know that - "Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. **Faith begins where man's power ends**" (George Muller).

It has been 65 years since Bill and Pat met Frank and Marie Whaley and observed their life of faith - a Biblical Faith that simply **believed God and His Word of Promise to them.**

The exercise of that Biblical Faith (Truth) **sustained** Bill and Pat in their Rural Mission ministry in Oregon, their thirty six years as missionaries in the Republic of the Philippines, and Bill's teaching ministry in Eastern Europe and Russia.

It is Bill's prayer that as you exercise these Principles of Biblical Faith they will revolutionize your life of faith with God.

*"Without (Biblical) faith it is **impossible to please God**, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."* Hebrews 11:6