

FAITH IS EASY

How Reliance on God
is Easy and Simple



JIM HARWELL

Relying on and Trusting God is Easy and Simple

Faith is one of the most important truths related to the new life with Jesus Christ. Yet it is often misunderstood. In reality, faith is easy and simple, just like all aspects of walking with God through Jesus Christ.

In *Faith is Easy*, evangelist Jim Harwell reveals secrets and keys to knowing God Almighty and receiving all that He wants you to have. It's easy when you understand faith and reliance.

Faith, which means reliance and trust, is absolutely vital to a walk with God. This teaching can revolutionize your understanding of this eternal, supernatural, simple truth.

"My yoke is easy, and My burden is light"
Jesus Christ, Matthew 11:30

*"... how I long to do for My children if they would only ask Me
and believe Me ..."*
Jesus Christ

*"It is so easy. I made it so simple. If people would just take Me at
My word, I will do what I said."*
Jesus Christ

JIM HARWELL is an evangelist and author based in the USA.




Bridge Books
BRIDGEBOOKS.ORG



**FAITH
IS EASY**

FAITH IS EASY

JIM HARWELL



Bridge Books

Atlanta • Chicago • Nashville

Bridge Books
4487 Post Place
Nashville, Tenn. 37205

Faith is Easy. Copyright © 2016 by Jim Harwell

All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this book or portions thereof in any form whatsoever. For information, address:

Bridge Books Subsidiary Rights Department
4487 Post Place
Nashville, Tenn. 37205

For information about Bridge Books products, books, packages, and special discounts for bulk purchases, please contact Bridge Books info@bridgebooks.org.

Scripture references are taken from the New King James Version. © Thomas Nelson, Inc. 1992.

Cover designed by Alexandre Rito

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Library of Congress

ISBN-13: 978-0-9855943-7-4

To those who need a miracle

Contents

1	The Secrets	11
2	Faith is Reliance and Trust	14
3	Easy and Simple	18
4	Faith as a Seed	24
5	The Parable of the Sower	28
6	Seeds	34
7	Jesus Calls His Followers to Die	43
8	Man is a Faith Being	49
9	Write Your Own Ticket with God	59
10	Two Modern Day Confirmations	65
11	The Theme of the New Testament	68
12	Faith Scriptures in the Gospels	72
13	More Faith Scriptures	79
	Endnotes	88
	Bibliography	89

ONE

The Secrets

What are the keys and secrets to knowing God and walking with Him?

How can someone receive a miracle – the miracle they desperately need, for a seemingly impossible situation?

Is it really true someone can live forever? In a place so wonderful it cannot be put into words? If so, how?

This short book answers these questions.

The answers and secrets are of course in the Bible. There are also prophets and teachers today with revelation from the Holy Spirit, confirming the Bible. Some of their truths are in this booklet.

God offers mankind something beyond human comprehension: His life; His divine, su-

pernatural, eternal, everlasting life, which is so incredible that words cannot express Him.

Within that new life, He offers incredible, supernatural, unsearchable, eternal promises.

It is estimated that the Bible has 8,810 promises. Of those, 7,487 of them are God's promises to mankind.

In the four Gospels, Jesus Christ presents more than 300 divine promises.

How can we receive His divine life? And these promises?

What is the real answer?

Let's answer these questions generally, before we discuss the important topic of faith, which is part of the answer.

The secret . . . the key . . . is a relationship with Jesus the Christ, the Lord, the Savior of the world, the Only Begotten Son of God.

He is how we approach, know, and become a child of God Almighty, Jehovah Elohim, the Creator of the Universe. Amen.

Yet, many who believe in and know Jesus still seek answers to some of the questions above, as well as other issues.

The purpose of this book is to help provide answers.

The most important initial question, though, is how to know and walk with God through Jesus. There are of course several keys. Just some are:

Repentance, mourn for sin (Matthew 5:3-12, Mark 1:15, Luke 6:20-23, Luke 18:9-14)

Humility, broken spirit (Isaiah 66:2)

Seek Him with the whole heart (Jeremiah 33:3)
Love the Lord God with all heart, soul, mind,
and strength (Matthew 22:36, Mark 12:30).

And there is another secret that is vital to being a child of God. It permeates everything about a walk with Him. It is eternally important yet in some ways misunderstood.

This key is the second most frequent topic Jesus preached and taught about.

In the Gospels, Jesus' most frequent topic is "the kingdom," which is: God Himself, His Presence; for us on earth, the Holy Spirit.

It's fairly obvious that the absolute most important answer and secret to knowing and walking with God is . . . Him and His Presence!

Jesus' second most frequent topic is the subject of this book. It is the vital secret and key to how we walk with and receive from Him:

Faith. Reliance. Trust.

TWO

Faith is Reliance and Trust

What is faith?

The Greek word for faith and to believe actually means “reliance, trust.” The Greek word for both faith and to believe is “pistis” (noun) and “pisteuo” (verb), also translated “trust, reliance.”

To have faith means to rely on and trust in God to do something.

Therefore, in the Gospels, the words “reliance” and “rely on” can be substituted for “faith” and “believe.” And sometimes, rely and trust are a better translation. Why?

The word “believe” in the English has broad meaning. Someone can believe that Jesus Christ

is Lord and God but not have a relationship with Him. Even demons believe Jesus is Lord, and they will spend eternity in hell (see James 2:14-26).

So there is a big difference in “believing” and “relying on.”

An analogy is a bridge. Someone can believe a bridge will hold them. Then, they can put their belief into practice and go over it. Now they really believe the bridge will hold them. They are relying on the bridge to hold them. Big difference.

Let's substitute rely for believe in John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever relies on Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Supernatural Truths

What does Jesus mean by these famous and supernatural statements:

“If you can believe, all these things are possible to him who believes” (Mark 9:23).

“Nothing shall be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20).

“Whatever you ask for in prayer, believing, you shall receive” (Matthew 21:22).

No human being, except Jesus, has ever realized or lived what these truths mean. Perhaps the generations alive today will get close. Better yet, perhaps they will live them.

The answers to what Jesus means are so in-depth, those who make it to heaven will spend all eternity learning about them.

He is certainly referring to the incredible, supernatural new life He offers to His followers through His glorious Holy Spirit.

Surely He also is referring to His teachings, truths, lessons, stories, parables, and more, regarding the unsearchable and innumerable supernatural promises He made in the Gospels.

The promises are unspeakably wonderful and inexpressibly glorious regarding God Almighty, His Son Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, and the opportunity every person on earth has to experience eternal life.

What is eternal life? Jesus said, "This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3).

He also surely referred to the supernatural miracles, signs, and wonders that Jesus Himself performed and still performs. What are some that Jesus did while on earth?

He healed all on numerous occasions (Matthew 4:23-24, Matthew 8:15, Matthew 12:15, Matthew 15:30-31, Matthew 21:14, Luke 6:17-19, Luke 5:15, Luke 7:21, Luke 9:11)

He healed the "impossible" cases: the blind, deaf, crippled, lepers, and demon-possessed.

He raised the dead.

He cast out demons.

He walked on water.

He calmed the storm.

He fed 20,000 people with five small loaves of bread and two small fish.

He cursed a tree and it withered.

He knew of a piece of money in a fish.

He caused fishermen to catch a super-large catch of fish.

Most of all . . .

He died for mankind.

He rose from the dead.

He ascended to heaven.

How did Jesus do all these things?

By faith. By relying on and trusting in His Father, God Almighty.

THREE

Easy and Simple

Everything about knowing God is easy and simple.

Everything.

Every person on earth was born to know Him, walk with Him, and spend eternity with Him.

How do we do this? Through Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit.

We become followers of Jesus Christ and walk with Him. It's really very simple.

It's so simple that we must become like little children in order to know God. Jesus said:

Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and

become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3)

The “little child” Jesus referred to in this passage (written in Greek) is a “middle-aged child,” about five or six years old.

Most of us would agree that children that age are quite amazing. It’s almost like they are at the “perfect” age of being mature enough to be independent and to communicate very well, yet young enough that they still have unconditional love and innocence.

Studies show that kids of that age have a vocabulary of up to 25,000 words.

And yet, they probably will remember very little of that time in their life.

Easy

Okay, walking with God is simple. But what about easy. How do we know it’s easy? Jesus said:

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly [humble] in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

Let’s look at the “easy” and refreshing aspects of this teaching:

1. Jesus offers a relationship with Him: "Come to . . ."
2. Jesus offers Himself, His life: "Me . . ."
3. Jesus offers rest.
4. Jesus offers to teach.
5. Jesus is gentle.
6. Jesus is lowly, humble in heart.
7. Jesus offers rest for your soul.
8. Jesus' yoke is easy.
9. Jesus' burden is light.

Divine Promises

It's always important to look at the entirety of scripture and not just one verse or teaching (Deuteronomy 19:15, 2 Corinthians 13:1).

In all four Gospels, Jesus offers more than 300 divine promises which confirm the nine (or more) promises in the famous teaching about His easy yoke and light burden.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Perhaps the primary promise is the promise of God's presence, the Holy Spirit, which Jesus sometimes refers to as the "kingdom of God" and the "kingdom of heaven," His most frequently taught subject.

When Jesus taught and preached about the kingdom, He used parables, stories, metaphors, similes, and other figures of speech and expla-

nations to teach and explain about the kingdom.

A metaphor is a comparison, a symbol. A simile is a comparison using "like" or "as," such as "the kingdom of heaven is like . . ."

In the Gospel of John, He primarily used allegories, which are stories or pictures with a symbolic meaning, such as "I am the bread of life" . . . "I am the good shepherd" . . . "I am the vine."

He said the kingdom is like:

a treasure hidden in a field . . .

a pearl of great price . . .

a small seed that eventually
becomes a big plant . . .

leaven (yeast) in dough that
mixes into the entire loaf . . .

a man who plants seeds that grow,
he himself does not know how.

In the Gospel of John, Chapters 15 to 17, Jesus is even more direct and plain about the promise of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is of course God Almighty.

Someone may ask, what is God like?

He's the most wonderful, most beautiful Person in all the world.

God's presence is so glorious and wonderful, human words cannot express it.

From this one promise all the other promises flow.

The faith and reliance principle are certainly one of those many eternal promises that flow from the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Consistent, Daily Growth, like a Tree

All the main steps of a walk with Jesus are easy and simple.

One thing to keep in mind is that our new life with Him is just that: a new life, with growth and stages. It's like any life on earth, whether human, animal, plant or whatever. Living things grow some every day, slowly but surely. They do not grow up in one day.

Throughout the Bible, as in the Gospels, God often uses metaphors as symbols for important truths. For example, in many places, we see that trees are metaphors for people, for God's children (see Deuteronomy 28:40, Psalms 1:1-3, Psalms 52:8, Psalm 92:12-15, Isaiah 61:1-3, Matthew 3:10, Matthew 7:17-20).

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches" (John 15:5). In the new life with Him, He is actually the vine, the living plant that we His followers are part of and abide in.

A Walk with Jesus

Let's look at the main milestone steps and phases in a walk with Jesus:

It's easy to be saved. Someone simply needs to sincerely ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior and receive Him.

It's easy to walk with Him. He is everywhere and always available. Both His presence and His power are everywhere on the earth (Psalms 139). It's as natural as eating and breathing.

He offers His Presence, which is so glorious and wonderful, words cannot express it.

At the appropriate time, it's easy to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

How about receiving a miracle? Again, He Himself and His healing power are present everywhere on earth. We just need to receive it, by faith.

The faith and reliance we need – which we already have – is easy also. It has to be that way. Consider the new life: Jesus' yoke is easy and His burden is light. He offers rest, the divine life, eternal life, life everlasting, perfect peace, joy unspeakable and full of glory, abundant overflowing life, and hundreds and thousands of other promises.

He offers a person the opportunity to live forever in a place so wonderful that human words cannot express it . . . All truth is parallel and similar. Therefore, faith is part of this light, easy, divine, glorious, abundant, overflowing life.

Faith is easy and simple, just like all aspects of a walk with God through Jesus Christ.

FOUR

Faith as a Seed

Faith, also known as “trusting God” and “reliance on God,” is an eternally important topic that can transform our walk with Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ’s words and, well, everything He does (!), all contain supernatural and divine revelations which are glorious, sacred, unspeakable, transforming, freeing, and much, much more. The following teaching is an example and is the basis for this book and teaching:

Jesus said: “If you have faith as a seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing shall be impossible for you.” (Matthew 17:20)

We Receive from God by Faith

Everything we receive from God in our walk with Him is received by faith. That may sound extreme, but it's true. See pages 79-86 for a complete list of the "Faith Scriptures" in the New Testament.

Faith is an important topic, to say the least!

I am referring to receiving spiritual things in the spirit realm. The new life in Him begins with salvation and is completed with eternity in heaven: AMEN! The many, incredible, awesome gifts and blessings are supernatural, and they are received by faith.

It's wonderful to receive the revelation that faith is easy and simple.

Most people probably think that having faith for a miracle is very difficult. It's understandable. Sometimes situations seem impossible to overcome.

Many also have this general view of faith and even of a walk with God. They might feel that faith is difficult, complex, mysterious, distant, burdensome, impossible, and other negative perspectives.

The reality is that faith at every level is simple, easy and commonplace.

The Seed: a Key to our Walk with God

Let's look at some other scripture similar to

Jesus' statement about "faith as a seed" in Matthew 17:20.

"If you have faith as a seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you" (Luke 17:6).

Jesus said: "Have the faith of God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." (Mark 11:23-24)

Jesus said: "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believing, you shall receive" (Matthew 21:22).

Two of the main topics here are:

- 1.) faith as a seed; and
- 2.) faith/reliance/trust/believing

The seed is the original life of every human, animal, and flowering plant. Wow! That's a major statement! It would be wise of us to learn more about that!

If the conditions are right, a seed grows and becomes life. It is that simple. The seed is programmed to grow and become a life. Our great and gloriously creative God thought of and

created this process. His paths drip with abundance (Psalm 65:11).

In Jesus' statements above, God Almighty is revealing an incredible truth about how to receive the supernatural from Him; indeed, how to receive *anything* from Him.

Remember, everything we receive from Him is supernatural, from salvation on.

**Just Believe like the Seed Does,
and You Will Receive.**

The seed is programmed to grow. It doesn't doubt or ask questions or delay the process. When the conditions are right, it simply grows into the life it is programmed to become – slowly, steadily, and with patience.

In fact, in Jesus' parables and teachings, Jesus referred to seeds 41 times. He utilized them in many, many teachings as metaphors, symbols, and tools to present the deep truths and mysteries He revealed.

Remember Jesus often saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" He is saying, "Pay attention! This is important! Everyone needs to listen to this!"

Of all His parables, one of them is the foundational parable. It involves seeds.

FIVE

The Parable of the Sower

Jesus Christ's foundational parable is the Parable of the Sower, which is about a man sowing seeds.

Think of that. God came to earth as a man and taught us. Those teachings were recorded and are available to us today.

He primarily taught the public using parables, which are stories. Jesus presented approximately 46 parables in all.

At times, He would later explain those stories to His disciples.

In many of His teachings, Jesus often utilized the natural world to explain spiritual truth.

Of all the parables, there is one which is the foundational parable.

It would be wise of us to hold all of Jesus' teachings – every single word – in high, high regard, esteem, and honor.

It would be wise to listen, hear them, understand them, learn from them, and more.

It especially would be wise to let the Holy Spirit reveal them to us.

After Jesus spoke the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-9, Mark 4:3-9), those with Him in private asked Him about the parable (Mark 4:10). Jesus replied:

And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?" (Mark 4:13)

Incredible.

Every word of Jesus is eternally important. Every parable of Jesus is eternally important. And yet, there is one parable which is the foundation for all the other parables.

The foundational parable involves a sower, seeds, soil, scattering of seeds which fall on four different places with four different results, a garden, yielding a crop, and more.

According to God and His Son Jesus Christ, seeds are indeed important!

The simple, supernatural and incredibly important SEED holds secrets to God's eternal, priceless truths.

Right after that parable, the disciples asked Jesus why He spoke in parables: *"And the disciples*

came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" (Matthew 13:10)

Jesus answered: "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven . . ." (Matthew 13:11).

Let's look at the very first and foundational Parable Jesus presented; then the explanation.

The Parable of the Sower

Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Matthew 13:3-9)

The Parable of the Sower Explained

"Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in

his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” (Matthew 13:18-23)

Parable of the Sower, Explained	
Type, symbol	Meaning
Seed	Word of the kingdom
Wayside, birds devour seeds	Person does not understand the word; Satan snatches away word
Stony places, little soil; no root; sun scorches	Person receives word with joy; no root in himself; endures for a while but stumbles
Among thorns; thorns choke the seeds	Person hears the word; cares & deceit of riches choke the word; becomes unfruitful
Good ground; yields a crop	Person hears word & understands it; he bears fruit & produces: 30, 60 or 100 fold

Jesus Reveals Things Kept Secret since the Foundation of the World

In Matthew 13, there is insight about the parables:

All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world." (Matthew 13:34-35, citing Psalms 78:2)

Wow!

Jesus is revealing "things kept secret from the foundation of the world." Incredible.

Mysteries and secrets, kept hidden since the foundation of the entire world, would be revealed through . . . the Lord Jesus Christ . . . It's awesome to consider.

Psalms 78 was written perhaps 1,000 years before Jesus was born on earth, prophesying about Jesus Christ.

Jesus: the Secret and Mystery of God Revealed

Jesus Christ Himself is the secret of God revealed. He is the Christ, and the Messiah. He is the Image of the Invisible God. He is both the

Son of God and God Almighty.

His teachings follow the same pattern: He is revealing secrets and mysteries.

When we read the words of Jesus in the Gospels, we are reading the revelation and teaching that had been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Moreover, Jesus Himself is the secret that had been kept hidden since the foundation of the world.

The Name "Jesus Christ," Jesus the Anointed One

The name "Jesus" in Hebrew literally means "God saves."

The English name "Jesus" comes from the Greek name "Iesous," which is a rendition of the Hebrew "Yeshua." The name is related to the Hebrew verb root "rescue" and one of its noun forms, *yesua*, "deliverance."

In the New Testament, which was written in Greek, Christ in the Greek is the word "*christos*," which means "anointed."

In the Old Testament, which was written in Hebrew, the word for "Messiah" is "*mashiach*," which also means "anointed." So, the Greek word for Christ, "*christos*," is the Greek equivalent for the Hebrew word for Messiah, "*mashiach*."

Therefore, His name could properly be written and spoken as, "Jesus the Anointed One."

SIX

Seeds

In the first book of the New Testament, in the first Gospel, Matthew, the first three parables that Jesus presents to the public all involve seeds as a primary and central subject.

The three parables are:

The Parable of the Sower

The Parable of the Wheat and Tares

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

In the second Gospel, Mark, there is a fourth parable involving seeds, The Parable of the Growing Seed, included before the Mustard Seed Parable.

Throughout the Bible, God utilizes the natural world to reveal spiritual truth.

We considered the Parable of the Sower in the previous chapter. Let's look at the next two parables.

The Parable of the Wheat and Tares [Weeds]

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares [weeds] among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."' (Matthew 13:24-30)

The Wheat and the Tares, Explained

Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." He answered and said to them:

“He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear! (Matthew 13:36-43)

Truths from the Parable of the Wheat and Tares

Parable of the Wheat and Tares. Explained	
Type, Symbol	Meaning
Sower of good seeds	Son of Man
Field	The world
Good seeds	Sons of the kingdom
Tares (weeds)	Sons of the wicked one
Sower of the weeds	The devil
The harvest	The end of the age
Reapers	Angels

Final results:

Angels gather all things that offend and those

who practice lawlessness, cast them into the furnace of fire.

The righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." (Matthew 13:31-32)

Additional parables and teachings involving seeds:

And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." (Mark 4:26-29)

The Harvest

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. There-

fore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”(Matthew 9:37)

A Seed of Wheat, Symbolic of Jesus Christ’s Crucifixion and Death

Near to the hour of Jesus’ sacrifice and crucifixion on the cross, Jesus spoke these words:

But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.”

*Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.”
(John 12:23-28)*

Jesus is speaking about His upcoming crucifixion, death, resurrection, and ascension for mankind. The grain of wheat is a type or symbol of the death of Jesus.

For mankind, Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross is the most important event in history.

Through Jesus' death, God redeemed mankind.

God is holy and perfect. His law is perfect also. When man sinned, he fell and was separated from God's presence, holiness, righteousness, and perfection.

Sin leads to death (Romans 6:23). The just punishment for sinful man was death. But God always had a plan to redeem mankind. God sent His Son Jesus Christ to be God's perfect, final sacrifice. Jesus died so that we might have life.

The Seed of Wheat

In the grain of wheat teaching and revelation, Jesus also reveals another secret and mystery. He said:

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

(John 12:24)

A grain is a seed. A definition of a "grain" is: "a single fruit or seed of a cereal."

In addition to being a symbol of Himself, Jesus also utilizes the seed as a symbol or type for man, who has two options for his or her life, just like a seed has two potential "fates."

Every seed has two natural options:

Not fall into the ground, remain alone
or
Fall into the ground and die,
and bear much grain/fruit.

We all know that a seed has the life of the plant or living thing within it. But the seed must actually die in order to produce that life.

The seed can remain just a seed. As Jesus said, if it does not die, it will remain alone.

Or the seed can die and produce life, sometimes much life.

Man Has Two Options

The same principle applies to man.

After Jesus said the “grain of wheat” truth, He said this:

“He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”
(John 12:25)

Jesus said this same truth several times, with some variations (see page 41).

Just like a seed, every man and woman has two options for their life:

Love his own life and lose it
or
Hate his life; lose his life for Jesus Christ
and the gospel; keep it for eternal life.

The Seed's Two Options			
Negative		Positive	
Action	Result	Action	Result
Not fall in the ground	Remain alone	Fall into the ground	Die, bear much grain
Man's Two Options			
Negative		Positive	
Action	Result	Action	Result
Love his life; try to save life	Lose life	Lose life for Jesus	Find eternal life; bear fruit

Let's look at four of Jesus' teachings about this truth. All four have some variation of this same truth:

"He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 10:39).

"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25).

"Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve [keep] it" (Luke 17:33).

"He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (John 12:25).

Man’s Two Options			
Negative		Positive	
Action	Result	Action	Result
Find life ¹	Lose it	Lose life for Jesus	Find eternal life
Desire to save life ²	Lose it	Lose life for Jesus	Find eternal life
Seek to save life ³	Lose it	Lose life	Preserve it, keep it
Love life ⁴	Lose it	Hate life in this world	Keep eternal life
1. Matthew 10:39, 2. Matthew 16:25, 3. Luke 17:33, 4. John 12:25			

SEVEN

Jesus Calls His Followers to Die

Similarly, Jesus teaches that if anyone truly wants to follow Him and be His disciple, he or she must “die.”

What does this mean?

Let’s first look at His teachings.

The first group below is a list of some of Jesus’ teachings and commands. Jesus’ full statements and the portions of scripture are next.

If anyone wants to follow Jesus, he or she must:

Love the Lord God with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength (Matthew 22:36, Mark 12:30).

Forget himself (Matthew 16:24).

Take up his cross daily (Matthew 16:24).

To be Jesus' disciple, a person must:

Hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters (Luke 14:26)

Note: Obviously God does not want anyone to hate his family. Jesus is saying that someone's love for God needs to be so great that their love for their family looks like hate.

Hate his own life (Luke 14:26).

Bear his cross (Luke 14:27).

Forsake all that he has; give up everything he has (Luke 14:33).

The First and Great Commandment: Love God with All Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength

"Which is the first commandment of all?"

Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' (Mark 12:29-30, Matthew 22:36-37, Deuteronomy 6:4,5)

Forget Himself and Take up His Cross

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him forget himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but who-

ever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26)

Hate Family and Own Life, Bear Cross

"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

"And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple." (Luke 14:26-27)

Forsake and Give Up All He Has

"So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:33).

The Seed: Symbol for Both the Word and the Children of God

In the Parable of the Sower, the seeds are symbols of the "word of the kingdom."

In the Parable of the Tares, the good seeds are symbols of the "sons of the kingdom."

In the teaching about a grain or seed of wheat, the seed is a symbol for Jesus Christ and for a person who has the choice to either die and become a child of God, or not.

Jesus Christ, the Word of God and the Son of God

Why would Jesus utilize the seed to symbolize the word of the kingdom in the first parable and then the sons of the kingdom in the next parable?

Remember that Jesus revealed secrets and mysteries, and the symbolism of the seed and seeds in the first two parables is eternally important. In reality, everything Jesus says and does is eternally important!

We get insight into this mystery when we consider that Jesus Christ Himself is both the word of God and the Son of God.

Jesus, the Word of God

Let's look at two verses about Jesus being the Word of God:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God" (John 1:1-2). The "He" refers to Jesus Christ.

"He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God (Revelation 19:13).

The Greek word for "word" here (and 330 times in the New Testament) is "logos." Logos

means:

word, being the expression of a thought;
saying;
communication, speech;
reasoning expressed using words.

Therefore, Jesus Christ is the word, expression, saying, communication, speech, and reasoning using words, of the Father God Almighty.

To summarize, Jesus is the revelation of God.

Jesus, the Son of God

How do we know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

There are many ways. But God made this fact so clear that He, God the Father Almighty, literally spoke this truth audibly twice when Jesus was a man on earth. The following are the descriptions of these incredible events:

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17)

While he [Peter] was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly

a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only (Matthew 17:5-8).

The secret and mystery of God Almighty is now revealed.

Jesus the Christ is the Word of God, the Revelation of God, the Son of God, and, indeed, God Almighty.

Jesus' Teaching	Meaning Related to Man		Revelation of God
Parable, Allegory	Seed is symbol & type of:		Jesus Christ, Man and God
Sower (MT 13)	Word of the kingdom		Jesus, the Word of God
Wheat & Tares (MT 13)	Sons of the kingdom		Jesus, the Son of God
Seed of Wheat (JN 12:24)	Die & receive eternal life; Jesus Christ in & through us		Jesus, crucified, died, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven

EIGHT

Man is a Faith Being

Man is a faith being. It's our nature and make-up. God made us in His image, and He is a faith being. It's that simple.

But at the same time, it is a mystery – a wonderful, beautiful, holy mystery; a glorious, unspeakable, sacred mystery.

Natural World Faith

Every person on the earth lives by faith in both the natural and spirit realms, the two realms we live in.

In the natural realm, where most everyone lives all the time, every person lives, survives, grows, interacts and much much more, by faith. Even if they don't realize it.

In fact, if a human did not do all these things by faith, every minute and hour of every day, they would not survive. They would die.

Faith permeates everything we do and our entire lives. Some of it is “active faith,” some is “passive faith,” some is “automatic” faith, and so forth.

Man exercises faith in every aspect of existence, from the little things to the big things to everything in between.

Another way to describe it might be: trust that our “world”—us and our surroundings, as we know them—will all continue operating and functioning, so that we can survive and hopefully thrive. We may take it for granted, but it permeates everything we do.

There are thousands of examples. Every person on earth has faith that gravity will hold them down, that there is enough air to breathe, and that the sun will shine. They have faith the ground will hold them, food will satisfy their hunger and keep them alive, and water and liquids will satisfy their thirst and keep them alive. And on and on.

We all have faith that our body will keep functioning, nature will keep providing us the necessities for us to live (sun, food, water, etc.), and so much more.

Let’s look at an example from an individual’s early years. During the first three or so years of every human being’s life, he or she lives by faith, literally! We rely and trust completely on other

people for our life and survival. A person that age cannot take care of themselves. We do not even remember those years!

Every person who has ever lived, regardless of what they do and believe as adults, lived completely and totally by faith for the first three or more years of their life!

This faith is how humans and society function. We trust that society will continue, that people will behave properly, and so forth. But, because we live in a fallen world, sometimes things go wrong. A person might violate the rules of society and harm us. But to live, we still have to trust that society, nature, and the world in general will function and allow us to survive.

People may call it something different, like confidence or evolution or whatever, but this aspect of human nature is rooted in faith, reliance, and trust. These many examples are natural world faith.

Spiritual Faith

Spiritual faith works in the exact same way and according to the same principle. Faith in and of God is as normal, simple, and easy as the tens of thousands of other kinds of faith we all have throughout our lives.

It is the same faith. We are born with it. We are made as human beings to have it. It is in our DNA, our makeup, our body, our soul, and our spirit person.

This truth is in the Bible: “. . . *God has dealt to each one a measure of faith*” (Romans 12:3b).

When someone does not have faith, whether in the natural or spirit realm, they have doubt or, worse, fear.

Examples

Let's look at another example. An atheist says that there is no God. The atheist might disagree with the general principle that every person has faith.

Yet, an atheist has to believe that there is no God. They believe it. They have faith that there is no God.

They may argue and respond, “Well, I don't believe there is no God. I don't believe in anything.” Okay, then they believe in nothing. They have faith in nothing. They have faith that there is nothing.

Or a positive example, one that Jesus referred to often: seeds and crops, which in the natural world are an absolute necessity on earth. Without them, we would not be able to survive.

Consider this: every seed that becomes a living thing – a plant, grain, fruit, vegetable, nut, oil, spice, or whatever – was grown by faith. Yes, the planter and farmer has to sow and cultivate seeds with the proper conditions, with the right soil, light, water, and other factors. But the fact and wonder that a small seed becomes a final living thing happens by faith.

When a person plants seeds hoping to get a living plant of some kind, he or she has faith that the process will work, resulting in the final product.

In fact, in the natural, someone can even *not* have faith, and the desired outcome may happen. The fact that doubt does not affect things as much in the natural world reveals the natural world is on a much lower level than the spiritual world, which is higher and more refined and can even reach divine, heavenly, eternal levels.

The same “faith principle” applies to spiritual things. This same faith is how someone can receive a miracle for that seemingly impossible situation. It’s how someone can receive the glorious promises God wants to fulfill in and through us.

Most importantly, it is how someone can receive the offer and promise of a relationship with Jesus Christ, receive His very life . . . and the incredible, supernatural blessings He offers.

It’s the same as having faith that the sun will rise and set, your next breath will keep you alive, the ground will hold you, food will satisfy you, and on and on.

Why Faith?

Why is it that we must believe – have faith or “reliance” on God – to receive from Him?

In reality, we have the glorious opportunity to believe! It’s an eternal privilege!

But still, why is it faith? Why is that a key?

Because God is a faith God. He made us into His own image. And we must “function” according to his rules, laws, principles and more.

He made the rules, and we must play by those rules. In reality, every person is already playing by His rules, definitely in the natural realm!

Just Believe

Jesus taught about how simple faith is.

For example, Jesus said to a man who was in desperate need of a miracle for his daughter, “*Only believe*” (Mark 5:36). Or, “*Just believe.*” Jesus is emphasizing how simple believing is.

He said this to Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, whose 12-year-old daughter had just died. While Jesus was on his way to the man’s house, someone came and told them that the girl died (when the father left his house to go to Jesus, she was alive.) After hearing the report that she was dead, Jesus said to Jairus: “*Do not be afraid; only believe.*” (Mark 5:36).

Only believe.

Just believe.

It’s that simple.

In the natural, if you are hungry, just eat. If you are thirsty, just drink.

If you want to be saved and become a child of God, just believe.

If you want to see the power of God, just believe.

If you want and need a miracle, just believe.

Every phase of our walk with Jesus works the same way.

Just as we live by faith in the natural realm, we also live by faith in the spiritual realm.

The Spiritual Realm

In fact, it's even more obvious, from a common sense view, that in the spiritual realm, we have to live by faith. The spiritual realm is invisible (most of the time) and operates and functions at a much higher and more refined level than the natural realm. The spirit realm moves into the heavenly realms. Glory to God, what a privilege to be able to function in the spiritual realm!

Faith is the Only Way

Everything we receive from God is by faith. Let's let that sink in! For many people, spiritual faith is not natural to them. We are often trained to be "independent" and to "pull ourselves up by our bootstraps." We transfer that to our relationship with God.

Many people somehow think they need to help God, that somehow we can "work" our way into His graces.

Let's look at this topic from a commonsense view, backed up by scripture, related to how great and awesome God is and how small we are.

Remember, He is life (John 14:6). Life exists in Him (John 1:4). Without him, we are dead (John 6:53).

He has everything (Psalms 24:1). Apart from Him, we have nothing (Matthew 6:20, John 6:27).

He can do anything (Matthew 19:26). Apart from Jesus, we can do nothing (John 15:5).

The Holy, Awesome, Three-In-One God is the only One who can do anything that matters and has true meaning. He is the only One who can do eternal things, which are the only things that remain forever (Matthew 6:20).

Without Him, we are dead, we have nothing, and we can do nothing.

With and in Him, and Him in us, we become His children.

By Faith

So, how do we receive these wonderful things that only the Almighty God can do?

By faith.

It only makes sense that we would have to walk with God by faith and let Him do everything. How could one little human do anything for the Almighty God?

Let's use salvation as an example. Only He can save us. We cannot save ourselves. So, we ask Him to save us and have to believe and have faith that He saves us. We ask the Lord Jesus into our heart and life, to be our Lord and Savior. We receive it by faith. We walk with Him

daily, growing day by day. If we continue on, we bear fruit.

How about the baptism of the Holy Spirit: the Almighty God is the only one who can baptize us with His wonderful Spirit. We cannot do it on our own. So, we must rely on Him completely to do it. We must have faith for it. We must furnish the vessel and receive it.

How about miracles. Only God Almighty can perform miracles. We certainly cannot! We must rely on Him to do them.

How can we do the works of God? Jesus was asked this question specifically and answered it:

Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent" (John 6:28-29).

There it is again: believe on. Rely on. Trust in. Have the faith of Jesus Christ.

How do we make it to heaven? We cannot make it to heaven by ourselves. We cannot do anything to be good enough or earn our way to heaven. We have to rely on Him. We must have faith that our Father in heaven and our wonderful Savior Jesus will allow us to spend eternity in His glorious heaven which is prepared for us.

Yet, we must also act and do what God commands and teaches us to do. Every person will be judged by what they have and have not done

(Matthew 25:31-46). Faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26).

How can We Receive these Eternal Promises? How can We Receive Him?

We realize that we are nothing and can do nothing without Him. We realize He is God Almighty, the Creator of the Universe, the Holy and Awesome Lord God Jehovah.

We must humble ourselves before Him, confess our sins, frailties, and nothingness, and receive Him as our Savior. We must do this through Jesus Christ His Son, asking Him to be our Savior and Lord. We rely on and trust in Him to do it.

This all makes perfect common sense. It's the only way it could be: He does it all. Apart from Him, we can do nothing – especially compared to what He can do.

And it lines up with the main message of the Gospels and the New Testament: that we must “die,” crucify our old nature/flesh, and let Jesus live in and through us. If we are doing that, then, ideally, He is living through us, and every good thing done is done by Him. We no longer even exist. We are relying completely on Him to live in and through us and to do the great and awesome things He does. That's faith.

Someone who does not have the benefits of the Bible and hearing the Gospel can also find God, and the Lord God will reveal Himself to them.

NINE

How to Write Your Own Ticket With God

Say It, Do It, Receive It, Tell It

Some years ago, Jesus Christ delivered a message to one of His servants, Kenneth Hagin, regarding faith and how to receive from God.

Jesus summarized the message:

“If anybody, anywhere, will take these four steps or put these four principles into operation, he will always receive whatever he wants from Me or from God the Father.”¹

Step 1: Say It

Jesus asked Hagin, a prophet, a question about the story in the Gospels of the woman who was healed of the issue of blood (Mark 5 and Luke 8). Jesus said: “What was the first step the woman

with the issue of blood took toward receiving her healing?"²

The answer is in verse 28: *"For she said, 'If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well'"* (Mark 5:28).

This was the first step: *"she said"* (Mark 5:28).

Jesus said Hagin: "Positive or negative, it is up to the individual. According to what the individual says, that shall he receive.

*"This woman could have made a negative confession instead of a positive one, and that would have been what she received. She could have said, 'There's no use for me to go. I've suffered so long. Twelve years I've been sick. All the best doctors have given up on my case. I've spent all of my living upon physicians. I'm not better, but growing worse. I have nothing to live for. I might as well die.'"*³

If that had been what she said, that would have been what she received. But she did not speak negatively. She spoke positively. For she said, *"If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole."*

Step 2: Do It

Jesus said: "Your action defeats you or puts you over. According to your action, you receive or you are kept from receiving."⁴

The woman with the issue of blood touched Jesus' clothing.

Step 3: Receive It

In Mark we read: “ . . . she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My clothes?” (Mark 5:29b-30; complete story is below)

The woman received and felt in her body that she was healed.

Jesus said, “Daughter, your faith has made you well” (Mark 5:34).

Why did the power flow? Because the woman had faith. Faith activates the power of God. Faith is acting on God’s word.

Step 4: Tell It

Jesus said during the teaching: “Tell it so others may believe.”⁵

Jesus emphasized that people can receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit by following these steps. Jesus also said that believers can get victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil by following these steps.

Jesus said: “If they don’t do it, it won’t be done. It would be a waste of time to pray for Me to give them the victory. They have to write their own ticket.”⁶

As a second scripture confirming this principle, Jesus gave the story of David and Goliath

in 1 Samuel 17. David said five times what he would do.

Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philis-

tines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands." (1 Samuel 17:32-47)

First, David said it. Second, he did it. Third, he received it. Fourth, they told it.

Who told it? The people sang, "*Saul has slain his thousands, but David his ten thousands*" (1 Samuel 18:7).

Jesus said to the prophet Hagin: "Israel is a type of the people of God. Goliath can be any giant that might be in your life: a type of the devil, demons, the world, the flesh, sickness, or anything else that stands between God's people and victory. Every child of God can write a ticket of victory."⁷

The healing of the woman with flow of blood

Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried

up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?"

But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'"

And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction." (Mark 5:25-34)

TEN

Two Modern Day Confirmations

Jesus appeared to two of His followers in modern times and confirmed His teachings and truth in the New Testament.

**Jesus said, "... how I long to do for
My children if they would only ask
Me and believe Me ..."**

In 1957, Jesus appeared to Kenneth E. Hagin, one of several times Jesus appeared to Hagin. In this vision, Jesus told Hagin that Jesus was answering his prayer about his wife's health issue, which was serious. Jesus told him that his wife would live and not die.

Jesus said:

‘I did this, Son, just because you asked Me to. You don’t know how I long to do for My children if they would only ask Me and believe Me. Many times they beg and cry and pray, but they don’t believe. And I cannot answer their prayers unless they have faith, because I cannot violate My word. But how often I long to help them if only they would let Me by taking Me at My word and bringing Me their problems, trusting Me to undertake for them.’¹

Jesus said, “It is so easy. I made it so simple”

ROBERTS LIARDON is a minister, teacher, and author. He has built churches, founded Bible colleges, ministered in more than 100 nations, and authored more than 40 books.

In 1974, at the age of eight, Liardon was taken to heaven. While there, Jesus took him on a tour, taught him, and spent considerable time with him.

Jesus escorted Roberts to the following places: streets of gold, a family’s home, the River of Life, a large building holding a service of praise, storehouses of heaven, and the building that is the Throne Room of God.

Along the way, Jesus spoke to Liardon and passed on many truths. At one point, Jesus began to weep. Roberts was astounded and

listened intently to what Jesus then told him. Jesus said:

‘Roberts, I love my people so much that I would go back to earth, preach my three years over again, and die for just one person. If I had not already paid the price for them, and if I thought they wanted to come to heaven, I would do it all over again.

‘I would not have to know they would make it. If I just thought they wanted to come, I would do it for them, even if they were the greatest sinner of all.’

He said repeatedly, ‘I love my people so much. Why do people not take me at My word? Do they not know that I have all power in heaven and on earth to back up what I said? It is so easy. I made it so simple. If people would just take me at My word, I will do what I said.’

Then He cried harder and said, “I do not understand why people say they believe I will do something, but when it does not happen in their time, they begin to doubt My word. If they will just believe and say with confidence that I will do it, I will do it at the correct time.”²

ELEVEN

The Theme of the New Testament

It's important to look at the big picture.

Followers of Jesus Christ base their understanding of their faith primarily on the New Testament, which consists of the Gospels and the Letters.

In the Gospels, what is Jesus Christ's overall theme and message? What is the general theme of the Letters?

These questions lead to the even bigger questions asked at the beginning of this book, "How can we know God? How can someone find Him? What are the keys and secrets to walking with Him?"

Gospels

It's almost impossible to present a short summary of Jesus' general message in the Gospels. Every word is eternally important. In fact, we live by every word of God (Matthew 4:4).

In the Gospels, we learn that Jesus is the King, the Son of Man, the Savior and Messiah, the Son of God, and the Lord God Almighty. All four Gospels have a specific theme (see chart below).

Four is the number of completion in the Bible. The four Gospels confirm that Jesus Christ has completed the redemption of mankind.

Other important 'fours' include: four rivers flowing from the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:10), four corners of the earth (Revelation 7:1), four winds (Jeremiah 49:36), the four living creatures around the throne of God (Ezekiel 1:5), and the four colors of the curtain at the Entrance Gate to the Tabernacle (Exodus 27:16).

The four Gospels' themes reveal four portraits of Jesus Christ, together forming a complete view of Jesus as the Lord God Almighty.

Gospel	Jesus	Color in Tabernacle Gate (Ex 27:16)
Matthew	King	purple
Mark	Man	white
Luke	Savior	blue
John	Son of God	scarlet

In the Old Testament, there are 322 prophecies about the coming of the Messiah. Jesus is the fulfillment of those prophecies. The entire Bible, all 66 books, reveal Jesus Christ.

In the Gospels, without a doubt one of Jesus' primary messages is the new, divine, eternal, everlasting life He brought to mankind. He made this life possible through his life on earth and his death, burial, and resurrection from the dead.

Jesus became what we are, so we can become what He is.

How do we receive this life? We must repent and believe the gospel, the good news (Mark 1:15). We must love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40). If we do these things, we can be born again and enter into this eternal life, with the chance to live forever – and much, much more (John 3:1-21).

If we truly walk with Him, we must forget ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him (Matthew 16:24). If we want to find this new divine and eternal life, we must lose our old life for Jesus and the Gospel (Matthew 16:25). Our old life was not worth anything. The life we receive is divine, eternal, and everlasting,

If we want to keep our life for eternity, we must hate our life on earth (John 12:25).

If we do these things, we have the potential to: receive this divine, eternal, everlasting, sacred, holy life which is so glorious words cannot express it. We have access to unsearchable, indescribable, glorious promises which are far beyond our comprehension. We can live forever in heaven with Jesus Christ; and much more.

But there is the other side. Those who do not follow Jesus' teachings are on a path that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14), which ends with burning in unquenchable fire (Matthew 3:12, Matthew 10:28, Mark 9:48, John 15:6)

The Letters

The Letters continue Jesus' teaching about the new, divine, eternal life available to all people through Jesus the Christ. The epistles teach about Christian living and especially about Jesus Christ in you, the hope of glory.

So, the message is that we "die," and Jesus Christ lives in and through us. And we do this by faith.

We are no longer living, but Jesus lives in and through us. We have HIS life in us, HIS divine nature through the Holy Spirit.

We have HIS love, HIS hope, HIS joy, HIS peace, and . . .

HIS faith.

TWELVE

Faith Scriptures in the Gospels

In the Gospels, the second most frequent topic Jesus preached and taught about was “faith.”

The Greek word for “faith” and “to believe” is “pistis” (noun) and “pisteuo” (verb) which means “trust, reliance.”

Faith is simple: it is trusting in and relying on God to do what He promises.

The following are just some of the faith scriptures from the four Gospels.

Faith

But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." (Matthew 9:22)

Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." (Matthew 9:29)

Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour. (Matthew 15:28)

Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour. (Matthew 8:13)

And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction." (Mark 5:34)

Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road. (Mark 10:52)

So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." (Luke 17:6)

Faith, Nothing Impossible

"For assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20)

What You Ask, Believing, You Shall Receive

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." (Matthew 21:21,22)

Healings

"The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them." (Matthew 11:5)

Healing

"Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them." (Matthew 13:15)

All the Sick Who Touched Him Were Made Perfectly Well

And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well. (Matthew 14:35)

And as many as touched Him were made well. (Mark 6:56)

Believe and Receive

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." (Mark 9:23)

Say It, Believe It, Receive It

"So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." (Mark 11:22-24)

Only Believe

Luke 8 includes the story of Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, whose 12-year-old daughter was near death. Before Jesus raised the girl from the dead, He spoke to her father. Someone told both the father and Jesus that the girl had died: *"But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, 'Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.'"* (Luke 8:50)

With God Nothing Impossible

Gabriel said, "For with God nothing will be impossible." (Luke 1:37)

Persist and Be Bold, Receive

"I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence [Amplified: "and boldness"] he will rise and give him as many as he needs." (Luke 11:8)

Believe, See the Glory of God

Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" (John 11:40)

Justified by Your Words

"For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:37)

Works, and Greater Works

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. (John 14:12)

"For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will." (John 5:20-21)

Ask Jesus, He Does It

"And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." (John 14:13)

Ask and Receive

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to

you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:7-11)

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples." (John 15:7-8)

"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full." (John 16:23)

THIRTEEN

More Faith Scriptures

Faith is one of the most frequently taught subjects and topics in the New Testament.

The following are some of the faith scriptures from the New Testament which describe the new life with Jesus Christ.

Live by faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 1:17, Galatians 2:20)

The just shall live by faith (Habakkuk 2:4)

Live and walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8)

The word of faith (Romans 10:8-9)

Many have the same spirit of faith (2 Corinthians 4:13)

Faith Scriptures from the Gospels

Roman soldier's servant healed by faith (Matthew 8:10,13)

Jesus calmed the storm by faith (Matthew 8:26)

Paralyzed man's sins forgiven by faith (Matthew 9:2)

Two blind men healed by faith (Matthew 9:29)

Bear fruit by faith (Matthew 13:23)

Woman's demon-possessed daughter healed by faith (Matthew 15:28, Mark 10:52)

Do the impossible by faith (Matthew 17:20)

Jesus cast out demon by faith (Mark 1:25-26)

Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law of fever by faith (Mark 1:31)

Jesus cleansed a leper by faith (Mark 1:41)

Jesus healed man's withered hand by faith (Mark 3:5)

Jesus cast out legion of demons from man by faith (Mark 5:1-19, Luke 8:26-38)

Jesus raised 12-year-old girl from the dead by faith (Mark 5:21-43)

Jesus walked on the sea by faith (Mark 6:49)

Jesus healed deaf-mute man by faith (Mark 7:31-37)

Jesus healed blind man of blindness by faith (Mark 8:22-26)

Jesus transfigured by faith (Mark 9:2-7)

Blind Bartimaeus healed by faith (Mark 10:52)

Jesus cursed and withered fig tree by faith
(Mark 11:14, 20-24)

Receive answers to prayer by faith (Mark
11:24)

Jesus rose from the dead by faith (Mark 16)

Jesus ascended to heaven by faith (Mark 16)

Mary conceived the Messiah Jesus by faith
(Luke 2)

Jesus healed paralytic man by faith (Luke 5:25)

Jesus raised widow's son from the dead by
faith (Luke 7:11-15)

Jesus calmed the storm by faith (Luke 8:22-25)

Jesus loosed woman from spirit of infirmity
by faith (Luke 13:13)

Jesus healed man with excessive swelling of
tissues (dropsy) by faith (Luke 14:4)

Jesus healed 10 men of leprosy (Luke 17:11-14)

Jesus turned water into wine by faith (John
2:1-9)

Everlasting life by faith (John 3:16; John
6:40,47)

Never perish by faith (John 3:16)

No condemnation by faith (John 3:18)

Nobleman's son in Cana of Galilee healed by
faith (John 4:46-53)

Jesus healed paralyzed man (for 38 years) at
pool by faith (John 5:1-9)

Not come into judgment by faith (John 5:24)

Pass from death to life by faith (John 5:24)

Rivers of Living Water flow from spirit by
faith (John 7:37-38)

Do the work of God by faith (John 6:27-29)

Never thirst by faith (John 6:35)
Raised up at the last day by faith (John 6:39)
Jesus healed man born blind by faith (John 9:1-7)
Live forever by faith (John 11:25)
Never die by faith (John 11:26)
See the glory of God by faith (John 11:40)
Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead by faith (John 11:38-44)
Become son of light by faith (John 12:36)
Believe in Jesus therefore the Father by faith (John 12:44)
Not abide in darkness by faith (John 12:46)
Receive mansion and a place in heaven by faith (John 14:2)
Do the works Jesus does by faith (John 14:12)
Do greater works than Jesus by faith (John 14:12)
Ask anything in Jesus' name, He will do it, by faith (John 14:13-14)
Holy Spirit abides with us forever by faith (John 14:16-17)
Jesus and the Father make their home with one who keeps their word, by faith (John 14:23)
Clean because of the word by faith (John 15:3)
We abide in Jesus, and Jesus in us, by faith (John 15:4)
If we abide in Jesus, and He is us, we bear much fruit by faith (John 15:5)
If we abide in Jesus, and He is us, we ask what we desire and it's done for us, by faith (John 15:7)

We are Jesus' disciples by faith (John 15:8)

We are Jesus' friend by faith (John 15:14)

Jesus healed ALL – Matthew 4:23-24, Matthew 8:15, Matthew 12:15, Matthew 15:30-31, Matthew 21:14, Luke 6:17-19, Luke 5:15, Luke 7:21, Luke 9:11

Jesus healed every sickness – Matthew 9:35

All that touched His garment were healed – Matthew 14:36; Mark 6:56

Jesus healed great multitudes – Matthew 15:30

Faith Scriptures from the Letters

Righteous by faith (Romans 1:17)

Justified by faith (Romans 5:1, et al)

Perfect soundness through faith in His name (Acts 3:17)

Heart purified by faith (Acts 15:9)

Sanctified by faith (Acts 26:18)

We live by faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 1:17, Galatians 2:20)

Righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith (Romans 1:17)

Righteous by faith (Romans 1:17)

Righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22)

Sacrifice of Jesus and reconciliation (propitiation) by His blood received through faith (Romans 3:25)

Justified by faith apart from works of the Law (Romans 3:28)

Promise to Abraham that he would be heir of the world through righteousness by faith (Romans 4:13)

Justified by faith (Romans 5:1, Romans 10:10, Galatians 2:15-16, 3:11, Galatians 3:24)

Into the grace by faith (Romans 5:2)

Righteousness is of faith (Romans 9:30)

Saved by the word of faith, by confessing with mouth and believing in spirit (Romans 10:8-9)

God has given every man a measure of faith (Romans 12:3)

We use the gifts of the Spirit in proportion to our faith (Romans 12:6)

Whatsoever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23)

Gift of faith by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:9)

Stand by faith (2 Corinthians 1:24)

Many have the same spirit of faith (2 Corinthians 4:13)

Abound in faith (2 Corinthians 8:7)

Stand firm by faith (2 Corinthians 1:24)

Live and walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Receive the Spirit by the hearing of faith (Galatians 3:2)

Supply the Spirit by the hearing of faith (Galatians 3:5)

Supply the working of miracles by the hearing of faith (Galatians 3:5)

Credited to righteousness for us by faith (Galatians 3:6)

Sons of Abraham by faith (Galatians 3:7)

- Gentiles justified by faith (Galatians 3:8)
- Receive the Spirit by faith (Galatians 3:14)
- Gift of the promise by faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:22)
- Kept under guard by the law until faith revealed (Galatians 3:23)
- Children of God through faith in Jesus (Galatians 3:26)
- Through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith (Galatians 5:5)
- The things that remains and matters is faith working itself through love (Galatians 5:6)
- Saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8)
- Christ dwells in our spirit by faith (Ephesians 3:16-17)
- Extinguish arrows of the evil one by faith (Ephesians 6:16)
- Righteousness of God is by faith (Philippians 3:9)
- Raised from the dead with Jesus Christ by faith (Colossians 2:12)
- Faith grows (2 Thessalonians 1:3)
- Ask in faith (James 1:6)
- Sick healed by prayer of faith (James 5:15)
- Shielded by God's power through faith, until the coming of salvation (1 Peter 1:5)
- Faith will result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed (1 Peter 1:7)
- The end result of faith is the salvation of your soul (1 Peter 1:9)
- Faith is the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4)

Faith Scriptures from Hebrews 11

Approach God by faith (Hebrews 10:19-25)

The just live by faith (Hebrews 10:38)

Hope by faith (Hebrews 11:1)

Assurance of things not seen by faith (Hebrews 11:1)

A good testimony by faith (Hebrews 11:2)

By faith we understand creation of the world (Hebrews 11:3)

By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice and obtained witness that he was righteous (Hebrews 11:4)

By faith Enoch was taken away and did not see death (Hebrews 11:5)

By faith we receive testimony that we please God (Hebrews 11:5)

Believe that God exists by faith (Hebrews 11:6)

Believe God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him by faith (Hebrews 11:6)

Obey by faith (Hebrews 11:7)

Dwell in the land of promise by faith (Hebrews 11:7)

Receive strength (to bear a child past age) by faith (Hebrews 11:7)

Call heaven, not earth, home by faith (Hebrews 11:13-16)

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2)

Vocabulary Frequency in the Greek New Testament	
God	1,317
Jesus	917
Lord	717
Christ	529
Father	413
Spirit	379
Word, logos	330
Heaven, sky	273
Faith, trust	243
Source: www.biblicalgreek.org	

Endnotes

Chapter Ten

1. Hagin, "How To Write Your Own Ticket With God," p. 5.
2. Ibid., p. 7.
3. Ibid., p. 8.
4. Ibid., p. 11.
5. Ibid., p. 19.
6. Ibid., p. 20.
7. Ibid., p. 27.

Chapter Eleven

1. Hagin, *I Believe in Visions*, p. 92.
2. Liardon, *We Saw Heaven*, p. 51-52.

Bibliography

Hagin, Kenneth E. "How To Write Your Own Ticket With God" (Tulsa, OK: Kenneth Hagin Ministries, 1979)

Hagin, Kenneth E. *I Believe in Visions* (Tulsa, OK: Kenneth Hagin Ministries, 1984)

Harwell, Jim, edited by. *Jesus Christ's Promises* (Nashville: Bridge Books, 2016)

Lockyer, Herbert. *All the Promises of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1962)

Also from Bridge Books:

Heaven: 33 Stories from a Real Place
Jesus Christ's Promises
War in the Heavens

Bridge Ministries exists to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ. Learn more at BridgeMinistries.org.