



**OUT
FROM
FAITH**

**INTO
FAITH**

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Out From Faith Into Faith

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The Setup

For years, people have told me, "You should write a book." Yeah, right. Don't get me wrong, it's not like I don't have something worthwhile to say, I actually believe I do. But my question has always been, "How would someone know to read it?" Not that they wouldn't *want* to, but how would they *know* to? Many years passed with no answer to that question, so I didn't do it. Then one day, it just seemed like the right thing to do, so here we are! Let's get started by laying out a general direction of our journey.

In the first chapter of Romans, Paul describes the basic foundation of what he, and we, refer to as "The Gospel". It is the good news of God, encompassing His Son fulfilling the scriptures. It is founded on the fact that Jesus from Nazareth, having been crucified, died. But He wasn't dead for long, He was raised out from the dead by the power of God.

Verse 16 tells us that this good message is the very power of God that will release someone from sin and death and into life and peace as they believe *into* Jesus (more on *into* later).

In verse 17 we find that in this message God is revealing His Righteousness. This revelation of δικαιοσύνη can properly be described as "the state of him who is as how he ought to be". But what is that state? How is it that we ought to be? Hmmm...

Abraham is referred to as "the father of our faith". Ro 4:3, Ga 3:6, and Ja 2:23 all tell us that Abraham **"believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness."** The Greek word is *logizomai*, meaning to reckon or consider down to a conclusion. How did Abraham attain to righteousness? Simple, he *believed God*.

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That's essentially what righteousness is, it's not religious, it's acknowledging that whatever God says is right and acting like it. So how do we get there? We agree with God and we declare!

Jesus said that “out from *your* words you will be declared righteous and out from *your* words sentence will be passed.” (Mt 12:37, enhanced version) So *your* words cause you to *become into* this state of believing and acting called righteousness. Here's how this works...

Romans 10:9 says that if you confess or declare with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord, believing that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be delivered from the bondage of sin and death. This happens because the spirit, your “inner man”, is made alive, “**...the spirit life through righteousness.**” (Ro 8:10) God's Life, is imparted to, comes into you (more on this later too.) And the more you increase in the knowledge of God, the more things you have to believe, and the more you believe, the more you receive of what is right in life! Pretty cool, huh?

Paul tells us that this righteousness is “**uncovered out from faith into faith**” (Ro 1:17), out from His faith into your faith. Ta-dum! For some this was very easy because you're familiar with these concepts. But some of you may be sayin', “What!” So, let's pause for a moment to go over a few basics.

These are some things that make up the foundation of what we'll be seeing throughout this book, so we need to make sure that we're on the same page as we walk through it. Of course, you don't have to agree with my description of these things, but you'll at least have to adapt while you're reading so that you can *see* what's being *said*.

- will - “what one has in mind to do”

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- faith - "the substructure of concepts or thoughts formed by words"
- love (*agape*) - "the affect of purposeful good will"
- The Word - (*logos*) "the expression of thought"
"The Plan (of God) that coordinates the universe"
- words - (*rhema*) "the things spoken that convey all of the above."

So the "faith of God" (Mk 11:22) is what He has in mind, conveyed by His Word, painting His picture in your mind, because of His purposeful good will, so that you both have the same mind, which is faith! Simple enough?

According to Heb 11:1, those thoughts or concepts, being conceived in you, become the "substructure" or undergirding substance of faith. It is conveyed by His Spirit into your spirit or "inner man" (Eph 3:16), and will become what you expect. Now, there is a condition, it has to be accepted as solid evidence just like what is presented under oath in a court of law. It is laid hold to as the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. That way the Word that you have received is now the "solid evidence" that you base your case on, even though it is not yet seen. (You might want to read that again slowly. That's a lot of stuff packed into a long sentence.)

God's faith *produces* because His Words are seeds of Spirit and Life. (Jn 6:63) Those words contain the power to be or to accomplish whatever they are. Paul put Gal 3:5 in the form of a question, but as a simple statement, it would read like this, **"God is The One furnishing The Spirit and energizing the abilities contained in us out from the report of (and about) faith."** (enhanced version)

OK, this might be a good time for full disclosure; I'm not a Greek scholar. I have to spend a considerable

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amount of time looking things up to dig down into the language of the text. That being said, I do spend the time and some things that I've learned I'll share with you throughout the book.

(About that, I've both wondered and inquired whether I should write the words that we'll encounter in Greek or transliterate them into English, and I've gotten mixed reviews. So we'll just do some of both. If you're unfamiliar with Greek, you can see what some of it looks like. Then, in the transliterations, you can learn how to pronounce some Greek words.) Now back to Gal 3:5.

"Furnishing" is another way to think about "supplying", which is probably the most common translation of επιχορηγεω. Then, ενεργεω is usually translated "to work", but it's really more about the *energy released during the effort* of working, so "energizing" presents a more accurate and graphic picture. People know δυναμις as "power", but again, there's more to the picture, and in the text it's plural. These abilities are contained in, have been placed in us, out from what we are told and receive as true about faith and how faith operates. John says this, **"However as many as *lambano* (laid hold to) Him He granted to them the authority to become children of God, to those to those believing *into* His Name."** We have the authority to lay hold to the abilities that faith tells us that we have because of who we are! Oops, I've gone to preachin'.

"Out from" is εκ. As a typical Greek preposition, it doesn't just give direction to a noun, it is itself directional. (We'll get there next.)

Now, "the report" is curious. Ακοε is "hearing", but it's a noun, not a verb. Yes, it refers to the sense of hearing,

but not *that* you hear, but rather *what* you hear. It's the report or message itself, not the sound. Ro 10:16&17 is a great illustration. In verse 16 we find "**...who has believed our report?**" "Report" is ακοε. The same word is then translated "hearing" twice in the very next verse, "**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" Both words translated "hearing" are ακοε. (Yeah, I know.) And we have another preposition, δια, which we'll expound on later. For right now let's just say it's "through". So now we have, "**Therefore faith out from the report, and the report through the word of God.**" Once again, back to Galatians 3:5.

So God is not only furnishing you with The Holy Spirit, He is energizing these abilities so that you may accomplish anything that comes *out from the report*. The report is what we "hear" or "see" from God, by His Spirit, that we receive, which causes us to believe, which is speaking and acting faith.

The report can be knowledge of scripture, or it can be direction for your life based on scripture. It can come through teaching, preaching, sharing, or just your own study of the written "Word of God". But it is always by revelation, out from His Spirit into our spirit, Spirit to spirit (1Cor 2:13). When the report is received faith is conceived, and will become what you believe, and that's the central purpose of this book. Finishing out the setup, let's look at some prepositions.

Obviously, it's important to have an accurate report, because the concept that is formed in you becomes the substance that you are assured of. As I mentioned a moment ago, Greek prepositions don't just give direction to a noun, often they are themselves directional. Over the years I've found that exacting translations of Greek

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prepositions can make a big difference in the “picture” that we see in our mind, which is the concept that is conceived. So let’s go over a few more.

Being “contained in”, εν, paints a different picture in your mind than just “in”. And εις, “into”, presents another concept, yet both words are overwhelming translated just “in”. Unless you spend some time and effort, you won’t know which is which, you’re just reading “in”.

Κατα is “down from”. The idea is of something being distributed down from a higher plane to a lower plane, and translating it “according to” doesn’t portray that.

The picture of δια, mentioned earlier, is not “by”, it’s *through*, but not *just* through. Think of a channel or pipe that runs from one side to another. But there’s still more. What’s going “through it” doesn’t just start at one side and end up on the other, like a ball rolling through pipe. It’s more like what happens with the water when you take a shower. The water indeed flows through the pipe and out into your shower, but now you have water located in 3 places, the water tower, the pipes, and the shower! Cool huh? One more.

Often when you read “with” or “to” or “toward” you’re actually looking at the same Greek word, προς, and this preposition is an extremely important concept. It is towards, but more. It’s with, but not *just* with. It’s “touching”, but not *just* touching. The picture is all of the

above put together. It’s one of moving towards someone or something resulting in interaction or interfacing. You are engaging with that person. There are more, of course, but I think you see what we’re saying. Right? Now let’s put a few of these simple things together in a specific example.

The King James Version of Eph 3:16 reads, "**...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man.**" Now, "according to" is κατά, "by" is δια, and "in" is εις. So let's refocus, "**...that He would grant you down from the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit into the inner man.**" Seeing something differently? Let's dig deeper.

"Riches" is not plural, δοξα has a much more concrete definition than "glory", (we'll go deeper into this later), and, as we've already noted, δυναμις is not *just* power, it's "ability to accomplish". Then, the root idea from the noun κρατος is dominion, so to have dominion is *to dominate*. Now, just like focusing a telescope or fine tuning a radio frequency, the *picture* of what Paul is requisitioning from God on behalf of the people becomes sharper, the sound more clear, "**that He would grant you, down from the wealth of the proper acknowledgement of Him, the ability to dominate through His Spirit into the inner man**". Wow! Sometimes I like to say that backwards, "woW!" If you've enjoyed the last few minutes, I think your gonna have a good time reading this book, because this is the kind of thing we'll be doing. And we're gonna start with "Seeds".

Chapter 1 - SEEDS

Life is all about the seeds.

One day my wife Julie and I were riding to lunch after a wonderful Sunday morning at our fellowship. We were discussing things like ourselves, people, ministry, The Kingdom, just a typical conversation for us. As I was getting out of the car, I saw something that I've known for decades more clearly and in more depth and breadth than ever before. I looked at Julie and said, "Actually, all these things aren't really hard to understand. Everything in our lives is made up of seed." (Mk 4:26) And there it was!

You see, the greatest "mystery" (μυστηριον - "a secret of which initiation is necessary to understand; hidden to be revealed") of all of reality is the seed. It's something that everyone knows, yet there is so much more to it than what is "seen". Nature's most basic function is the seed! "Sure."

You were conceived by seed.

"Of course."

As a Believer, you were born again by seed (1Pe 1:23).

"Uh, OK."

Your life exists out from seed.

"What? Wait a minute!"

From physical conception, to mental progression, to spiritual perception, your life is just ground growing seed! The ground is your life. Your spirit, or inner man, is the source of life in you. In Jn 6:63, Jesus said that the spirit quickens or produces life. In other words, "the spirit is giving life". That life, like the ground, causes seed to "bring forth" fruit. It's true for your spirit; it's true for His Spirit.

Whatever is put *into* it grows. Life is all about seeds. During the course of your lifetime seeds are continually growing into plants and bearing fruit of their own kind. God set this part up from the beginning (Genesis 1). This is why it is so important to "**guard you heart with all diligence**" (Pr 4:23), because truly, out from it *becomes* your life. More on that later. For now, what *exactly* are these "seeds"?

The seeds are things "observed".

Some seen with the eyes, but usually they are words.

**Whether the words are seen or heard,
they become pictures in your mind,
and that's how they are "observed".**

(OK, so maybe you were expecting something deeper than a little limerick, but it actually does convey the picture.)

Thoughts are *perceived*. They exist. Everybody has them, but you can't see them. Right? But you can "see" *yours*! Those are YOUR seeds! You can "gaze" on them, consider them, meditate, reflect, and mutter them. And that process is how the seeds are planted, and begin to grow! A seed grows into a plant, and then the plant "bears fruit", and "the fruit" is "the thing" that the seed is. Then, there's a whole other step that most people who understand this don't take into account, and that is that the "bearing fruit" is also "sowing seed", because the fruit contains more seed! Cool, huh? We'll see that again after we watch the process.

Once the seed "is received" it begins to take root. Your mouth and actions will begin to flow out from the picture in your mind. Your mind is where the seen and unseen comes together. During the course of your lifetime, that never stops happening. Whatever seeds have been

planted in you are constantly growing and, at some point, "producing fruit", and the fruit is what the seed is.

So, simple enough, right? The words and/or actions that come out from what we conceive as true can be the end, or just the beginning of the "fruit". That's "believing", the Greek word πιστευω, acting out from faith. Christians, by the way, have no corner on this market. Every person speaks, acts, and plans for things that are not yet seen or known based on what they *believe* to be true, whether it is or not. The difference for Believers is that their faith is "different" or "special". I didn't say that, (well, I guess I did just say that), but it came specifically from Jude 1:20.

The word in Greek is *hagios*, which literally means "otherness", "different", or "distinctive". It's an adjective, but, it's also used as a noun. We see it as "saints" or "holy". The verb, *hagiazō*, we see as "sanctified". It's "set apart". My favorite definition is probably "distinguished". Kinda weird. As we'll see as we go on, the faith of a Believer comes from, actually is, God's faith, so it's distinct or distinguished from other "faith".

So, what happens to and in you, and to anyone and everyone else, is the effect of the fruit coming out from the seeds that they've received. And again, they will be whatever the seed is. So let's get back to the garden.

Guarding The Garden

As we noted, your "heart" is the ground, it's the "garden", if you will. It is very valuable because it has the ability both to provide life to the seed and get life out from the seed. It needs to be diligently kept and cared for. But who does that?
You do.

"Wait. How can I be the garden and keep the garden? Who is the *you* guarding *who*?"

Well, you are also the farmer, not just the ground!

"What?"

Your spirit, your inner man, is the ground. It produces life out from what is conceived or placed into it. Your mind is the keeper, the farmer, guarding your spirit, making the choices of what will be allowed to be planted. As a dear friend has often said, "Your ground will grow whatever seed is planted in it." So paying attention to what gets planted is big deal. Your mind determines what mixture of Spirit or flesh is allowed into your ground, because, as Jesus said in Jn 3:3 & 5, being born from above you *horao*, "see with your mind" The Kingdom of God. And being born of water and The Spirit you *eiserchomai*, "enter into the Kingdom through the thoughts coming to mind". When this happens you come to discover what God has in mind. what His will is or what He intends. As you come to know what's on His mind you both become of the same mind, and that forms faith. How awesome!

What comes into you from the natural man is flesh. What comes into you from The Spirit is out from God. You don't want to sow out from the flesh, but out from the Spirit (Gal 6:8). So let's talk a bit about this farmer guy.

We referred to this farmer or keeper as your "soul". It's made up of your heart, καρδια, the seat of your intentions and motivations; your soul, ψυχη, the seat of your desires and affections; your mind, διανοια, your deep thoughts and meditations; and your ισχυς, determination. That's how Jesus described this in Mk 12:30, expounded by traditional Hebrew teaching. It makes up who you are.

As the farmer, you guard the ground, your life. You prepare the soil and make sure that only good seed that will

bear good fruit gets planted. Not only do you care for it, you also protect it as the fruit grows and ripens. You guard it against the pests and varmints that might destroy the plant or consume the fruit. That repetitive, continual effort is the "laboring to enter into rest" spoken of in Heb 4:11. What you are working to do is to "keep the garden".

The ground, this powerful thing that has life and causes things to become, is your spirit, your inner man. That's the part that was breathed into man out from God Himself into a body. When mixed together, they became a "speaking spirit", a "living soul", a man created as God. The living soul is what connects with spirit *and* flesh, a "go between", if you will. Think of it as a translator that speaks both languages, or as a transformer that can "step down" the high voltage or "step up" the low voltage. Your soul can speak flesh or spirit, and translate one to the other or the other to the one. You, as spirit, have the ability to manage the power flow of life by converting from a higher plane to a lower plane or vice versa. Your intentions, motivations, desires, affections, thoughts, and meditations, through determination, become "physical". Wow! (Yep, let's say that backwards, woW!)

We've described these things as if they are separate entities, but these "parts" are not divided, they are united. We can compartmentalize them only for purposes of illustration. Ultimately they are one. The farmer and ground are as a physicist might say, "entangled". And together they cause the functioning of the flesh in which they are contained.

Now consider this, everything that you allow your eyes to see and your ears to hear has the potential to *become*, γίνομαι. They can change form (or state or place) because they are seeds, and seeds contain the life of

whatever they are in themselves and will begin to produce when coming into contact with ground. Those unseen thoughts and imaginations are just waiting to find a way to get out of the unseen and into the world through you.

Weird? Not really, it's just the way of things, all things. And most of the world understands it, at least at some level. Self-help, New Age, politicians, athletes, mystics, businessmen, advertisers, and most religions, they all get it at some level. Oddly enough though, a lot of Christians seem to struggle putting it together even though God created it and Jesus explained it. Curious? But let's move on.

So what you allow your mind to contemplate, what you allow your spirit to receive, these are the things that will be. A wise farmer wants to plant and nurture *good seed*, and the best seeds are The Words of Eternal Life, God's Word(s), God's Life. That seed *produces* health and peace. (Prov 4:20-22) Now let's take it up a notch!

Bearing fruit is also sowing seed

I told you we'd get here, and it further explains a lot, both of the results we see and don't see. We need to think this whole "seed thing" through. We need to come to understand that there's more going on. As we alluded to from Genesis 1, the "fruit" of a plant also contains seed. (Even most grasses will "seed".) What keeps us from getting the full picture clearly in focus is that we've been looking at something as 1 thing, when actually it's 2 things, and that confuses both things. There is the seed that grows into the plant and produces the fruit. But that fruit contains seeds! You have the original seed being sown, but you also

get seed contained in the fruit that comes from the plant that came from the seed!

Words are Seeds

Now, let's take everything we've said, but change the description from seeds to words, because words are the most powerful of seeds! Directly or indirectly, from the beginning, words (expressions of thought) have created everything. (Again, Genesis 1.)

We think of the words being sown into us without realizing that they will eventually become the words coming out from us as the fruit of the seed that we've taken into us. Again, past that, this "fruit" also contains seed! It's bearing fruit, but it's also sowing seed. See?

The seed is the simplest explanation of God's Kingdom and of understanding increase (Mk 4:26). **"And He said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed upon the ground."** Jesus also said, **"...it's been given to you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom..."** (Mt 13:11). And, **"...it is your Father's good pleasure to give you The Kingdom."** (Lk 12:32). This is so much more than church or religion, it's life! More specifically, it's comprehending how to walk in The Kingdom of God. It's just how things work, period.

Once more with feeling. We're used to thinking of the words going out (or our actions) as being seed, and that's true, but really, we're just bearing fruit of what's been sown. This also gives a concise explanation of Mk 4:24-26, **"For whoever has, to him more will be given: and he that has not, even that which he has will be taken away from him."** The seed goes in, becomes the plant, grows

and bears fruit, which contains more seed of the same kind. That's the "more will be given". If the plant never grows, or grows but bears no fruit, there's no more seed. Eventually, it just dies off or is cut down. (Jn 15:6). That's how even what he has is taken away.

The Sower(s)

Before we leave this "seed" foundation, let's look at one more thing. In Mk 4:14, Jesus tells us that "The sower sows The WORD." Jesus, Who is The WORD, the "blueprint", the "design" of everything conceived in The Father, (More on that in Chapter 7.), was sowing the Word, The Λογος of The Kingdom through the words, ρηματα, that He spoke. In fact, let's look at an "enhanced" version of Jn 12:49. **"For I have not spoken out from Myself; but the Father Himself having sent Me, He gave Me an (εντολη) objective, which I should (επω) address, and which I should (λελεω) talk about. v50 And I (ειδω), am aware of the fact that His objective is Eternal Life: therefore that I talk about, even as the Father told Me, I speak."** That's pretty plain talk right there! So we know that Jesus came as The Sower to sow Eternal Life. But there's something more to know, there's another sower.

Our enemy (the devil, Satan) also "created". He created evil by sowing words that weren't God's words. He chose his own, and "...iniquity was found in him" (Ez 28:15). That began the parallel kingdom that we call the kingdom of darkness, and it also has continued though the "seed principle". It started an "alternate branch" and man became a carrier of that seed. Men and women have allowed that seed to continue through them. That's the bad fruit that produces πονηρος, evil, hardship and toil, and

κακος, that "inner malice". Think about it for a moment, what did God tell the man after He had come to perceive evil? You wanted it, you got it, sorrow, sweat, toil, and hardship. (Gen 3:17-19) That's what evil is.

The good news is, "The Word of the Kingdom overcomes the word of the world!" (1Jn 5:4) **"For what the Law could not do, being without power in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His Own Son in the form 'of flesh of sin' as a sacrifice for sin, (*katakrino*) executed sin *en* the flesh, in order that the (*dikaïoma*) right requirement of the Law would be fulfilled in us, not walking (*kata*) down from the flesh, but down from The Spirit."** (Rom 8:3-4) So let's wrap up this part.

God plants the seed, He always has. He started it in the beginning, and that started everything in motion and here we are! Understand that everything, one way or another, comes out from seed.

Chapter 2 - Understanding The Process

First Things First

So, with the foundation laid, let's start building. In order to better understand the process or development of faith, we first need to deal with a couple things. One is to correct a prevalent misconception. We hear "faith" so often in conjunction with the "principle of the seed" that the two have just melded together over time in a lot of minds, but faith is *not* a seed! Wait, don't freak out! Breathe! You good? Now, let's think this through for a minute.

You don't plant faith and expect it to grow. It can be and should be *increased*, but that's not the same thing. Although there is a similarity in the terminology, there is a great distinction in the application and expectation if you want faith to increase and /or be strengthened, which also are not the same things. You *increase* faith through gaining more wisdom, knowledge, and understanding through revelation and then assimilation of spiritual things (Col 1:9&10). Faith is *strengthened*, made stronger through use, exercise. That is to say you become even more confident in your conviction because you have tried and proved it. But you don't plant it and expect it to grow, that's seed, that's words.

Yes, in Mt 17:20 and in Lk 17:6, Jesus did say "if you have faith *as a grain* of mustard seed, you would say..." In Matthew it was in response to the disciples' question, "...why were we not able to cast it out?" In Luke it was in response to his guys' request to, "add to us faith". In both cases, Jesus told them that if they had a *grain* of faith, they would "say". If you have faith you speak words. The words are the seed that contain the life or power of

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whatever it is. So you could say that you plant seed because you have faith. But still, the faith is not what you speak but *why* you speak! So where did you get the faith?

The Word, Coming & Going

Of course, you get faith out from the Word(s). Words form faith in the same way that they increase faith. Words form and inform, giving structure and evidence to faith. Then, you release the faith with words, which is one of the greatest aspects of *believing*. You speak out from the picture that has been painted or the structure that now undergirds what you expect. You speak because you expect, you expect because you are convinced that what you believe is true. Faith is a conviction that causes action, and the first action is normally speaking.

Faith plants words out from and because of the words that built it into a structure out from a concept in the first place. That's like the confession "out from faith" as opposed to the confession "unto faith". One is "building" faith, the other is "planting seeds". And don't forget, both the words that you take in to build the concepts as well as the words that you plant as seed need to be out from God so that what is produced is "good".

Remember, the ground will grow anything. You can take in the wrong words and build the wrong concept inside of you that you become convinced of and act on. You can also grow lies and destruction just as readily as Truth and Life. But let's get back to the grain.

The Mustard Seed

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The word *kakkon* is translated grain 6 of 7 times in the King James. (The 7th time is in Jn 12:24 and it's "corn", and, no, I don't know why either.) He's not saying to plant it like you do a mustard seed, He's saying "small like a mustard seed", or "a little dab'll do you". (If you don't know what that means, go ask your parents or grandparents.) With faith, size doesn't matter. In fact, how would you describe the "size" of your conviction? The "great faith" of the Centurion in Lk 7:9 and Mt 8:10 is *tosutos*, not *me gas*. Jesus is referring to "this kind of" faith, not "this size of" faith. This man believed Jesus on a whole other level. He knew that the authority of Jesus' words alone we're powerful enough to heal. But back to it, how did Jesus *increase* their faith? Well, He did, didn't He?

I looked at Lk 17:5 in 29 translations. 21 say "increase our faith", 2 say "give us more faith", 1 says "make our faith stronger", another says "make our faith greater", then "give us faith", and 2 say, "add to us faith". The Greek word being translated here is *prostithemi*. *Pros* is the preposition meaning "towards, with the idea of interfacing or interacting with", and it's often found as a prefix. The basic definition of *tithemi* is "to set or lay down". Put together you get interacting or interfacing with what is set down. The idea is to add to or interact with something that is already there. For instance, the King James translates it "add" 11 times, increase once. The New American Standard translates it "add" or "added" 8 times, increase once. So if it's "add to", how would Jesus do that? That's part of understanding the process.

You can look back to Ro 10:16&17 or Heb 11:1 as examples, and what you have is this, faith comes from a report concerning something that has formed a clear picture down inside you. You "see" it. This experience is described

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in a number of ways like, "It dawned on me", "I saw the light"; "It just came to me"; "Now I understand". It's also known by several names; a revelation, an epiphany, believing, or "having faith". All of these words or phrases are just describing something that becomes clear in your heart and mind even if it's not yet a *physical* reality. Not only that, the *conviction* is strong enough so that you'll initiate actions that correspond to it as if it's a sure thing! The action may be as if it's happening now, possibly is imminent, or maybe even an unclear or distant timeframe. But regardless of the perceived timeframe, you expect it!

Expectation

This takes us into another important part of "the process". We've already mentioned it, and not to overstate, it's a vitally important word. It should be a pillar of any thought about faith. Unfortunately, all through the New Testament, what we read is "hope", which has an almost incapacitating affect when it comes to faith, because the English picture of hope is "wish", or "long for". That is definitively not faith, at all, some-none-at-all-any, no way, no how. OK, I'll stop.

Most often when you see "hope" as a Greek verb it is ἐλπίζω, "to expect", or the noun ἐλπίς, meaning "expectation"! It's not wishing, it's not hoping for, it's fully expecting! It's confident anticipation, and that's a powerful part of faith. In fact, as I said, it should be what most people think of when they think about faith.

Receiving Faith

Out From Faith Into Faith

At first, this may mess with your head, but hang in there. We said earlier that faith is not *what* you speak, but *why* you speak. In a similar fashion, when it comes to receiving, faith is *how* you receive; it's not *what* you receive. I know, I know, but it's just another important distinction that's essential to understanding the process.

Again, Heb 11:1 says that faith is "the substance" of things "hoped for". The word for substance is 'υποστασις', "what stands under". We've been alluding to it all along, but let's nail it down. Faith is a "substructure", or undergirding. It "holds up what you expect." It also gives the *form* or *shape* to what you expect so that you can see what it looks like. But don't forget, you're seeing something that you can't see, yet you do expect.

About Faith

We've been specifically talking about thoughts, imaginations, perceptions that are being communicated primarily through words. In other words, they're "concepts". They can be concepts of design or concepts of purpose, or both. They can be objects or devices, end results, or means to an end. But I do believe that the most accurate word you could use to describe this is "concept". Logos, The Word, is the blueprint, the detailed picture, of everything. Πηματα are the words used to express all of this. And all of these things are made up of concepts, mental pictures. The *Concept*, is made up of *concepts*. Now, what we just said is that what is communicated out from The WORD with words is a concept made up of many concepts. Are we good?

So faith is the concept of things expected, the solid proof of things not yet seen, and not only do those concepts

come out from The Word of God, they are the solid evidence needed to convict or convince precisely *because they are* The Word of God. Again, Ro 10:17, "**So then, faith out from the report, and the report through the word of Christ.**" They are solid evidence because God gave His Word (His Promise), His WORD (Jesus), and His Word, (the scriptures), and He cannot lie. And to be sure, if you don't get that, you simply can't have *faith* in God.

Because faith is the substructure of evidence, it begins to be developed, or become, as you grab hold of The Word of God. Once having received it, laid hold to it, that Word will begin to grow, to bear fruit, producing actions out from what you are now expecting. Let me give you a simple picture.

Let's say that you have some wonderful, precious grape seeds that you want to start a vineyard with. Of course, you cultivate the ground and plant the seed, but you have to build some type of structure for the vines to grow up onto as they bear fruit. Or, you could talk tomatoes. You have to have a structure to support the plant or you'll lose the fruit, right? So, faith is that structure that The Word grows out from and onto. It's not "the word", but the proof of the Word, it gives structure to the Word. You could also look at it from the other direction. Since the faith is the concept of the Word, the Word is what formed the faith. But again, faith is not "what", it's "how". Is that too much?

So, in an abbreviated fashion, the "process" would look something like this:

The Word>receiving>faith>believing>it becomes. All of this working together to produce a result, which is whatever the "word" is. All that's left in the process is whatever time passes 'till whatever it is, *is*.

The Mystery

Understanding the process is to understand the mystery, that secret which has to be revealed to be made known. And in Mt 13:11, Jesus said, “**...it is given to you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom...**”. Paul wrote that (Eph 1:8-9), “**He has overflowed into us in all wisdom and understanding, having made known to us the mystery of His will down from His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself.**” It is the pleasure of your Father to make known these powerful mysteries, and one of the greatest "mysteries" of the Kingdom of God is the seed.

So let's go back to the beginning of our discussion of the process and answer our question that you have probably forgotten about from Lk 17:6, “How would Jesus go about adding to their faith?”

He used His words to paint a picture that would be conceived in them so that they could then *receive* what He said. They *received His faith* by receiving His words, and it produced in them! They saw the power of forgiveness and the advantage of love. They also understood more about their role in the Kingdom. Beautiful!

It should be pointed out however, that although that came from an increase of knowledge through revelation, the purpose is not to increase education, but to change expectation.

And remember, faith is not the seed, The Word is the seed. Faith is how you receive, and when you receive, you believe, when you believe, it becomes. All part of the process!

Chapter 3 - Out From Faith

God's Faith is a Mystery, not a secret.

We dug into Ga 3:5 pretty well in The Setup, seeing that Paul contrasts The Law and faith by asking a question, but if it were a statement, it simply would have been that God is **“The One furnishing The Spirit and energizing the abilities contained in us out from the hearing of *faith*”**. But what, exactly, does that mean? Are we *hearing faith*? Are we hearing *about faith*? And what are and how did we get these abilities. Did they come out from faith? “I thought you said it was a report. Are we hearing a report?” “Is faith hearing?”

“I think I’m confused”. OK, let's dig deeper.

We pointed out that the word for hearing is ακοε, and it's a noun, not a verb. When we hear "hearing", we think of an action, but that's not what we're looking at here. It's not *that* you hear, but *what* you hear. Still, knowing this, it's just hard not to let "hearing" become a verb in our minds when we read that. So we went to “report”, pointing out that Romans 10:16 says, **“...who has believed our report.”**, and that word is ακοε. The same word translated "hearing" twice in verse 17 is “report” in verse 16. Remember? And it's *what* you hear. It's "the report"! So let's read it that way, **“So then faith out from the report, and the report through the word of Christ.”** Faith comes *out from* the report, and the report is coming to us through the word of Christ! Now back to Ga 3:5.

God is, **“The One furnishing The Spirit and energizing the abilities contained in us out from the report of faith.”** Understanding what we’re saying, it can

Out From Faith Into Faith

be the report "of faith", the report "about faith", or the report "causing faith".

You can hear that salvation comes by grace through faith. (Eph 2:8) Or you can read in Ro 1:17 that, "**the *dikaioi*, righteous, will live out from faith.**" So you're hearing about faith. And then when you read specific things like "**by His Stripes you were healed**", (1Pe 2:24) you're hearing a report of faith. But really, when you get down to it, any report out from the Word is gonna *cause* faith *in* the one who receives it. I once heard a man say it like this, "Wet is not water, and water is not wet, but you can't get the water without getting the wet." The Word gives us a report about, tells us what is available to us through faith, and literally builds faith in us as we see it with our minds.

How & What Faith Is

I think most Christians are familiar with Heb 11:1. We've already brought it up a couple of times, but let's focus on it as a definition and description of faith. What do you *see* when you consider the statement "**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen**"?

"Now" is δε. It's not a timeframe, it's a mild adversative particle like, "moreover", "on the other hand", "on top of that", or "next". "Substance" is ὑποσάσις - under + *hestimi*, to stand. So it's something that "stands under", or undergirds, or supports. "Hoped" is ἐλπεις, "to expect". "Evidence" is ἐλεγχος, technically, "that by which a thing is proved or tested". "Things" is πρᾶγμα, literally a deed or action. βλέπω can be "to look at" or "see". So the answer to our previous question might be, "Not much. I didn't really see most of that, at least not clearly." So let's

look at our definition of faith now. **"Moreover, faith is what undergirds the expected, the solid proof of deeds or actions not yet seen."** OK, what we can see in our mind becomes the structure of what we expect. We mentioned this in the first chapter talking about seeds, but let's hit it again.

When Jesus was talking to Nicodemus that night, (Jn 3), He said that, being born from above, we could *horao*. Commonly used figuratively it means "to see with the mind". We can see The Kingdom of God with our mind. And, He said, we could *eiserchomai*, again, figuratively, "to enter into through the thoughts coming to mind." So we can see The Kingdom of God, and enter into His Kingdom, through the thoughts, the pictures or words, that come from His mind into our mind, so that we can come to know what He has in mind, so that we can both be of the same mind. What you see is faith being formed out from His Word(s) to you. It is unseen, except to Him and you, and as you act it becomes. That's believing, because as we've said over and over, His Word(s) contain the power to become what they are. Receiving them, you come to believe them, and you receive whatever it is - salvation, healing, wisdom, deliverance, finances, whatever it may be, the power of The Spirit in The Words will cause them to come to pass! Whoa! I preached myself happy! Where were we? Oh yeah, where'd we get the "proof"? From the report!

God's Word is the proof or solid evidence because it is The Truth, always. It's God's Word, and He can't lie. If you're in court presenting a case, you need "irrefutable evidence" to prove the case. In life, The Word is that irrefutable evidence that you need to prove your case

because God cannot, will not, does not, ever, lie. His "witness" is all you need.

2Tim 3:16 says, "**All scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for instruction, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.**" One day I thought, "Wait a minute, isn't reproof and correction sorta the same thing?" So I started digging.

I looked at other translations, "rebuke", "conviction", one said "correction and direction". I discovered that the word is *ελεγχος*, the same word from Heb 11:1. The solid proof or evidence of His Word, The Scripture! It's *proof*, not *reproof*. The problem with most people is they're not convinced that it's true or that they know for sure what it says, I get it.

But because of that they have no sound substructure undergirding what they believe, so they don't expect it. Since being convinced or assured that it's true is an essential component of what faith is, they have no *real* faith. They haven't realized that The Word *out from* God is God's Word(s), His Plan, and can be painted on the inside of them! Here's a great Greek picture - "*eido, horao, eiserchomai, gnorizo, thelema, ginosko, pisteuo, genomai*". They are words taken from several scriptures and put in order to paint this beautiful picture of how faith is conceived. Often, as I'm approaching a time to spend *pros*, interfacing or engaging with, before, God, I'll say it like this... "You have made me aware (*eido*) that I can see Your Kingdom with my mind (*horao*) and enter into it through the thoughts that you bring to mind (*eiserchomai*), so that I can come to discover (*gnorizo*) what you have in mind (*thelema*), so that we can become of the same mind. And after experiencing this (*ginosko*) I begin to speak and act (*pisteuo*) in concert with You, and it becomes (*genomai*)!"

So the faith coming out from the report is actually *God's faith*, it's what He *thelema*, like, "...**Your Kingdom come, Your will be done...**" Your will is what you intend, and what you intend means what you have on your mind to do. To have God's faith we have to know what God has in mind and we have to *see it* with our mind.

I have often said that the mind has gotten a bad rap. We've let things like positive mental attitude and wrong headed religion pass for truth. Your mind is not the devil's playground, it's God's garden! But your *will* will only get you so far, it has to be His, and that kinda gets us into the next part.

Your faith is "outside in". His faith is from the "inside out".

Your faith is to λαμβανω, lay hold to, *God's faith*. His faith is where the action is! This may sound odd, but it's an easy concept to grasp. We talk a lot about "our faith". The common idea is that you read the report, believe what it says, (as opposed to being skeptical), and then begin to speak and act on it and there you have it! Ok, that's pretty much it, except for one thing. Well, really two, the first one is that you seldom get the intended results. Here's the second one.

Believe and receive may rhyme fine, but they're not the same thing. When you see the word "receive" in The New Testament, the odds are about 2 to 1 that it's λαμβανω, "to lay hold to" or "to seize". The other word is most likely δεχομαι, "to accept" or "welcome", like receiving a guest into your home. That's a lot of difference between two words that are both usually translated "receive". On the other hand, "believe" is πιστευω, it's the verb of "faith". It's

acting faith. We good? I hope so, because some people may get upset at this next part.

Before you can believe, walk it out, you have to receive it in.

"What?"

You Receive *Before* You Believe

The Word, whether it's written, spoken by someone, or The Spirit speaking to you, first has to be *received*. It's a "picture of conception". As you receive The Word down into you, it begins to take shape inside you, becoming the structure for your faith. Before faith comes out from you in words or actions, it has to first have been pulled down into you. You grasped it or laid hold to it. And you have to *receive* it, not just *agree with* it. In fact, one of the prepositions that's often attached to λαμβανω is κατα. Καταλαμβάνω is to hold or pull down from a higher plane to a lower plane, like from His Spirit into your spirit. That's called receiving, and before you can believe it, you have to receive it. Let me show you a one-word-life-changer.

Ever since ever since, for me, the people I looked up to, the people I learned from, even the people I hung out with, understood that Mk 11:24 is a cornerstone in the foundation of faith. **"Whatsoever things you desire when you pray, believe that you receive and you shall have them."**

The idea of "will have" is the future tense of εἶμι, "to be" or "to exist". In the ancient Greek, we're told that if you were referring to an event, it *happens*. If you were referring to a person, they *live*. That's cool! So, what I *aiteo*, require or requisition, when I pray *will happen*, if I *believe that I receive* it. Well, I don't know about other

folks, but as for me, I really struggled trying to figure out how to "believe that I receive". I was trying to believe that I received the "thing" that I was praying for. Sure, I had some success, but I seemed to have even more failure, especially if it was a *big* thing. I figured I just didn't have enough faith. But I wasn't gonna quit. After all, this is the Word, the "solid proof" that makes it Truth!

Then, one day, I was looking at this verse for the 4332nd time (I made that up, but it was a lot!), when I saw something, just one word, 'οτι. Wait!! When I was working on some things a few weeks earlier I had learned an important thing about this word. It's commonly translated "that", but it's not *just* that, it's that like "because of that". In fact, "because" is a more concise rendering of the word. You can leave off the "that" and still get the meaning clearly, but if you leave off the "because" it changes the picture. I'd then spent a lot of time looking at a lot of scripture and had come to understand that that's accurate. So now let's look again.

Mk 11:24 "Through this, I tell you, all things, as much as you are declaring and are requiring, believe *because* you have received, and it will happen to or for you."

I'd been trying to believe *that* I received rather than understanding that we believe *because we received God's faith* into us! You can apply the same thing to verse 23 as well. Now think about the seed. You *lay hold to* the report, which is The Word, which is not just a concept, it's a seed. As you received it down into yourself, it was conceived in you and the seed begins to grow. Remember the water and the wet? And all of this comes *out from faith*! As it does, you start "acting out" your faith, which energizes or activates His faith! (More on that later.) You don't believe *that* you receive, you believe *because* you've received!

God's faith is a mystery, it's not a secret. In Mk 4:11, Jesus told His guys that it was given to them to know the mysteries of The Kingdom. That word is *μυστηριον*, "only known through revelation or by initiation". Eph 1:9 tells us that it is the Father's good pleasure to make known to us the mystery of His will! Let's consider a mystery.

A Mystery

Everything is made of something. A thought is made of something, it has a substance. Nobody's ever seen a thought, but everybody has them. So what is the "substance" of a thought? What's it made out of? You can say it's an energetic biological function, but that doesn't explain the effect nor does it give a reason for it at all. Hold that thought! (Funny!)

Faith has a substance, but what is that substance? For years I've understood and said that imagination is the "mechanism" of faith. Imagination is the ability to "see" those concepts, those ideas that aren't seen. But is *that* faith? And still, if so, what is the substance? Stack that thought on the other one, we be building a thought!

Where does the WORD come from? What causes it to become? Faith? Then *Who* is the One causing the Life in The Word? God? His faith? Then what is the substance of God's faith?

"Out from faith" is referring to God's faith. His "faith" produced the WORD, and The WORD produced everything. The activation of The WORD produced and continues to produce all things. But what is the "substance" of God's faith?

Out From Faith Into Faith

Now, we've stacked up 3 things and asked a question, what is the substance of 1) thoughts, 2) faith, and 3) God's faith? What is unseen, but alive? What contains power and substance past what we know as "physical"? The answer is "spirit". The substance of thought is "spirit". The substance of faith is "spirit". And the substance of God's faith is His Spirit! He is a part of God Himself! Let's look at an example.

In Eph 3:16, Paul says that he is before God asking, "**that He might grant you down from (κατα) the wealth of the (δοξα) proper acknowledgement of Him, the ability to dominate (δυναμις κρατιω) through His Spirit into the inner man.**" (enhanced version) Down from His faith into you. Out from faith into faith. Out from His Spirit into your spirit. Spirit to spirit, Faith to faith.

If faith is the full assurance undergirding your expectation, it has a substance, just like a thought. The conviction because of the evidence is a structure that has a substance, and the substance has a name. The substance of a thought is the same substance of a word that caused it and the same substance of faith that came from it, whatever "it" might be. We call it "spirit". And the substance of a concept out from The Word is the same substance of The Word and is the same substance of God's Faith. He's in all! Have you seen it yet? It's The Spirit! The Spirit of God! Now, if that makes you uncomfortable, you're certainly not alone. But hear me out for a moment.

Is 11:2 illuminates what some say are the "seven spirits of God" referred to in Rev 3:1. Now, in neither of those places does that indicate that The Spirit is many and not one. However, He apparently does have different attributes that make up Who He is. What I'm saying is that

at least a part of the *actual* substance of The Spirit is what we call faith.

My granddaughter Lola came into my office one day when I was first trying to wrap my heart and mind around this. She was around 11 at the time. She walked in, sat down and said something to the effect of, "You look troubled Granddad." I told her that I was and chuckled about her probably not wanting to know why. She convinced me that she *did* want to know, so I laid out the whole case in front of her, without drawing a conclusion.

She looked me straight in the face and said, "So God's substance is faith, right?" Out of the mouth of babes!

Think about it this way. The Father, God, is Love, Yes? That Love is *αγαπη*, "purposeful good will". Yes? So The Father has "Will". What The Father had in mind became the design, the *logos*, "the plan that coordinates a changing universe" that we call The WORD, which is the Son. The Spirit is The Force or substance that makes it become, which is faith!

Look at Ro 1:17, "**Indeed, contained in this is the righteousness of God uncovered, *εκ πιστεος εις πιστις*. 'out from faith into faith.'**" Out from His faith into your faith. Out from is His Spirit into your spirit, and the substance on both ends is faith! How awesome!

Now let's go look at "into faith".

Chapter 4 - Into Faith

How do you go about dealing with something that you can't see? You don't use your eyes. Sounds like a knock-knock joke, but it's actually quite profound, and extremely accurate. Just like in soccer, you can't use your hands, when dealing with faith, you can't use your eyes. Heb 11:1 makes it clear, faith can't be seen with the eyes, but it most certainly can be "perceived". We've talked about the "faith of God" being His concepts. Let's get back down into that for a bit.

What God intends, has in mind, His will, is put into words or thoughts, and that becomes the substance, the undergirding structure of faith. It's the "form" of faith. And again, as Heb 11:1 says, it is also the *ελεγχος*, the "solid evidence" of what is not yet seen. We've just been contemplating the idea that at least one aspect of that substance is The Spirit of God Himself.

So, faith comes out from God through His Spirit. Remember the picture that we painted of the preposition *δια*? We said it's *through*, but not *just* through. What starts out on one side doesn't just pass through to the other, it still exists on the one side even as it fills the pipe and passes to the other. It's now in all 3 places. That's a very graphic description of The Spirit, and of faith. He fills all in all, all that's required from there is direction. Again, the same is uniquely true of faith. Anyway...

What God has in mind is communicated to us through words or thoughts. When I say "thought", I mean a mental picture that is often formed by words. In that case, the words paint the pictures, which are thoughts, that are concepts conceived *out from* God. Right? That's "out from faith."

That substance coming *into* our spirit, through that “report”, forms faith in us. That’s “into faith”. It moves as an “unseen” substance out from God Himself, conveyed into our spirit, becoming the solid evidence, because it is the Word of God, and He cannot lie or deny Himself! But don’t forget the water and the wet!

Like the water and the wet, those word(s) simultaneously act as seed planted and beginning to grow. His Word planted into our spirit grows into whatever that Word is and it “bears fruit” in us. WOW! And it will! Given time and soil, every seed will produce after its kind.

Now, that’s both sides of how we get “God’s faith” (Mk 11:22) into us! The Word both builds your faith through knowledge and contains the life within it to become whatever it is. Let’s look at the picture painted by some prepositions: *out from* faith, *into* faith, *through* His Spirit, *into* the “inner man”.

This faith comes *into* us, usually as a picture formed by words. The Word is a blueprint, it’s the design. Think of it as a concept. It’s what’s on God’s mind coming into your mind, so that now you have the same mind. You *sumphroneo*. This is the word in Mt 18:19, “...**because if any two out from you shall agree together upon the earth touching any matter that they might require, it shall become for them from My Father Who is in the heavens.**” (enhanced version) *Sum* is “together”, and *phroneo* is a personal thought; “a thought from the heart”. What a beautiful picture, you and God have the same thought coming out from His heart! You are seeing the same thing! It’s His Word about His will through His Spirit that contains His power. But as we’ve noted, δύναμις is more than *just* power, it’s the “ability to accomplish” that the power has within it. And in God’s case, it’s unlimited.

Now might be a good time take another look at those prepositions that we mentioned in The Setup.

Sharpening The Picture

We've already noted that a number of Greek prepositions, past just giving direction and adding context to a noun or pronoun, are themselves directional. They also have dimensions, and proper application of that changes the understanding, which enhances, sometimes even alters, the revelation of the text. For instance, *ἐκ*, which we've already examined, is said to be one of the most under-translated and mistranslated of all the Greek prepositions. It is most often translated "by". Yet its meaning is best stated as "out from". But even here, the idea is twofold. It's not just "out from", but it has an added dimension of "into". When something goes *out from* something, it must of necessity be go into something else. Right? Think about the seed. The nutrients that go *out from* the ground go *into* the seed. Then *out from* the seed *into* the plant. Then *out from* the plant *into* the fruit. Then the nutrients come *out from* the fruit and *into* you when you eat the fruit! Every step was not just "out from", but out from *into*. That's a lot from a two letter word! Let's review a few more before we look at some verses in Ephesians.

κατα - Usually seen as "according to". But there's so much more! The picture is down, from a higher plane to a lower plane. That's one dimension, but there's another. It has the idea of distribution, and also completeness! We used Eph 3:16 before in the intro, but let's do it again. "**...according to the riches of His glory**". Remember? "Riches" is singular, so "wealth". His wealth is being *distributed down from Him into* you, and with the idea of completeness.

Out From Faith Into Faith

So in the context of "into faith", it's not *just* a "downflow", it's a "download" of faith into our spirit! And this is a direct result of δόξα, "glory". Not a just a bright, shining light, but the proper acknowledgment, true worship of Him, that properly reflects Him! The shining would be the radiant reflection of that "light" back to Him out from you as you "reflect on" Who He is! OK, I'll stop.

Remember ἐν and εἰς?

- **ἐν & εἰς** - Both appear frequently as "in", but again, there's more! Ev is having been purposefully placed or positioned "inside" or "within"; to be "contained in". Eις is "into" as "entering in".

Let's look at an example of κατα, εἰς and ἐν together in a verse addressing "into faith". Eph 1:19-20,

"...which is the magnitude of His power, exceeding physical reality or human knowledge, *into* us, those believing *down* the energizing His dominating determination which He released *within* Christ, having raised Him *out from* the dead and having set (Him) *at* His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above..."
(enhanced version)

Look at the picture of Eph 3:16 with *dia*, *kata*, and *doxa*, along with *eis*.

- **"in order that He would grant you, *down from* the wealth of *the proper acknowledgement* of Him, the ability to dominate *through* His Spirit *into* the inner man;"**.(enhanced version)

Do you see where they all are in the translation? They clarify the picture of what we "see". We see *doxa* as

"proper acknowledgement", but where did we get "ability to dominate"? From *dunamis*, remember? It's not *just* power, but the "ability of the power to accomplish".

Here's another. Κρατάίω is translated "to be strengthened", to "be strong", or "to empower". But aren't all of those different aspects of the same thing, sorta? Not a very clear picture. So what can we do?

The definition of this verb κρατάίω is "to prevail or to dominate through strength or mastery". You can have strength and use force and still not dominate. You can win a victory, but still not dominate. So the force, strength, and mastery work together into the *dominating*. So "dominating" or "domination" is a more concise picture. You can see that in both Eph 1:19 and 3:16. One more.

Ενεργεω is to work or to do. But (here I go again), it's more than that! It's the "operative power". To be concise, it's the energy that's "released" in the effort of performing the "work". So power has ability, and the ability is accomplished by the energy released or expended in the process. Awesome!

Assimilation

All these things are a part of understanding the "into faith". They need to be assimilated into our understanding. What is being released "out from" is being pulled down "into". In Col 1:9, Paul paints a beautiful picture of "spiritual assimilation" or the "assimilation of spiritual things".

The Greek word συνασις is usually just translated understanding, but (yes you know), there's more to it than that. The idea is to put it together, like "now I understand" or, "I get it!"

To assimilate information is the process of absorbing information and experiences so that they become part of you. Having received the revelation or knowledge or information, you just mediate over it until it settles into its proper place and order. That's part of "into faith". It becomes faith in us as it is assimilated! Hallelujah! Let's look at that verse.

Col 1:9 "...declaring over you, requiring that the knowledge of His will may complete you all *in all wisdom and spiritual assimilation*". (enhanced version) It usually takes some time to assimilate the revelation that comes *out from* His Spirit *through* faith *into* your inner man. It's a process that takes place *en* you. I think of it this way, "You learn, discern, assimilate, then disseminate."

v10 "to walk *properly aligned*, of The Lord *into* a desire to please in everything, bringing forth fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." The "properly aligned" part has a story worth telling.

This word, *αξίως*, is usually "worthily" or "in a worthy manner". I struggled with it for quite some time years ago. The word just seems awkward. When I read it I got virtually no clear picture of it at all. The more I dug, the more I saw that the idea is that something is "proper". Then, one day I realized that this is where we get our word "axis" from. BAM! I had the picture, and it's crystal clear!

In the cosmos things have to be properly aligned in order for things to function correctly. Our planet has to be *properly aligned* with the sun as it rotates on its axis for sunlight and climate to be balanced out in order to make our life here possible. In the same way, we have to be *properly aligned* with God for things to function properly. And part of that proper alignment is a desire to please Him

in everything. Look at the picture in 1Jn 1:7, **“If we should walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with the other, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us of all sin.”** That’s what I’m talking about! Fellowshiping with Him properly lined up with the light!

Continuing on, The Word that you have received comes *down into* you, takes root and grows *in* you, changing the concept of what you “see”, and out from that, what you expect. That concept is faith. It becomes what you believe, which is what *becomes* in your life. And God delights in your well being! (Ps 35:27) Is this too much?

The “Download”

Again, think of the "downflow" as a "download". God is “downloading” Himself, His Word, into you. But get this, it’s important. This “download” is happening from a higher plane to a lower plane, not a higher place to a lower place. Jesus lives in you, the Father in Him, and you are "one" together (Jn17:23). This miraculous circumstance is precisely because of His words, and His Word(s) are given because of His Love. When we speak of "into" and "out from" and "en", these are graphic terminologies, but Jesus dwells *en* you by The Spirit, and you dwell *en* Him. To be sure, the communication, the transfer of substance and power takes place, out from faith into faith. But it's all *en* you, *en* Him, *en* "one".

Let’s continue in Colossians 1. Verse 11 reads, **“Empowered in all power down from the proper acknowledgement of His dominion into all cheerful constancy and long lasting enthusiasm with joy!”** (enhanced version) *Hupomone* is usually translated “patience”, but the way we picture “patience” just doesn’t

fit this word. “Constancy” is better, and knowing all that we’re talking about will cause you to be cheerful, and that’s *hupomone*, “cheerful constancy”. You’re being empowered with power, knowing that God is only good all the time and He is not just for you, He’s in you by covenant and promise! You’re living out your faith!

And the reason I use “enthusiasm” in translating *makrothumia*, “*long lasting passion*”, is that the definition of enthusiasm is “religious fervor supposedly resulting directly from divine inspiration”, and that nails it! But notice that it happens when you properly acknowledge, truly worship, Him. Let’s look at another.

I mentioned Ps 35:27 earlier, let’s take a closer look. **“Let those who delight in My righteousness shout for joy and be glad. They say continually, 'Let The LORD be magnified, Who delights in the *shalom* of His servant.'”** “Shalom” referred to as “nothing missing, nothing broken”, and is commonly defined as “peace”. It is welfare, prosperity, health, safety, and security all rolled into one. There is one expression that confers all of this, “well being”. God delights in the well being of His servant. Well, OK, how much more His kids!

Righteousness is “the state of him who is as how he ought to be”. For years I never thought much about “righteousness”, it just meant doing everything right. Right? “The state of him who is how he ought to be.” Hmm... How do you get there, and how would you know? Well, Abraham *believed God* and it was reckoned, accounted to him as righteousness. (Ga 3:6) To *believe* is to speak and act, so Abraham spoke and acted in line with what God said or showed him. And since God is always and only right, *believing Him*, would make you right too, or righteous. And you would then be in a state of being

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righteous! You would delight in being right and shout with delight!

I think you've got the picture. As you interface or interact with God, the result is that He pours Himself out from His Spirit into your spirit, and it's accomplished through faith. You do this before the LORD, speaking His word(s) back to Him. Jesus put it this way, **"those who worship Him will do so in spirit and in truth."** (Jn 4:23) He went on to say that The Father is seeking out those who will do this.

In Jn 15:11, Jesus said to requisition and receive so **"that your joy shall be made full."** In Jn 17:13 He prayed to the Father **"that they may have My joy fulfilled in them"**. Think about it, that's out from His faith into your faith when you delight yourself in His grace. **"In His presence is fullness of joy!"** (Ps 16:11)

So whether it's in "prayer", or in song, or just speaking to Him during the day, what you receive out from Him comes back as faith into you!

Chapter 5 - How Faith & Power Come Together

On the night of His betrayal, Jesus spoke some breathtaking things. **“And I also have given them the (*doxa*) Light reflected out from You which You have given Me in order that they may be one just as We are One. I *en* them and You *en* Me in order that they may be completed into one in order that the world may come to know, that because you sent Me, You have loved them even as You loved Me. Father, those whom You have given Me, I desire that where I am, they also may be with Me, in order that they may behold My *reflection* that You gave Me, because You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”** (Jn 17:22-24 enhanced version)

The underlined word is θεωρεω, which is where we get our word *theater* from. It actually has more depth than just to look or gaze. Think of being so caught up in watching a movie or play that you are moved, possibly even changed, mentally, emotionally, and possibly even spiritually by what you’re watching. Jesus was asking for them to have such an intense experience that they would be affected by it, and it would come through His “glory”. He gave it to them, but He wanted them to experience it some more. Whoa! What could that mean? Well, before we dig deeper, let’s just look at an example.

It’s recorded in the 9th Chapter of Luke that Jesus sent out the 12, giving them authority over devils and to heal the sick. But just a bit later, while He was away on the mountain talking to Moses and Elijah, his guys couldn’t get a devil to leave a man’s son that had sought them out. Then in the next chapter He sent out the seventy (or 72) with specific instructions as to what to do under His authority.

They did, it did, and they came back thrilled that the demons were subject to them through His Name. Yet once again it seemed that even though He had given them authority and they had acted on it, what they could do seemed to wane. There's no more record of that happening. My point? He gave them, shined into them, His authority, but they needed to see it again. They needed to have His Light to shine so powerfully into them that they would reflect His dominion, His Authority in the earth even after He was gone. (Sneak peak, that started on Pentecost.)

So how is He giving us His glory? And how do we "partake of" His glory? And what does that have to do with faith and power coming together? Well first, let's go back to "glory".

We've touched on this before, but let's go on a little more. The scientific definition of the English word glory, simply put, is "light being reflected off of an object back to its source". And that's what I believe most Christians picture in their mind when they think of glory. It's not really wrong, but it leaves out some important stuff, like where does the light come from? How is it energized? How can it be reflected if it's absorbed into? Hmmm...

The Greek word is $\delta\omicron\lambda\alpha$. It is most accurately defined as "the behavior that properly reflects true worship", or "proper acknowledgement", and that's pretty clear. So children, whenever you see the word "glory" or "glorify", translate and mediate. And when you do, you'll see clearly some powerful things about how The Kingdom operates! Here are some examples of "proper acknowledgement" or "true worship".

Heb 13:15 "Through Him then, let us offer up the sacrifice of praise through everything, that is the fruit of our lips speaking together His Name."

Ps 107:22 "And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving and declare His works with rejoicing."

Jn 4:23-24 "But an hour is coming, and just now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth: and indeed the Father seeks such who will worship Him. God is Spirit, and for those worshipping, it is necessary to worship Him in spirit and truth." (all enhanced version)

Now let's give an example of exactly what that might look like, or sound like, or contain.

Some time back I was trying to come up with a simple way to convey an example of the abundance of information and revelation about "glory" when I got an idea. Let's use the words of a song written by one of our musicians to illustrate this "true worship", or "proper acknowledgement". Read it, then follow the asterisks!

“Father now I'm thanking You for all the loving things You do,
*Your Grace and Truth to receive,
**The wealth of Your inheritance, pours down into the circumstance of all of those who believe.

***Having heard of their release, those once were blind but now they see, taught The Words of Life that make them free. Walking in the liberty, living in the victory of the power of the Christ Who makes them free!

****The energy released in praise & worship of The King, our Father's only faithful Son, overflows into creating what's conceived that we believe by the power of The Christ Who makes us free!

Father now in gratitude my voice I lift up to You,

thank You for Your Life and Peace!

*****Through wisdom I assimilate the message of The Truth you gave to all of those who would receive.

Now, let's connect the "dots".

***2Pe 1:2 "Grace to you and peace be multiplied *en* the knowledge of God, and of our Lord Jesus,"**

****Eph 1:18 "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened that you may come to know what is the expectation of His invitation, *which is the wealth of the proper acknowledgement of His inheritance en the saints.* v19 *which is* the magnitude of His power, exceeding physical reality or human knowledge, *into* those believing down the energizing of the domination of His determination which He *released* (energized) in Christ having raised Him out from the dead and having set (Him) at His right hand in the heavenly realms..."**

*****Lk 4:18+Is 61:1+Acts 10:38 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me He has sent Me to proclaim glad tidings to the humble, to heal the broken in heart, to proclaim deliverance to the captives, to open the eyes of the blind that they may see that they are free, to set at liberty those held down, being crushed by the enemy."**

*****Eph 3:20-21 Moreover, The One having power over all things, will begin to produce, in abundance out from what we require or conceive, down from the power being energized in us, His *doxa* en the Church, and en Christ Jesus, into all the generations of the age of the ages.**

*****Col 1:9 "**...in order that you all may be filled with the knowledge of His *en* all wisdom and spiritual assimilation,**" (all enhanced version)

This is a song, played on instruments, sung to God, declaring Truth. You could sing this without instruments, or you could simply declare these things to God, that's all *worship*. Anytime you come to acknowledge Truth by speaking back to God, out from faith, in praise and adoration, genuine appreciation for what He has shown you by His Spirit, you are properly *reflecting*, acknowledging, truly worshipping, Him. You are reflecting the Light and Life that He has "shined into" you back to Him. And that's *doxa*! And in the process you are being "**empowered with all power down from the proper acknowledgement of His dominion.**" And that causes "**cheerful constancy, and long lasting enthusiasm with *χαρα*, joy**", the delight that flows as you experience His grace, His blessings and benefits! (Col 1:11)

Paul also said that the radiance of the reflection of the knowledge of God in the face of Jesus is the *hyperbole*, the ability to exceed the limits of physical reality or human knowledge, and that this power is of God. (2Cor 4:6-7)

Think about "the expectation of His invitation" in Eph 1:18. What He expects is for you to properly acknowledge His inheritance *en* the saints. His inheritance has been purposefully positioned in the saints. How does that work? Well, in 2 ways actually.

First, it's the overflowing magnitude of His power being pulled down through faith into the ones who believe, which *energizes* the same dominating determination that raised Jesus from the dead in the first place! Now that is some more power coming out from faith! That's how you

get empowered with power, you acknowledge His dominion!

The other side you can see in 2Pe 1:3&4, "Even as the divinity of His power has given to us all things touching, interacting, with life and godliness, through the knowledge of The One having called us His own glory and excellence: through which He has given to us precious and magnificent promises: in order that through these you might become partakers of divine nature having escaped the decay that is in the world though craving." (enhanced version) Look at the underlined parts, we are *also* His inheritance!

Let's look, yet again, at what Paul wrote in Ephesians 3, but this time let's back it up to verse 14.

"For the pleasure of this, I bow my knees interfacing with the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, out from whom the whole family in the heavens and upon earth is named, in order that He might grant to you all, down from the proper acknowledgement of His wealth, the ability to dominate through His Spirit into the inner man, Christ becoming permanently established through the faith in your hearts having been rooted and grounded in love, in order that you all may be fully determined to pull down into you, together with all those who are special (different), the breadth and length and height and depth, coming to personally experience the purposeful good will of Christ, exceeding physical reality or human knowledge, in order that into you all may be filled all the fullness of God. Moreover, the One having power over all things will produce, overflowing out from what we require or conceive, down from the power being energized in us, His proper

acknowledgement en the Church and en Christ Jesus into all the generations to come. Amen"

And how about here in Pr 3:5-6, "**Trust in The LORD with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.**"

Anyway you want to look at it, faith and power come together in the proper acknowledgement of Him!

Being effective

How can we do this effectively? Jude has a great answer: faith coupled with action producing results. In Jude 1:20&21 we find "**However, you beloved, (εποικοδομεο) building up your *special* faith yourselves, declaring en The Holy Ghost.**" The "special" and "Holy" are the adjective 'αγιος, which came to be known as "holy" and somehow "saints". It literally means "otherness" or "different". It's special! It's distinguishable from other things. Well, our faith is supposed to be very different than the world's! And what we *declare* in the Spirit is supposed to be *otherworldly*! We are special, right?

v21 "**keep yourselves in the Love of God, (προσδεχησθαι - to receive to oneself) receiving to yourselves (ελεος) the covenant loyalty of our Lord Jesus Christ into Eternal Life.**" You receive to yourself this covenant loyalty by declaring it out in the Spirit. Jesus said it this way in Mt 12:37, "**Indeed out from your words you will be *dikaioo*, 'declared righteous' and out from your words sentence will be passed.**" Notice it didn't say "by your words you will be declared righteous or by your words you are condemned, even though that may be the

takeaway for the vast majority of people. It very plainly says that your words set it up and it's executed! Yes!

Let's go back to Ga 3:5. As we saw before, God is, **"the One furnishing the Spirit and energizing the abilities to accomplish, out from the report of faith."**

The *report*, depending on what it is, is either bringing you faith's concept or teaching you the concept of faith. Both are true. "Hearing" about it energizes the power of it.

The Picture of The Power

The power of God, the faith of God, raised Jesus out from the dead. That same power, that same faith, raised you also out from the dead. He was born of the seed of God put into a human body. You have been begotten of the same seed (1Pe 1:23). He was anointed with The Holy Spirit, you have been anointed with the Holy Spirit (1Jn 2:20). He's been seated at the right hand of The Father, you've been seated at the right hand of The Father (Eph 2:6). He is The Righteous One, you've become His righteousness (2Cor5:21). He's been given a Name above every Name, and you've been called that Name! And that my friends, is the affect of The Resurrection of Jesus! Jesus is, **"The Christ, The Son of The Living God."** (Mt 16:16) He is The One Who, **"...was dead, and behold, I am The Living One and I have the keys of Death and Hades."** And that is where faith and power come together!

Closing this out, let me give you an excerpt from an email reply sent to a dear friend in Kenya a while back.

"A document that you sent to me a few days ago has had me thinking. It was titled 'Prayer Is The Key'. There are so many things to get out, so much to explain and express that would be impractical here, but all morning a

number of scripture verses that I've been digging into, some for years, seem to be coming into focus as one clear picture, and that is that *doxa*, 'proper acknowledgement', 'true worship', is actually 'the key'. It's not 'in prayer', but 'in knowledgeable, purposeful praise' that energy, power, and victory is released through us into the earth. 2Pe 1:2-4, Eph 1:17-20, Eph 3:16-21, Col 1:9-14, and others explain that properly acknowledging, truly worshiping Him and His dominion releases the wealth of His inheritance, power, and the energizing force of His Spirit down into us as we become one with Him.

The 'proper' part is not just the knowledge, but the love being freely expressed from us, back to Him, because of what we have come to know and receive by faith, so that our action, our believing, happens spontaneously out of joy with excitement, expectation, and gratitude! This revelation has caused me to understand the importance of why Jesus told the woman at the well that the day was **'coming, and now is, when those who worship will worship Him in spirit and truth.'** Selah! The power is in the praise! Your life, your work, your faith, your family, your calling, is empowered in your worship of Him, in knowledge, in Truth, in faith, and in praise!"

And now, on to The Love!

Chapter 6 – Where Love Fits

Everywhere! That's where love fits! Love is the energy that energizes faith. Love is the amperage within the voltage if you will. And just like many of you have little to no idea about amperage and voltage, many, many Christians don't know where or how love fits in the faith, hope, and love structure of The Kingdom of God.

Faith Being Energized

I'm not ashamed to say that for many years I've struggled with exactly how love "dovetails" into the faith picture. I'm not ashamed to admit it because, if we're honest, pretty much all of us have had the same problem.

Now for those of you who might not be acquainted with the term "dovetail", let's take a minute. When you open up a drawer in a nice piece of furniture and look in the back at the corners, you may see angular cuts on the sides fitted into identical angular cuts on the back. Those staggered cuts resemble dove's tails, and they fit together smoothly and tightly making for very strong construction. (Go ahead. Go look in your bedroom and see if your chest of drawers or night stand has dovetailed drawers. We'll wait.)

OK, now you understand what we're saying. Love isn't just an add-on or some separate apparatus, it's an integral part of faith's ability to accomplish. In fact, love is what energizes the power of faith! That's what Ga 5:6 says, "...αλλα πιστις δια αγαπη ενεργο.", "...**but faith being energized through love.**" Not understanding this and not having a clear picture of it in your mind is why many of us

have struggled with getting the results out from faith that we know we should. We haven't really understood how love fits because we're not sure whether it's square or round, short or tall, big or small, or maybe all of the above. But since we know that love is an important aspect of faith and The Kingdom, we've gone around trying to plug love in wherever we could find a place. Usually, of course, it's been in the "love one another" area, and that's great! That's part of The Commandment from Jesus, but it's only part, and it shouldn't stand alone. Another part is to love God, of course! But we find from reading 1Jn 4:10 that it's **"...not that we love God, but that He loved us."** That's the real link, we have to believe in the love, the boundless, open, *agape*, "purposeful good will" of God. And then, understand that our capacity to contain this purposeful good will for others comes from Him.

We have to *experience Him* first, and that is yet another part, and somehow, all of these "parts" become *perfected* together, finished out into a whole of something that we refer to as love. We're gonna go back to Ephesians 3, but this time we're gonna see why it's one of the greatest "love" places of all. But before we do, let's look at love more closely.

The Love

I once went through and did a study on the English word "love". It had eleven definitions as a noun and 3 as a verb. Between the noun and verb there were 53 synonyms. (And you wonder why we're confused?) But with the Greek word *αγαπη*, we have no such problem. It's not about feelings or perceptions, emotions or affections, social

justice or affirmation. It can express itself in any or all of those things, but the word has a specific definition that developed over time beginning, we're told, back around 600BC. When you dissect the components of the word, you get "the affect *of...*" (noun) or "affecting or being affected *by...*" (verb) "purposeful good will". OK, but exactly what is "will"?

I also looked closely at the English word "will". I quickly discovered that it has at least 26 definitions between noun and verb, and 31 synonyms that I looked up. So what are we talking about? *Thelo*.

The verb commonly translated "will" is *thelo*. The noun is *thelema*. If you look them up you'll normally see the word "intend" or "intention" in the definition. So what you "will" is what you intend to do. What you intend to do is what you "have in mind" to do. Like my Grandmom said, "I'm-a-mind-to...!" Your thoughts are what you have on your mind and where your intentions are conceived. So let's plug this in.

What God has on His mind for you is for you to be affected by what He has in mind for you, which is only good. Hmm..., OK. But what is "good"?

You can look at this from several angles, like good as opposed to bad. Or maybe good as in right and proper. You know, good! The Greeks had a word for this "all good", "only good", type of good. It's *agathos*! It is "intrinsically good". Not seems good, possibly good, might be good, but only good, always good. Now, let's look at *αγαπη* again.

What God has in mind to do is always good, always right, and always proper. What He has in mind will have *an effect*, affecting everyone who encounters that love. Now, think about this, what one *wills* can also be put in writing!

Out From Faith Into Faith

Since God wants us to know what's on His mind, He had it written down! We can know what to expect from His purposeful good will if we know what He wrote down. Then, He sent His Son Jesus, the exact expression of His thoughts (Heb 1:3), to fulfill it, demonstrate it, and explain it. And He didn't stop there, He sent His Spirit to pour His love into our hearts (Ro 5:5) so that we can, not only experience it, but go out and affect others with it. Now that's a whole lotta love!

We understand that as we receive out from The Word of God, faith is constructed or conceived in us, and we know how powerful faith is. It can change, alter produce, create, release, bind, forgive, I mean, nothing is impossible to the one acting in faith! But the energy that empowers that power is love because, well, "God *is* love!"

Think about it, why was Jesus sent? To destroy the works of the enemy. Why? Because He loves us! Jesus healed, not to demonstrate His power, but to demonstrate His Father's Love! Think of how many times the scriptures tell us that Jesus was "moved with compassion". (That's a fun word, *splagchnizomai*.) Love motivated Him. Jesus came to show The Father to a world that saw God as the One responsible for a pretty much everything, including the bad stuff. In fact, most had the idea that if good happened it was because they did stuff right, and if bad happened, it was God punishing them for not doing something right. Come to think of it, there's still a lot of that around..Why? They haven't experienced the love!

Remember talking about Mk 12:30? Jesus said that the greatest *commandment* is to love the Lord your God with all you intentions and motivations, desires and affections, deep thoughts and meditations, and we do that with our determination. This word *commandment* is

εντολη, and yes, you guessed it, there's more to it! It's not simply a "commandment", it's focused on the *objective* of the command. Our objective, what we are to focus on, is to love Him. Wait, so God has such a desire to be loved that He told us to make it the primary objective of our life. Hmmm...

Every man, woman, and child also has a desire to be loved, it's a primary objective in their life. In fact, if they're not loved, they can get pretty screwed up. So why is this desire so important to people? Where did we get such a *universal* "trait" from? God, of course! We are created in His image. He has that "trait", so we have that "trait". Hang in there, we're going somewhere. This is cool!

What's normally the first step taken by someone who desires to be loved? Yep, they love! You receive love by giving love, and that uncertainty of possibly being rejected makes it that much sweeter when it's reciprocated! It's a very strong "trait" or characteristic of a normal human being, and it works in all the "loves". But when it comes to *agape*, it takes on a whole other order of magnitude. And when we experience it, the power or energy of that love transforms us so that as that purpose good will flows into us it will also flow out to others!

"For God so loved that He gave..."! Yeah, I know you know, but think about it. In a desire to be loved, He loves! Why would God have such a desire to be loved? Why would that "trait" of God be put into us? Because God, Who is Himself love, certainly knows the energizing power that love contains. In knowing that, *because* He loves us, He made it our greatest objective. But He did more than that, He gave us the desire to be loved so that we would love, causing, through reciprocity, a dynamo of the

most precious and powerful thing in existence, Himself!
Ohhhh yeaahhh!!

The Energizing

Back to Ga5:6, “**...faith being energized through love**”. We’ve come to understand, from Heb 11:1, that faith is what “stands under”, or is the substructure that something is built on. Think of it like this, because it really is this simple. You have a thought, and as this thought comes into your mind a specific picture containing information of what needs to happen in a particular situation or circumstance. This thought can be *out from* The Word of God or simply a word *from* God. If you become convinced that it is true, you’ll talk about and act on it, expecting it to happen or become! That’s faith! But what energizes faith into action? What can cause you to expect what you can’t see, especially if it seems impossible? Love! You receive The Word(s) trusting that He loves you, that what He has in mind for you and /or for the person you are helping is good all the time. That’s when you act in confident expectation.

Love is essential to the proper operation of faith, and without it, you’ll have difficulty expecting what is not seen to happen or become, again, especially if it’s highly unlikely or seemingly impossible. This is the trifecta that Paul describes in 1Cor 13:13, faith, *expectation*, and love. But why would he say that the greatest of these is love?

A Revelation of Love

Out From Faith Into Faith

So we've said that faith is made up of the picture conceived by God's thoughts coming into your mind out from the report of some kind. You are "seeing" what is not seen. In fact, at some point, no one is seeing it except God and you. But it's real, it has substance, and because of that you have expectation. You expect something to happen. But understanding what causes it, what moves it, and where the energy is coming from and going to will change the mindset, attitude, and the results for many people who desire to walk out from faith into faith.

I started to lay this out in an example of 3 phase power, but it would be too much, and most people probably wouldn't identify with it. So let's just say this, like 3 phase electricity, love has "3 phases", and they're easy to see. And when you put all 3 together, just like 3 phase electricity, you get more power than the sum of its parts. You get an added dimension that drops the resistance, increasing the efficiency and production of the power!

The initial phase of love is of course, God, and His love for man. His love is why He made us, and we certainly couldn't know love without Him giving us the capacity.

The second phase is the reciprocal, our love for God. It's the first part of the greatest commandment. So we now we have power, then more power, but what about the 3rd phase? It's the love for another.

This revelation rocked my world! God's command, Jesus' "greatest objective", repeated numerous times by The Apostle John in his letter, is that we "love one another". But how could someone do that if love is of God and they don't know, haven't experienced God? Even more than that, how did God fulfill the "love one another"? He's not a "one another". He's God, not a man. Hmmm...

Through Jesus! God put Himself in a body so that He could demonstrate what His love looks like. In 2Cor 5:19 Paul tells us that, “**God was *en*, contained in, Christ, reconciling the world to Himself...**”. That means that He, God The Father, YHVH, El Saddai Himself, has now experienced love, one *man* to another! How awesome! God sent His Son into the world because He loved, and He experienced that love as a human being! Not just to fulfill it, but to *feel* it! God’s desire, His Will, revealed in His commandment, is to be loved! Wait..... OK, I’m back!

So the 3rd phase is the love for one another, and the first one to pull that off perfectly in a body was Jesus! When you put all 3 phases together, you have the love of Christ! You have *all* of the power working together so perfectly that, like 3 phase power, it creates an added dimension that increases the efficiency of the power by dropping the resistance. The devil has no defense against it. He can’t stop it! Love was completed in Jesus, and look at the results!! It’s not *just* the faith, it’s not *just* the expectation, it’s all being energized by the love!

Some things in your life, as long as you understand and walk out from faith, don’t require much power, “one’ll get ‘er done”. Sometimes things get harder, maybe just because the resistance increases, and you need more power. Then there are times that you find yourself up against something that seems impossible, and you need all 3 phases working in concert. When that occurs, nothing is impossible. Jesus Himself brings whatever amount of energy necessary to accomplish the objective as you lay hold to His faith, being completely aware of God’s love. As you begin to sense that love, you not only know that He can, you know what He *will do* because you know what’s on His mind. As you look at that person’s predicament, you

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love them. Just like Jesus, you are moved with compassion, and the trifacta kicks in, stuff happens!.

And for yourself, perfect love casts out fear, and you are being perfected together with and in the Father and the Son! (Jn17:23). In fact, 1Jn 4:12 tells us that if we love one another, God continues in us and His love is perfected or completed. OK, so let's dig deeper into "perfect".

This word *teleioo* means to consummate, reaching the end stage, "to reach the final phase". Think of the old pirate's telescope. You pull it out one stage at a time until it "functions at full strength or capacity". Hallelujah! That's exactly what we're describing here! And in the text, this word is in the Perfect tense, meaning it is a completed action in the past having a resulting effect in the present. That final phase of love is in us! Verse 13 goes on to say that we, **"come to this experience because we continue in Him, and He in us, because He has given to us out from His Spirit."**

This is the kind of faith being energized through love that can lay hold to what is unseen and cause it to become. The faith that declares and it happens! God energizing His perfect purposeful good will is what causes Him and you to speak and act. As we said before, think of how many times the scriptures tell us that Jesus was "moved with compassion" just before He healed or delivered people, or fed them, or just ministered to them. Let's *magnify* this some more.

The Finish

So *now* it's time for another round of Ephesians 3. This passage of scripture can be tough to wrap your mind

around. It's so full. The first 6 verses are actually one sentence. On top of that, a lot of words are used that are translated in various ways, and the parsing is tough. Over the years, I've spent hours and hours digging and talking to God about this text, only to come back a year or two later and do it again. The awesome thing is that each time, I see the details of the picture more clearly, increasing my understanding.

Once upon a time, Julie told me just to write the *enhanced version* down, uninterrupted, and let the reader meditate on what's being said. That was hard, but I did it. But then I just had to give them a glossary of words so that they could look them up for themselves. So here it is.

“For the pleasureⁱ of this, I bow my knees interfacing withⁱⁱ the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, out from whom the whole family in the heavens and upon earth is named, in order that He might grant you all, down fromⁱⁱⁱ the wealth^{iv} of the proper acknowledgement^v of Him, the ability^{vi} to dominate^{vii} through^{viii} His Spirit into the inner man, Christ becoming permanently established^{ix} through the faith in your hearts having been rooted and grounded in love^x, in order that you all may be fully determined^{xi} to pull down into you^{xii}, together^{xiii} with all those divinely appointed ones^{xiv}, the breadth and length and height and depth, coming to personally experience^{xv} the purposeful good will of Christ, exceeding physical reality or human knowledge^{xvi}, in order that into you all may be filled all the fullness of God. Next^{xvii}, the One having power over all things will begin to produce^{xviii}, in abundance out from^{xix} what we require^{xx} or conceive^{xxi}, down from the power being energized^{xxii} in us, His^{xxiii}

**proper acknowledgement contained in the Church
contained in Christ Jesus into all the generations of the
age of the ages. Amen.”**

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- ⁱ *charin* – in favor of, for the pleasure of
- ⁱⁱ *pros* – towards, with the idea of touching; interacting or
interfacing, engaging with
- ⁱⁱⁱ *kata* – down from a higher plane to a lower plane with the idea
of distribution
- ^{iv} *ploutos* – frequently translated “riches”, but in the singular it
would simply be “wealth”
- ^v *doxa*- reflecting through proper acknowledgement; true
worship;
- ^{vi} *dunamis* – power; miraculous power; ability to accomplish
- ^{vii} *kratoo* – verb - to dominate, from the noun *kratos* - dominion
- ^{viii} *dia* – through; from one into another filling all
- ^{ix} *katoikeo* – kata+settle; become permanently fixed or
established down from
- ^x *agape* – the affect of purposeful good will; in God’s case
perfect purposeful good will
- ^{xi} *exischuo* – out from+to be determined, Noun-*ischus* – not just
strength, but determination
- ^{xii} *katalambano* - down from+to seize or lay hold of; pull down
- ^{xiii} *sun* – together, or together with
- ^{xiv} *hagios* – “saints”; “divinely appointed”, separated for use,
different, specialness, designated
- ^{xv} *ginosko* – to come to know; intimate or personal experience
- ^{xvi} *huperballo* – over+to throw>to surpass>transcend
“to exceed physical reality or human knowledge”
- ^{xvii} *de* - an adversative particle – on the one hand, on the other
hand, moreover, however, next
- ^{xviii} *poieo* – to make>to produce or perform
- ^{xix} older manuscripts - *perissou*, abundance; overflow / others
huperekperissou, over+out from+abundance
- ^{xx} *aiteo* – often translated ask, it is to make a requisition or

to require

^{xxi} *noeo* – to perceive or conceive by mental effort

^{xxii} *energeo* – to work, but the idea is of the energy begin released
or expended in the effort or work

^{xxiii} *auto-* personal /possessive pronoun, as a possessive it would
simply be his or hers

Wait! Hold on a minute! It sounds like we're saying that the way Jesus becomes permanently established in me is through my faith being rooted in love so that I can be determined to pull down into me an experience with the love of Christ. Then, that experience causes me to realize that nothing is impossible to me because nothing is too hard for God as I'm being filled with the fullness of God. And *then*, God, just because He's God, will "produce" *what-ever* is overflowing out from my requisitions or conceptions? "Well I never!" No! And me neither! But that is what it says, and we're not through. Pull yourself together, we got one more thing to do. What energizes The Love?

Look back up at the first part of the 21st verse, it doesn't start with a capital because verse 20 didn't end in a period. Now, here's something very simple, but powerfully amazing! Most translations start verse 21 with something like, "to Him be". (It's OK, go look it up. I like it when you're skeptical.) The problem is, in the Greek text, this is a simple, 3rd person singular, either personal or possessive pronoun that is masculine, and Dative. Without going too far down that road, the simplest understanding, (and I prefer simple) of Greek nouns and pronouns in the Dative case is that it is "the means by which something is done". Often, to make this clear, a translator will use "to" or "for", even "about". Hence, "to Him". But then, in order for it to make sense in English, you have to also add the "be", and

the result makes it sound like Paul is signing off at the end of a podcast or a benediction at church, so that's the way we've viewed it. But that's not it! He's telling us what energizes The Love!

"His" is a 3rd person singular *possessive* masculine pronoun, and that's all you need. The power being energized in us is the proper acknowledgement, the true worship of God contained in the Church contained in Christ Jesus, into all the generations of the age of the ages AMEN. And so it is!

When you read the passage together, you see what an amazing, wonderful, beautiful mystery Paul is revealing to us through the Spirit. When you truly worship, properly acknowledge, "love on", The Father, He loves you back! And that's some energy being released! When you love on the Son, He responds in kind, and He is The King of Kings and Lord of all things both in Heaven and upon the earth. It's spontaneous! It flows!

So, when you do something for someone, lay your hands on someone, give to someone, share a word with someone, remind yourself about all 3 phases. The action is motivated from "purposeful good will". God loves you, and you want to please Him because you love Him. You want the person to know that God loves them, and your acting because you love them as well, and you want them to experience the same love that you have come to know. That's allowing love to operate on all 3 levels. And understand that what you sow, you will also reap. All of that power, that energized faith, will come back on you when you need it as well. Whoa!!

Let's see if we can finish. As you began to experience these things it evokes a response, you can't help

it. John put it this way, 1Jn 4:19, "We love Him because He first loved us!" Once you "lay hold to it", you just can't help yourself, and your love becomes your worship! You will begin to "love one another" with a renewed delight. And that, children, is why love fits everywhere!

Chapter 7 - Much More Than A Process

I suppose you could consider this as an epilogue, but it's a very important take away from this little book. We've taught and talked, thought and shared in all of this, but I hope it hasn't come across as "teaching material". I never want to lose my awareness of the fact that The Word of God is Alive! (Heb 4:12) Jesus must always remain at the forefront, He is The Word, the exact expression of what God has on His mind. He is the center of attention. I know that sounds mystical and all but, well, it just is. John's Gospel expresses this right off the bat, first thing. **"In the beginning was the Word and The Word was with God, and The Word was God!"** In fact, let's take a minute to take a closer look at John chapter 1.

"Beginning" is αρχε, the initial starting point or origin. The word for Word here is λογος. We're told a Greek philosopher named Heraclitus first used the term "Logos" sometime around 600 B.C. to designate "the divine reason", which he defined as "the plan which coordinates a changing universe." When we look at scripture, it's not just an expression of *a* thought, it's the expression of *God's* thoughts and intentions. Heb 1:2-3 says that in these last days God has spoken to us through His Son, Who is the **"radiance of His reflection and the exact expression"** of His Father.

The verb translated "was" 9 times in the first 10 verses of John 1 is εἰμι. We've seen it before, but this time it's in the Imperfect Indicative, depicting a continuous or recurring action *in the past*. When we saw it in Mk 11:24, I pointed out that in the ancient Greek, if this was referring to people, it would be *living*, and if it was referring to events,

it would be *happening*. So in this case, it would be “was living” and “was happening”.

The word for "with" is familiar, it's the preposition *προς*, towards with the idea of touching, "*interfacing or engaged with*". Now, let's take a closer look.

Jn 1:1 "In the very beginning *The Plan which coordinates a changing universe was happening, and That Plan was happening, interfacing with God! And The Word* (The Plan) *and God was happening!* v2 *He* (The Word) *was living in the very beginning, interacting and interfacing with God.* v3 *All things came into being through Him, and not even one thing that has come into being came into being without Him.* v4 *En Him life was living, and the life was living the light for men!* v5 *And the light brings light to the darkness, and the darkness cannot pull it down.*"

Kinda sums it up! Jesus is The Word of God. The Father and The Son are One. The Word is alive, Jesus is alive, because The Life of The Father is and has always been *en* The Son!

We're not talking about some inanimate or lifeless hypothesis or even supernatural formulas; we're looking at what God had on His mind *becoming* through His Word.

The purpose of this book has been to simply paint a picture of what you should expect and why. There is some "how to go about it", but really, it's just describing a loving Father, the Creator of all things, sharing Himself in a body, Jesus of Nazareth, with the beings that He made in His own image, us. Jesus, The Christ, The Son of The Living God, delights in showing you His ways, leading you in His paths,

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guiding you in His Truth, and training you. (Ps 25:4-5).
God's love is alive!

Godspeed my Friend!

A Reasonable Explanation

Throughout “Out From Faith Into Faith” there are numerous quotations of scripture, and even more numerous cites. In the case of all the actual quotations they are either the King James Version (only a few) or what I refer to as the “enhanced version” (all the rest).

To be clear, reference to the “enhanced version” is my humorous way of referring to a translation that I have put at least some part of it together out from extensive study, seeking, knocking, and sometimes wrestling. It is not intended to be, nor is it actually, some other existing translation, at least not in so far as I am aware.

In working with the Greek text, I normally consult at least several, such as the Textus Receptus, Westcott and Hort, Nestle, Byzantine Majority, and Tischendorf 8th edition, along with numerous helps and commentary.

As for translations consulted, there are usually at least 8 to 10, sometimes as many as 30 or more from a broad scope of references.

We referenced Ps 35:27, “**Let the LORD be magnified Who delights in the prosperity (or well being) of His servants.**” When you *magnify* something, you enlarge it or make it bigger, but why? So that you can see it better, to be able to look into it more deeply, and that’s the purpose of the book, to magnify the Lord! To look into His word more deeply in order to see Him more clearly.

Ultimately, the Spirit of God is The Teacher, and through the centuries He has continued to bless men with the knowledge of *the Logos Aletheia*, “design of reality”! (2Tim 2:15)