I. Introduction.

A. In the physical realm on earth, man exchanges **money** for things of value he desires to acquire.

    **Money** is the universally recognized “**currency**” or “medium of exchange” that can be used world wide to acquire desired goods and services.

B. In the spiritual realm **faith** is the “**currency**” that man exchanges for things of value in God’s Kingdom such as salvation, healing, deliverance, peace, prosperity, etc.

    Every promise made to man in the Bible is capable of being received in exchange for faith.

    **Matthew 21:22**  “And whatever things you ask in prayer, **believing**, you will receive.” (NKJV)

C. God created man to have dominion in the earth.

    **Genesis 1:26**  “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have **dominion** ( = to govern, rule and reign) over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” (KJV)

D. Central to man’s ability to walk in dominion in the earth is possession of an attribute called “**faith**” or “**believing.**”

    **Mark 1:14-15**  “Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God**, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and **believe the gospel.**” (KJV)

    **Faith** is the key **governing principle** that underscores successful operation in the kingdom of God on earth.

    Operation in the Kingdom of God requires the use of **God’s power.** Free access to the use of this power is limited to those **who walk in faith.**
Acts 6:8 “And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.” (KJV)

E. Man’s faith activates God’s power.

Mark 5:25-29, 34 “And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague . . . And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole . . .” (KJV)

F. When faced with difficult and challenging situations, do you have strong faith to fall back upon, or is it more like “religious head knowledge” that has no real power with God?

G. What exactly does it mean to have “faith” . . . to “believe?” How does faith actually work? Are there any prerequisites to having faith? Is there a process involved in “walking in faith”?

If we’re presently in a state of “unbelief”, what are the consequences? Is there any way to move expeditiously from “unbelief” to “belief?”

H. Definition:

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (KJV)

1. Faith (pistis, 4102) = persuasion and conviction of the truthfulness of God

   Faith means you trust God and believe what He says to you in the Bible. It means you believe He is completely trustworthy and would never lie to you.

2. At the end of the day, faith is knowledge of, trust in and commitment to the Person of Jesus Christ.

   2 Timothy 1:12 “. . . for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him . . .” (NKJV)
Hebrews 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith . . .” (KJV)

Faith is all about knowing, trusting and being in a long term, lasting loving relationship with Jesus Christ, the King of all kings on the earth, and the Lord of lords.

“In knowing Me, your faith grows – and that is all you need for My Power to work.” (God Calling, January 18)

II. The Tremendous Importance of Faith.

Matthew 16:19 “And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; whatever doors you lock on earth shall be locked in heaven; and whatever doors you open on earth shall be open in heaven!” (TLB)

According to the Bible, of all the keys of the kingdom, the key of faith is the most important.

A. Faith is the only way to please God.

Hebrews 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please God . . .” (NIV)

“God is not a respecter of persons, but He is a respecter of faith.” (Jesse Duplantis)

B. Faith can keep you alive when others are perishing.

Hebrews 11:31 “By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.” (KJV)
C. Faith will keep you out of “sin”.

Romans 14:23 “For whatever does not originate and proceed from faith is sin . . . ” (AMP)

(“sin” = to miss the mark, and so not share in the prize)

D. Your faith operates like a magnet, attracting to you that which you desire.

Matthew 9:28-30 “And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened . . . ” (NKJV)

E. Note that fear also operates like a magnet, attracting to you that which you do not desire.

Job 3:25 “For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.” (KJV)

III. Characteristics of Faith.

A. Faith is built upon a foundation of repentance.

Hebrews 6:1 “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God . . . ” (KJV)

“repentance” = to change the way you think; reversal of a decision.

“dead works” = activities begun by man that were not initiated by God.

Repentance is somewhat like reformatting the hard drive of your computer. It enables you to begin again and download the proper programs to enable you to function successfully in God’s kingdom.
B. Faith flows out of an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:17 “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word (= rhema) of God.” (NKJV)

Rhema = an individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in time of need. (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

“Yes! My Word, the Scriptures. Read them, study them; store them in your hearts, use them as you use a lamp to guide your footsteps. But remember, My children, My Word is more even than that. It is the Voice that speaks to your hearts, that inner consciousness that tells of Me. It is the Voice that speaks to you intimately, personally . . . It is I your Lord and Friend.”
(God Calling, October 31)

C. Faith is ‘not seen’.

2 Corinthians 5:7 “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (NKJV)

Hebrews 11:7 “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house . . . ” (KJV)

“Do not fear. I am a wall of protection around you. See this. To see this with the eyes of faith is to cause it to manifest in the material. Remember I long to work miracles, as when on earth I wrought them, but the same condition holds good. I cannot do many mighty works because of unbelief. So only in response to your belief can I do miracle works now.”
(God Calling, June 20)

Mark 6:5-6 “And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief . . . ” (KJV)

D. Faith talks.

2 Corinthians 4:13 “It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak,” (NIV)

Matthew 17:19-20 “Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.” (KJV)
Mark 11:23 “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.” (KJV)

Luke 1:30-31, 38, 45 “And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS . . . And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her . . . And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.” (KJV)

E. Faith is not free. Nor is it easy.

It takes work, effort and discipline to develop and walk in strong faith.

1. John 6:28-29 “Then said they unto him, What shall we do that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work (= toil, effort, occupation) of God, that ye believe (= to entrust your well being to Christ) on him whom he hath sent.” (KJV)

2. Hebrews 4:2 “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed (= to commingle, to combine, to assimilate) with faith in them that heard it.” (KJV)

3. Matthew 8:8 “. . . speak the word only . . .” (KJV) (“only” = “alone”)

4. Galatians 5:6 “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working (= to be active, efficient, work effectively) through love.” (NKJV)

5. Acts 16:25 “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.” (KJV)
F. Faith takes patience.

**Hebrews 6:12** “We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.” (NIV)

“Endurance is faith tried almost to breaking point. You must wait, and trust, and hope, and joy in Me. You must not depend on man but on Me, on Me, your Strength, your Help, your Supply. This is the great test. Am I your supply or not?” (God Calling, February 8)

G. Faith takes courage.

**James 1:2-3** “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” (NKJV)

**1 Peter 1:7** “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:” (KJV)

H. Faith grows by the power of meditation and visualization.

**Joshua 1:8** “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate ( = to murmer, to ponder, to imagine) therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” (KJV)

**Proverbs 29:18** “Where there is no vision ( = mental sight, revelation, vision) the people perish ( = to expose, uncover, make naked) . . .” (KJV)
**Recommendation:** form a clear mental picture of what you want, what you are standing in faith for and believing God for.

Hold this picture tenaciously in your mind, moment by moment, hour by hour, day by day, year by year, until God answers.

“I want no will laid grudgingly upon My Altar. I want you to desire and love My will, because therein lies your happiness and Spirit-rest. Whenever you feel that you cannot leave the choice to Me then pray, **not to be able to accept My Will, but to know and love Me more.** With that knowledge, and the Love, will come the certainty that I know best, and that I want only the best for you and yours.” (God Calling, November 27)

**I. The “how” and the “when” of answered prayer is to be left up to God.**

**How** your prayer of faith will be accomplished is not up to you. It’s up to God. Your role is to believe and doubt not.

Trying to figure out “how” the prayer will be answered may actually indicate a **lack of faith,** if you are trying to determine **what you have to do** to assist God in making this happen.”

Faith is 100% focused on the One in Whom we believe . . . not on ourselves.

**Mark 11:22** “And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God.**” (KJV)

**The example of Abraham:**

**Romans 4:19-22** “And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: **He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith,** giving glory to God; **And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.** And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.” (KJV)
IV. The Power of the Mind.

A. An operational model of the working of the mind of man.

Your senses feed valuable information to your conscious mind from your outside world. You can understand and deal with this information intellectually and yet never act upon it because of old paradigms.
James 1:6-8  “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” (NKJV)

B. The extraordinary power of your thoughts.

1. Whatever you’re thinking about, you’ll ultimately talk about.

Matthew 12:34  “. . . For out of the abundance of the heart (= the thoughts or feelings of the mind) the mouth speaks.” (NKJV)

2. Whatever you talk about determines the course and outcome of your life.

Proverbs 18:21  “Death and life are in the power of the tongue . . .” (KJV)

3. Every decision a man makes is controlled by how he thinks!

Proverbs 23:7  “For as he thinks (= to act as gate keeper!!) in his heart, so is he . . .” (NKJV)

4. God doesn’t think like man thinks.

Isaiah 55:8-9  “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (KJV)

“Mental Illness: not thinking like God thinks.” (Judy Fries)

5. Faith requires rejection of any worldly thinking or habits that stand in opposition to the Word and ways of God.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5  (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” (KJV)

6. The more of God’s Word you assimilate into your mind, the more “aligned” it becomes with the mind of the Spirit, and the more “in sync” you become with the plans and purposes of God for your life.

Romans 12:2  “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed (metamorphoo in Greek = change, transfigure, transform) by the renewing of your mind . . .” (NKJV)
C. Strong Bible faith requires:

1. A **change** in the way you think.

   A willingness to uproot and discard old thoughts and paradigms that you now know are out of alignment with the Word of God.

2. A willingness to **meditate** upon what you think . . . i.e., on the **new material contained in the Word of God** which will displace old paradigms you hold that contradict the Word.

3. A willingness to use your ability to **visualize these new thoughts . . . to use your imagination** to create pictures in your mind of your alignment with the Word of God: righteous before Christ, your body healed, your financial condition prosperous, your mind free from fear, anxiety and addictions, your ability to walk in love, acceptance and forgiveness toward yourself and all those around you, etc.

D. **Fear, doubt and worry** are mental interlopers sent by the enemy to try to destabilize you and prevent the purposes of God from being accomplished in your life.

Doubt and fear result when the **conscious mind focuses on the negative.**

**Matthew 14:29-31** “. . . And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, **he was afraid;** and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, **why did you doubt?"** (NKJV)

“Doubt and worry are intellectual diseases.” (Bob Proctor)

Doubt and worry are **mental habits** developed over the course of our lives. Each represents a **choice that can be changed** in the future as we begin to substitute faith filled words from the Bible for past thoughts of doubt, worry and anxiety.

E. **Proverbs 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.” (NKJV)

V. Close.

“. . . Faith is the child-attitude. **Seek in every way to become child-like.** Seek, seek, seek until you find, until the years have added to your nature that of the trusting child. Not only for its **simple trust** must you copy the child-spirit, but for its **joy in life,** its **ready laughter,** its **lack of criticism,** its desire to share all with all men. Ask much that you may **become as little children, friendly and loving towards all** – not critical, not fearful. ‘Except ye become **as little children** ye cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven.’ ” (God Calling, July 2)

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