



**Everyone actively seeking God has the desire to do right. However, the problem many Christians face is the dilemma of trying to do right instead of being right. By the power of the Holy Spirit, everyone born of God is already righteous (made right) in His sight. But if you don't understand this and put your faith in this truth, you will be like a mouse on a wheel, spinning around and around, trying to do right to be right in your own willpower. How do you go from wanting to do right, to living out of your true identity of being right? Understanding your true identity in Christ frees you from the effort and allows the grace to transform you from the inside out. When you understand this, you will begin to live it.**

## Faith vs willpower

Are they synonymous?

Some people, even Christians believe faith is faking it till you make it. If that were true, then there would be nothing different between our human will and what the bible calls faith. However, the Bible makes it very clear that faith supersedes the natural and therefore we can conclude that there is much more to faith than being an act of our own will. Let's look at a simple comparison between faith and willpower.

Faith & will power: what are they?

Definition of faith:

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]. Hebrews 11:1 (AMPC)

Definition of will:

The faculty by which a person decides on and initiates action.

To decide, bring about, or attempt to effect or bring about by an act of the will to purpose, determine on, or elect, by an act of will (dictionary.com)

Willpower is often talked about as only the power to abstain or have self-control, but is equally used in reference to firmness of purpose or will. (dictionary.com)

How do you receive faith?

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Romans 10:17

How do you receive willpower?

Psychology tells us we can have willpower by having a determination and self-control.

Many people outside of Christian circles sometimes think that when Christians say they are doing something by faith that they are just trying to make something happen with their human will, and calling it "faith." They do not recognize that faith is not something to be drummed up, created, or forced out of our own strength or ability. But it is a spiritual force that reaches into the spiritual realm and brings into the natural/physical realm what God has promised.

Even Christians who know what faith is and understand where it comes from can often be mistaken about whether they are in faith or relying on their willpower to accomplish what they believe to receive. Faith doesn't create anything; it takes hold of what God has already provided by grace in Jesus. It is a firm reliant trust and expectancy of what we are hoping for.

Let's go over a few defining points that separate faith from will power.

Faith	Willpower
Perceives as true without physical evidence	A decision of personal commitment
Comes from the Word of God	Comes from a determination of the human will
Trusts in God's ability	Trusts in own ability
Spiritual force	Personal human effort
Faith never fails	Willpower sometimes fails

We could say:

Faith is: certainty, power in the spirit

Willpower is: motivation, strength in the flesh

This verse in Philippians defines the perimeters for faith vs willpower:

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things/through Christ who strengthens me.

If you put the emphasis on YOU, it becomes willpower. If you think Christ does it without your cooperation, then there's no faith. However, if you put it together it harmonizes your belief that through Christ's strength in you, you can do all things, hallelujah! That's faith.

Think about the apostle Peter. He got a Word from Jesus, telling him to come to Him on the water. No desire, motivation or personal effort could cause him to be able to walk on water to Jesus, but faith did! Faith comes from confidence in God's Word (Jesus said to Peter, 'come'). Therefore, faith does not depend on your ability or worthiness but believing in God's. Faith is the assurance of what you know about God's character, completely independent of you.

The Amplified Bible describes this firm and steadfast faith as, "that leaning of the entire human personality on Him in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness." Praise God!

The human will is strong, but can only do so much; faith can move insurmountable mountains. While willpower can fail, faith does not. However, there are things that can weaken or even void our faith. One of these is your attention.

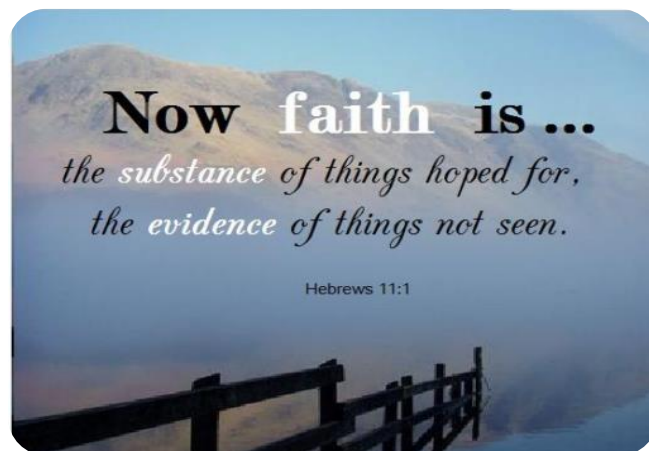
What is your focus on? Is it on what brings faith?

1. Since faith comes from the Word of God, we can't neglect to spend time in it. And since faith cannot be drummed up-it is a heart matter, not simply knowing God's Word intellectually. Faith is NOT mind over matter. We need to create an environment for faith to come.

Or are you weakening or voiding your faith?

2. Once you mix will power with faith, faith will become ineffective. So whether you are "trying to believe," trying to move God by your actions, or cause your breakthrough to happen in any way, you have entered into self-works. You've taken your eyes off Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith, and put them on you, your effort, and your ability. Actions are the natural result from true faith being born in our hearts but actions themselves do NOT produce faith. Will power can sometimes motivate you to seek actions without faith. There is a fight of faith-a labor to rest solely on what Jesus has done for us, but this is not simply "willpower" to abstain from something or to hold onto something He promised, it's a fight of faith. It is staying consistent in your confidence and keeping your position of victory.

For more on faith, see my article, ["Faith to obtain the victory"](#)





## Revelation of God's Word

When I think about revelation, I see it like a person learning a second language.

When you first begin learning what the words are in another language, they don't mean anything to you. They're just sounds, and ones you're not familiar with or comfortable pronouncing.

Even after much repetition, having trained ourselves in the correct pronunciation, we might more easily speak/say the words correctly; but those words still may not automatically give us an image in our mind of what they stand for. The words that we would speak are still foreign to us.

It isn't until you can see the image represented by that word clearly that it becomes natural to you. For example, let's say you were trying to learn the word for "apple" in French. This is the word "pomme." When you say the word "pomme" do you see an apple? When you see an apple, do you think "pomme?"

Many of us Christians, just as with a new language have "trained" ourselves to say biblically correct words. We know "we have been healed by the stripes of Jesus; all the promises of God are yes and amen..." Repeating them over and over to the point that we can confess and speak the right things (what God says in His word). However, just like the person who has practiced speaking a foreign language can eventually pronounce the words correctly, this doesn't automatically mean they have gone down into his heart.

That word we want to become a revelation to us, must be meditated on, spoken, and put into us even beyond memorization and training. It has to literally become a part of our way of thinking. When it is real to you, you will be able to see it the same way you would see an apple if someone said "pomme." it will become your new default mode and that word will flow out of you effortlessly.

Until that happens, those words might be comfortable to speak, but your heart will still see them as foreign.

How do we receive revelation?

Scripture tells us that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks

What comes out of your mouth the most often is an indication of what is in your heart. It's only the words you believe in your heart that have the power to work for you. What's in your heart is the revelation you live by.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

The Apostle Paul gives us the key to receiving revelation of God's word.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..."

We need to make the word of God a priority, give time to it, think on it, act on it, over and over until the revelation of it goes beyond our intellect, into our heart and becomes our way of seeing it and speaking.

Just like a person learning a new language, we must have the word of God engrained in us to the point of overflowing. When the truths of God's Word are revealed to our hearts, we'll get revelation.

[Making God First](#)

[Meditating on the Word of God](#)

**When the chains came off...  
I didn't see who I could become  
I saw who I already am!**



## **Willpower vs transformation**

I've written previously about the difference between supernatural faith and human willpower.

As the Apostle Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by the faith of the Son of God**, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

The writer of Hebrews says, "Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." (Hebrews 10:38)

So faith is critical if we are to live our lives in harmony with God's plans and purposes for us and see them come to pass.

Faith begins where the will of God is known, and only comes by the word of God. (Romans 10:17) In scripture, Jesus compares the Word of God to seed. And our hearts to the ground in which that seed is sown (Parable of the Sower, Mark 4). As I've shared in my article [Faith vs Willpower](#), Faith is a supernatural force from God's word, and willpower is our human resolve.

However, sometimes believers get the idea they are "in faith" because they are trying so hard to receive. They might even know in their mind that God has promised it to them in His word. But they don't have "that word" in their hearts. And therefore, unsuccessfully spin their wheels trying to believe and make God's word come to pass. But true Bible Faith is when our hearts are in agreement with what God says and in what He has done for us by His grace. This transformation only comes by continually renewing your mind to the Word of God, and goes beyond mental assent.

So here, I'd like to concentrate on the difference between willpower and transformation by the Word of God. The Christian life isn't about doing the best you can. If it were, then faith would

be nothing more than faith in your own effort, your own works or willpower. Willpower might know what God's word says, but transformation takes place when what you know, becomes the truth you live by in the core of your being. When what the Word of God says is more real to you than the natural world's limitations. This is why we must resist being conformed to this world.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

This is what Romans 12:2 says in the NLT: Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Transformation is God's purpose for each of His children. What He has provided through Jesus (grace) is meant to be the source of our life, the authority we submit to, and the power to become like His son, Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

This transformation is the power of God within you to change your heart.

Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."

Understanding the relationship between grace and faith opens the door to the power of transformation, and keeping your focus on spiritual reality will create it.

The book of Romans explains the relationship between grace and faith.

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Willpower or trying to believe and receive in our own strength will always fail; and does not produce the blessing and favor of God in our lives. Faith that comes from transformation takes place when the word we know becomes the truth we live by. Only by transformation will we see the fruit of our salvation manifested in our lives.

[Faith vs willpower](#)

[Faith is the bridge to God's grace](#)





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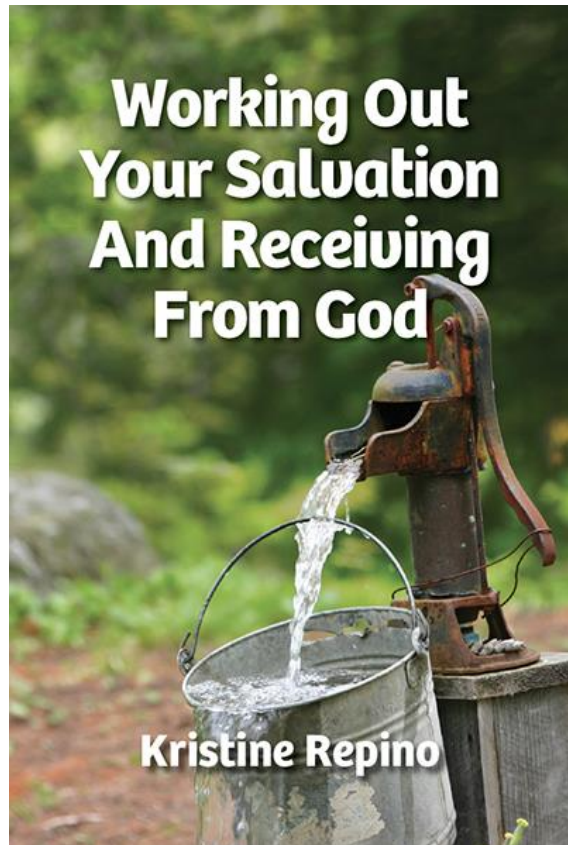
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The expression of God's grace is the Word of God. From Genesis to Revelation, we are taught God's plan for humanity, His everlasting love, and our true identity in Him. Faith is simply our heartfelt conviction of His goodness, love and mercy toward us.

Through intimacy with the Word, we come to know our Father and what Jesus Christ has done to restore our relationship with Him. Jesus said His words are spirit and they are life. Daily communion with the Word teaches us and builds our confidence in this truth.

I believe you will be blessed and grow in a deeper relationship with our heavenly father as you keep your eyes on the Word through study and meditation.

God bless you,  
Kristine  
The Expressions of His Grace



Salvation is a finished work of the cross! We can't earn it or work for it. The Apostle Paul tells us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. But has the church misinterpreted this statement? How we receive from God is dependent on understanding what God says about the gift of righteousness through salvation. What is God's role? And what is ours?

Work out your salvation by understanding this truth and see it transform your life and have the power to influence those around you!

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