

**C. The Bible must be compatible with itself as the whole counsel of God’s Word.**

1. God establishes His covenant promises by repeating them many times throughout the Bible and through many authors or witnesses. He establishes a pattern.

Matthew 18:16 – “*But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.*”

Deuteronomy 19:15 – “*One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.*”

**V. Five Infallible Steps of Faith**

**A. Step One: Meditation. Meditation is reading, hearing, pondering, and especially speaking the Word in order to gain faith.**

1. [Hebrew] *hagah* <sup>1897</sup> {haw-gaw'}
  - a. To murmur
  - b. Literally, to peep or mutter
  - c. To speak to yourself, to speak under your breath, a whisper
2. [Hebrew] *siyach* <sup>7878</sup> {see'-akh}
  - a. To ponder
3. [Greek] *meletao* <sup>3191</sup> {mel-et-ah'-o}
  - a. To revolve in the mind
4. Meditation means to speak God’s Word to yourself in order to believe it in your heart. Some Christians call meditation “confession unto faith.”
5. Key verses:
  - a. Joshua 1:8 – *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

- b. Deuteronomy 30:11-14 – *"For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' Nor [is] it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' But the word [is] very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.*
  - c. Romans 10:6-8 – *But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down [from above]) or, "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach).*
6. Faith for every area of life works the same way as faith for salvation: by saying with the mouth and believing in the heart.

Romans 10:9,10 – *That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

**B. Step Two: Illumination. Illumination is where faith comes alive in the heart. Illumination from God's Word produces the "renewing of the mind" (Rom. 12:2). Some call this "revelation knowledge."**

- 1. [Greek] *photizo* <sup>5461</sup> {fo-tid'-zo}
  - a. To shine a light on
  - b. Literally to shed rays of light
  - c. To give understanding to
- 2. Revelation vs. Illumination
  - a. Revelation is God's Word, the first time it has been revealed.
  - b. Illumination is God's Word, the first time it has been revealed to you, the individual, though it has been written for ages.
  - c. Revelation may still come to the believer today if God needs to inform that believer of something that cannot be conveyed through the illumination of the Scripture, such as God guiding you in life or ministry.
  - d. Illumination is the spiritual hearing from God's Word that produces faith.

- 1) With the heart man believes.

Romans 10:10 – *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

- e. The Word of God, when believed by a person, produces a washing or cleansing of the heart. This is the same way He cleanses the whole Church.

Ephesians 5:26 – *That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.*

**C. Step Three: The Prayer of Faith.**

1. The prayer of faith releases your power to receive a covenant promise of God by faith. You take spiritual possession of a promise before you take actual possession in the natural, visible realm.
2. Mark 11:23,24 – *“For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive [them], and you will have [them].”*
  - a. The “Authority Factor”: Jesus is telling us to use our authority, which He has given to every believer
  - b. The “Dominion Factor”: Jesus is telling us to exercise our dominion over Satan and the forces of darkness.

**D. Step Four: Confession. Confession is speaking the Word after you have believed it and before the answer has come or the promise has been manifested. It is also referred to as the "confession of faith."**

1. Confession is where the battle is won or lost. Many Christians undo their prayer of faith by negative thinking and confession.
2. When the enemy, Satan and his demons, come to you to taunt you after you have prayed the "prayer of faith," you must continue to resist him with the same Word through which you received faith. You must hold fast to your confession of faith in order to receive a promise by faith.
  - a. “Let us hold fast our confession.”
    - 1) “Hold fast” – [Greek] *krateo* <sup>2902</sup> {krat-eh'-o}: to lay hold on, to take hold of, seize. In other words, capture, hold down, don't let it escape.

- 2) “Confession” – [Greek] *homologia* <sup>3671</sup> {hom-ol-og-ee'-ah}: to say the same thing as another. From *homou* (“the same”) and *logos* (“something said”)

Hebrews 4:14-16 – *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all [points] tempted as [we are, yet] without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

- b. “Let us hold fast the confession of our faith [KJV] without wavering.”

- 1) “Without wavering” – [Greek] *aklines* <sup>186</sup> {ak-lee-nace}: not inclining, firm, unmoved. In other words, without lying down and quitting.

Hebrews 10:19-23 – *Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and [having] a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of [our] hope without wavering, for He who promised [is] faithful.*

- c. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith

Hebrews 12:2 – *Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

#### **E. Step Five: Possession.**

1. Possession is when the promise has manifested – you can see and touch it.
2. This is different from the spiritual possession that you took when you prayed the prayer of faith.
3. When it arrives, it no longer takes faith; it is yours.
4. How long will you have to stand? Think of your faith as being measured on an old-fashioned balance scale. As soon as your faith outweighs your unbelief, your faith “tips the scale” and your promise is suddenly manifested.

### **VI. *Abraham is our example of faith at work.***