Romans 8:5 (NKJV)
5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Make time to be spiritual:
Pray with the same deep sincerity as when you first believed

If we're too busy to take time to be spiritual, perhaps we should offload some unnecessary activity.
We should ask ourselves, is obedience to God's word necessary?

[redacted]

3/5/2015
3/1/2015

Practicing Faith; until it becomes second nature

A

Quick review

What energizes the spiritual man?

The believer's energy source to live the supernatural spiritual life is:
1. The word of God
2. The Holy Spirit

walking in the Spirit or being led by the Spirit; has nothing to do with mysticism, and everything to do with a clear objective path laid out in the word of God.

Walking is used as a **metaphor** for the Christian life

1 **Galatians 5:16–25 (NKJV)** active, imperative

A promise

16 I say then: **walk in the Spirit** and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Same results

active, imperative

Colossians 3:16–21 (NKJV)
16 Let the **WORD** of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.
20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.
21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Working together

passive, imperative

Ephesians 5:18–26 (NKJV)
18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with **the SPIRIT,**
19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.
22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.
24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.
25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,
26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

The course of action is laid out in front of us by:

Pagan religions trust in the subjective inner feelings and opinions, believed to have been inspired by the Spirit.

Only Christianity has **1.** the verifiable objective evidence of creation, which is visible to all; and **2.** signs and wonders performed in the site of multitudes, and testified of by multitudes, to validate the revealed word that followed. Which is a clear course of action

If it was anything other than the word of God, that has so much overwhelming evidence clearly validating its accuracy; it would be received without question !!!

A 1st class conditional:
(let's agree it's true) the result (should occur)

There is a clear objective path

18 But **if** you are **led** by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,
20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,
21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

1st stage, justification

Our forward momentum has direction ! It's called truth

25 **If we live in the Spirit**, **let us also walk in the Spirit.**

walk by means of the Spirit

by means of the Spirit

God's methods are based on thinking, there based on reason and logic.
They're not based on emptying the mind, the worldly view of meditation; but on filling the mind with the clear objective truth revealed in the word of God

John 14:11 (NKJV)
11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

To think, evaluate, concentrate, study and focus

2 **Scriptures identifying the WORD with power:**

1 Thessalonians 1:5, Hebrews 1:3, Hebrews 4:12,

3 **Scriptures identifying the HOLY SPIRIT with power:**

Romans 15:13, Romans 15:14-20, 1 Corinthians 2:1-15

4

Conclusion:

Colossians 1:15-18
17 and he is before all things and **in Him all things consist.**

All things, including the believer is not sustained by his own efforts but by the power of God which is in Christ Jesus

B

Faith

1 **Faith is non-meritorious, all the merit lies in the object of that faith**

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

◇ **Faith, in and of itself, as the Bible defines it, is never isolated. It's always directed towards something**

◇ **When we were saved it wasn't because we had faith in faith, but we had faith in something.**

It was the object of that faith that we believed, which was Christ.

We believed the message that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and that if we would put our faith alone in Christ alone, he would save us from eternal damnation, and give us eternal life.

Or by just believing only in what Christ did

◇ So as in **2 Corinthians 5:7** For we walk by faith, not by sight.

If we're walking by sight, there's forward momentum toward something. That something is man's limited resources of reason and empirical capabilities.

If we're walking by means of faith, we're headed in a specific direction.

Walking is forward momentum, and the **object** of that faith "the word of God" is the direction of that forward momentum.

Walking by faith

We are walking by means of confidence and trust, in the content of what's believed, which is the energy source for the believer **(the revealed word)**

The faith is simply the conduit, the pipeline through which the work of the object, or the significance, principle, or the truth of the object is applied.

◇ **Faith for the Christian walk:**

The faith that moves us forward in the Christian life is focused on certain statements, propositions, realities of Scripture. And when we believe those principals, or promises or procedures that are specifically stated in Scripture, then that is the means of moving forward.

It is the supernatural energy source for the Christian walk

C

The content of our faith:

1 **Without content there's no object for belief, there's no forward momentum**

Claiming a promise that belongs to us:

That means we're taking hold of a general promise in the Old Testament or the specific promises in the New Testament, and applying them to the circumstances in life.

General promises: those promises that are not specifically addressed to the children of Israel and the fulfillment of covenants to them.

◇ **Promises not addressed to us:**

Hebrews 8:10 (NKJV)
10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Deuteronomy 20:1 (NKJV)
1 "When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 33:27–29 (ESV)
27 The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. And he thrust out the enemy before you and said, 'Destroy.'
28 So Israel lived in safety, Jacob lived alone, in a land of grain and wine, whose heavens drop down dew.
29 Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord, the shield of your help, and the sword of your triumph! Your enemies shall come fawning to you, and you shall tread upon their backs."

2 **Promises:**

◇ **General promises Of the Old Testament:**

Psalm 55:22 (NKJV)
22 Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV)
10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Isaiah 12:2 (NKJV)
2 Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.' "

Isaiah 51:12 (ESV)
12 "I, I am he who comforts you; who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass,

Psalm 62:7 (NKJV)
7 In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.

Psalm 91:4 (NKJV)
4 He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

Psalm 36:7 (NKJV)
7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.

◇ **A promise specific to New Testament believers:**

Think through the promise

1 Peter 5:5–11 **Example of forward momentum**

Connected with humility:

1 Peter 5:1–4 (NKJV)
1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:
2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;
3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;
4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Orient our thinking to God's methods: ...

Younger in the Lord / older in the Lord

1 Authority

1 Peter 5:5–11 (NKJV)
5 Likewise you younger people, **submit** yourselves to your **elders**. Yes, all of you be **submissive** to one another, and be clothed with **humility**, for "God resists the proud, But (God) gives grace to the **humble**."

Promise

Passive, imperative

2 Humbling ourselves

6 Therefore **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

Promise

General Old Testament promises

To handle our cares by our own methods is equal to pride

3 Entrust our worries to God

Therefore **humble** yourselves by

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Promise

Psalm 18:2 (NKJV)
2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Caution

4 Be on the alert to temptation of fear

8 Be **sober**, be **vigilant**; because your adversary **the devil** walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Active, imperative

Pride, Satan's primary sin

Isaiah 14:12–15 (NKJV)
12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!
13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'
15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

5 Resist by means of what's believed

9 **Resist** him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

6 The Result: spiritual maturity

10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, **perfect, establish, strengthen,** and **settle you**.

7 **Conclusion:** the effective sustaining power of the word, brings glory to God

11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

3 **Principles or procedures:**

◇ **Reading for context:**

2 Peter 1:1–4 (NKJV)
1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:
2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,
3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,
4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

The principle

◇ **2 Peter 1:1–4 (NKJV)**
1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

The promise

Biological physical & the spiritual life

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to **life** and **godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by **glory and virtue**,

2 Peter 1:3 (ESV)
3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own **glory and excellence**,

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)
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.
2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)
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.

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the **divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

D

Isaiah 26:4 (NKJV)
4 Trust in the Lord forever, For in Yah, the Lord, is **everlasting strength.**

The energy source that empowers the supernatural Christian walk

There is both an **Active & Passive** since in claiming a promise

1 **Example:**

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)
9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2

◇ **1 Samuel 16:1–13 (NKJV)**
1 Now the Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the **Bethlehemite**. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

◇ **The city of David**

Luke 2:4 (NKJV)
4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, **to the city of David**, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,
Luke 2:8–12 (NKJV)
8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.
10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.
11 For there is born to you this day **in the city of David** a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

◇ David

Goliath

Exemplifying both the active and passive elements of faith in the promise of God

1 Samuel 17:1–47 (NKJV)
1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim.
2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines.
3 The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.
4 And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.
5 He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with **a coat of mail**, and the weight of the coat was **five thousand shekels of bronze**.

125 pounds

6 And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders.
7 Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron **spearhead** weighed **six hundredf shekels**; and a shield-bearer went before him.

15 pounds

10 And **the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel** this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."
11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.
12 Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced in years, in the days of Saul.
13 The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone to follow Saul to the battle. The names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.
14 David was the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul.
15 But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.
16 And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.
17 Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp.
18 And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them."
19 Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.
20 So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle.
21 For Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army.
22 And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers.

The armies of Israel fear Goliath's words
23 Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them.

24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.
25 So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel."

David is incensed over the arrogant words of the Philistine Goliath
26 Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? **For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"**

David's Doctrine

The living God as opposed to, Dagon the God of the Philistines

1.
Eli's sons were polluting a sacrifice, and laying with the women who assembled the door of the tabernacle

Eventually God judges Israel for their sins by the hand of the Philistines.

2.
The ark of God is carried away to Ashdod

3.
They place the arc of God at the feet of Dagon

The ark of God is taken to Gath, then to Ekron

Out of desperation, they send it back to Israel

David's Doctrine

God's mandate to destroy the inhabitants of Canaan

Joshua 9:24 (NKJV)
24 So they answered Joshua and said, "Because your servants were clearly told that the Lord your God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you; therefore we were very much afraid for our lives because of you, and have done this thing.

David walked by faith, anchored in doctrine

God's revealed word

David's Doctrine

Genesis 17:1–8 (NKJV)
1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.
2 And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."
3 Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:
4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.
5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.
6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

Seed:

7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

land:

8 Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of **Canaan**, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."
9 And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.
10 This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised;

Blessing:

Genesis 12:1–3 (NKJV)
1 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.
2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; **And you shall be a blessing.**
3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Saul's focus was what he could see in the flesh, he was walking by sight

31 Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him.
32 Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."
33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,
35 I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.
36 Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this **uncircumcised Philistine** will be like one of them, seeing **he has defied the armies of the living God.**"
37 Moreover David said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"
38 So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail.
39 David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off.

40 Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.
41 So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him.
42 And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking.
43 So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.
44 And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.
46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

Faith & Rest:

David's confidence was not what he could see, but in the promises of God

47 Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

3 **Matthew 2:1–6 (NKJV)**
1 Now after Jesus was born in **Bethlehem** of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,
2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."
3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
5 So they said to him, "In **Bethlehem** of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:
6 'But you, **Bethlehem**, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

E