



Process of Faith by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me (**John 17:8**).

Truly:

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (**Romans 10:17**).

But "hearing" is more than just "listening." Jesus spoke to people in parables because:

"Hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand" (**Mathew 13:13**).

Since comprehension is the purpose of hearing, then Jesus set forth the process of faith in **John 17:8**: "given to them the words," "they have received them," "and have known," "they have believed." Notice the process involves:

- 1) God's Words being accurately transmitted from God;
 - 2) Those words faithfully declared;
 - 3) Those words received;
 - 4) Knowing those words as truth;
 - 5) Believing.
- 1) Whether spoken directly from heaven (**Matthew 3:16-17**), given by revelation (**Ephesians 3:1-7**), or embodied in Jesus Christ (**John 1:14-17**), God has spoken.
 - 2) Whether spoken by Jesus, Himself (**John 12:47-48**), inspired and revealed by the Holy Spirit (**Galatians 1:11-12**), or written by the Holy Spirit through inspired writers (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**), the Bible IS the Word of God!
 - 3) The Bible must be accepted by the reader.

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe (**1 Thessalonians 2:13**).

The Devil says whatever it takes to shake confidence in the Bible as "the word of God:" that it is "myths," of uncertain origin, incomplete, corrupted text, inaccurate translation, *ad nauseum*, **none of which he can prove**.

- 4) Peter acknowledged the bedrock truth (**Matthew 16:16**), but after experience with that truth, he said,

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God (**John 6:68-69**).

It is the "we have come to believe and know" that indicates the process has worked in the Apostles. They came to their "firm confidence" in the same way as those of us who believe on Jesus "through their word" (**John 17:20**). This faith cannot be shaken and perseveres (**Romans 5:1-4**).

- 5) Believing is the result of that process, and is, therefore, total confidence, not in ourselves, but in Jesus Christ!

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise (**Hebrews 10:35-36**).

Unless we throw it away, no one should stand between us and the love of God (**Romans 8:31-39**): not a preacher, an elder, a Christian, a parent, a child, an employer, a politician, nor any other human! We may falter at times, but our faith will not fail!

--- **John T Polk II**

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