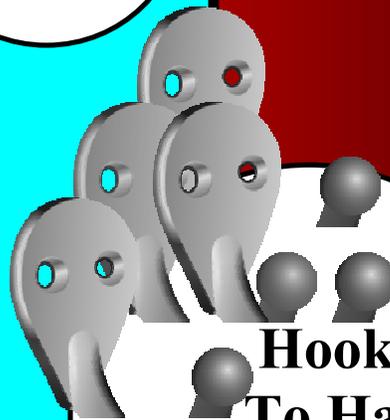


Faith



**Hooks
To Hang
Your Faith
On**

Faith

Written By Rev.
John Marinelli

Copyright

March 2016—Rev. John Marinelli

**P. O. Box 831413
Ocala, Florida 34483**

All Rights Reserved

Preface

I take pen in hand to write this eBook in hopes that both seekers of truth and believers in God will gain a more clear perspective in how to utilize the scriptures in their Christian walk.

I will be using the KJV as my resource and I plan to elaborate accordingly as the Spirit moves me. My goal is to edify, instruct and reveal so there will be no doubt how to gain victory against the enemy.

I see the scriptures as hooks that we can use to hang our faith on. It's a great picture that shows the believer what to look for when caught in a trial and how to apply scripture to any given circumstance.

A hook is a promise of God or a fresh revelation given by the Spirit. When we hang our faith on it, we believe in it and rely upon it and adhere to it until our victory has been attained.

Introduction

The Bible is full of promises from God to His children. They speak of many things from healing to deliverance, salvation, forgiveness and a lot more. The Lord showed me many years ago that these precious promises are really spiritual hooks that His children can use to activate their faith.

If I have a hook, or promise, and I hang my faith upon it, it forms a lifeline that holds me and keeps me in times of trouble. For example: The devil seeks to deceive me into thinking that I am not loved. He brings around folks that criticize me, put me down and laugh at me. Like anyone else, I begin feeling down and worthless. Then I read, *“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”* **Hebrews 1:6 kjv**

Suddenly I see that God has freely given us grace but more than that, He gave it to the ones He loves...me. I now know that God really loves me and what all those other folks are saying are lies.

I hang me faith on the fact that He loves me and no other voice counts...thus I gain self-respect and self-worth. This is victorious living.

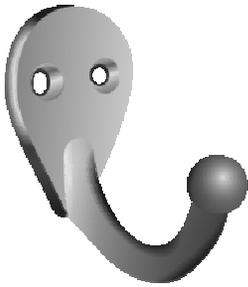
We will be looking at several hooks and how to hang our faith on them to overcome the attacks of the enemy and inward self-generated fears.

It is important to realize that there is a real devil that rules over principalities, rulers of darkness and Spiritual wickedness. *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”* **Ephesians 6:12**

We are in a situation where we are being attacked every day. There is no neutral ground or safe city. We either fight back or fall prey to deception, lies and oppression. This is not a new concept or doctrine. Hear what Peter said to the 1st century Christians, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” **I Peter 5:8-9**

It's time to own up to the reality of a real enemy and learn how to fight back. We have precious promises in the Bible that guarantee victory over the sinister forces of evil. It's time to take back what we've lost and declare our freedom from future oppressions.

Hooks To Hang Your Faith On



As I have already mentioned, the hook is a Bible verse that is lodged in your mind. It got there from your reading the Bible and seeing the Divine Truth. It was so powerful that you could not help but remember it. *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”* **Psalm 119:11**

It is our love for God that drives us to hid His Word in our hearts. We may not remember the address of the verse or the exact wording but we do remember the essence of what is being said. This is how a hook comes to be in our mind.

Let's look at a few hooks and see how they apply to our daily life. The 1st will be in relation to Salvation. We all have these nagging thoughts that torment us. They say, “Where did I come from?” Why am I here?” and “What happens to me when I die?”

Some folks answer these thoughts with Reincarnation. Others say, “You die and that's it”. Yet other folks say you return into the fabric of the Universe that is ever groining and eternal. These conclusions are erroneous for sure. The only true answer comes from God and is found in His Holy Word, the Bible. Here's what it says:

1. ***“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”*** **Genesis 1:27** We did not come from Apes, a primeval swamp or a long evolutionary trek. We got here as a direct act of creation by God, Himself.
2. ***“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”*** **Genesis 1:27** We are here to be the image of God in the earth...His likeness and image. This is our destiny and why God created us in the 1st place. This image is His

character. Paul taught the 1st century Christians that God's image was the fruit of the Spirit. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."* **Galatians 5: 22-23**

3. *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."* **Genesis 1:27** Man was created male and Female, not male and male or female and female. It was his intent to display His Glory in the earth through the lives of a male and a female relationship where love, Joy, Peace and all the rest of his character could flourish. Same sex marriage is an abomination unto the Lord and a distortion of his Glory. It was not why we were created and does not answer the question, "Why are we here?"

The final question is, "What happens to us when we die?" Jesus gave us the answer clear as day. John recorded it in his gospel letter to the church, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* **John 3:16**

Our destiny is to live with God for all of eternity. That's what will happen to us when we die, if we, as a whosoever, believes in Christ. *"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."* **II Corinthians 5:8** Where are we going when we die? To be with Jesus, the one we have believed in for so many years.

What's all of this have to do with hooks to hang your faith on? Simply this, the enemy of our soul is trying to steal, kill and destroy. We, as sincere Christians and followers of Christ know, from the scriptures that we are God's creations, fashioned to reveal His image in the earth and destined to be with Christ when we die. This truth forms a hook in our mind. It is this hook that we hang our faith on and thereby gain stability, hope, assurance, and peace of mind.

The placing of our faith on the hook is an expression of our belief. It activates our faith and brings us into a higher reality where the attacks of evil cannot hurt us. No longer do we suffer the pain of a low self-esteem or the confusion of not knowing who we are and why we are here. The placing of our faith on the hook of Salvation grounds us and keeps us as we walk through life. To hang our faith on the hook is to believe the truth of the scripture with our whole heart.

Here's another hook that will bring you a clear perspective of life and keep you focused on the things that really matter. *"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."* **Matthew 4:4**

There are many voices out there that call to us, telling us what to think, what to do and how we should live life. The liberal minded speak loudly as to immoral practices and lifestyle. Others push a political correctness that is far from the truth of God's calling. Everybody we meet has an opinion as to what to wear, do or think. However, Jesus put it into perspective for us when He said we were to live by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.

God's Word clarifies and delineates. It sorts through all the voices and lights up those that speak the truth. We can hook our faith on God's Word, knowing that it will bring peace of mind, clarity of purpose and focus to our thoughts.

To live by the word is to hold up every thought, every voice, and every so-called truth to what the Word says to see how they fare. If they are not in line with the Word, they are false and can immediately be discarded as error, lies and deception. Thus we walk in the Spirit from Bible truth to Bible truth.

Using God's Word as a clarifying force, we can quickly identify many of the deceptions that other folks have fallen into. All we have to do is say, "What does God's Word say on the subject?" Then look for what has been said. This is what Jesus did in Matthew 4:4. He said, **"It is written"**. He had to have asked himself, what has been said before about this matter. He had already hidden the Word in His heart and could easily find it again when it was needed.

Now let's apply this simple process of holding everything in light of what God has already said on the matter to a few popular beliefs floating in our society today. What does God's Word say?

Reincarnation... *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"* **Hebrews 9:27** **Once To Die but never over and over again.**

Same Sex Marriage...The Bible clearly condemns homosexuality as a sin and Christians who seriously follow God's Word must also condemn it as sin. Consider these words:

1. **Lev. 1:22**, *"You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination."*
2. **Lev. 20:23**, *"If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them."*
3. **I Cor. 6: 9-10**, *"Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God."*
4. **Romans 1:26-28**, *"For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. 28And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper."* [Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry](#)

Sex Before Marriage... *Fornicators shall not inherit the kingdom of God.* **I Corinthians 6:9** This term refers to those who engage in sexual activity, which God has declared sinful. He has not declared all sexual activity to be wrong. In fact, He condones and even encourages lawful sexual activity according to His design and purpose (**I CORINTHIANS 7:2-4; HEBREWS 13:4**). Fornication refers to sexual activity outside of the marriage relationship between a man and a woman. It would include premarital as well as extramarital sexual relationships of whatever duration

from a one-night stand to an ongoing affair. Such activity was rampant in first century Corinth. It is rampant today in our own society. But it matters not how commonly it is practiced, it is still unrighteous and it will keep one from entering heaven. [Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry](#)

Abortion ... There are numerous teachings in Scripture that make it abundantly clear what God's view of abortion is. **Jeremiah 1:5** tells us that God knows us before He forms us in the womb. **Psalms 139:13-16** speaks of God's active role in our creation and formation in the womb. **Exodus 21:22-25** prescribes the same penalty—death—for someone who causes the death of a baby in the womb as for someone who commits murder. This clearly indicates that God considers a baby in the womb to be as human as a full-grown adult. For the Christian, abortion is not a matter of a woman's right to choose. It is a matter of the life or death of a human being made in God's image (**Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6**).

Pornography... Even though the Bible does not say anything about pornography, it is still wrong. Pornography deals with photography and/or illicit paintings and/or cartoons that are designed to arouse sexual passions in the viewer. It is certainly possible that at the time when the Bible was written that there were various art forms that depicted sexually explicit things. But apparently this phenomenon was not sufficiently prevalent enough for the subject to be addressed in the Bible. Nevertheless, we can derive an accurate conclusion from Scriptures that deal with other issues and apply them to the issue of pornography.

Matthew 5:27-28, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."

I Cor. 6:18, "Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body."

Col 3:5, "Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry."

As you can see, the Bible tells us to be sexually pure. This is why Jesus even tells us to guard our minds. Note that He said in **Matthew 5:28** that to even look on a woman lustfully is to commit adultery with her. In viewing pornography, nakedness, and explicit sexual displays, lust is not only given the opportunity to rise but also most often lustful passions and thoughts are triggered in the heart and mind. This is obviously sinful and clearly demonstrates that pornography is sinful. Add to this that oftentimes pornography involves viewing sexual intercourse between unmarried people and/or homosexual and lesbian activities and we have a very clear case of it being sinful. Even if the pornography does not involve viewing sexual intercourse between two people, it involves the viewing of naked individuals which is properly reserved for a husband and a wife.

Now someone may ask "What about art? It often portrays the nakedness of men and women? Why isn't that pornographic?" The difference between art and pornography is the difference between beauty and lust. In art, the nakedness is intended to be a display of beauty and wonder. Pornography does no such thing. Its intent is to entice a person by arousing the person's lust. But then, someone may say that they view pornography as an art form and that it is beautiful. But this is nothing more than an attempt to justify sin. [Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry](#)

Prostitution... **Lev. 19:29** "Do not profane your daughter by making her a harlot, so that the land will not fall to harlotry and the land become full of lewdness."

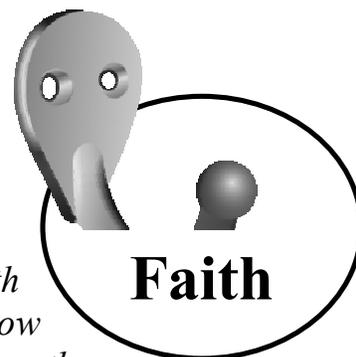
Deuteronomy 23:17-18 "None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, nor shall any of the sons of Israel be a cult prostitute." "You shall not bring the hire of a harlot or the wages of a dog into the house of the LORD your God for any votive offering, for both of these are an abomination to the LORD your God."

Rape, Murder, Burglary, Adultery and Violence of any kind...are all included in immorality, which is not of God. The Bible is full of scripture passages that condemn them and declare their punishment in the final Day of God's judgment. It's not ok to cheat on your spouse, steal from your workplace, take a human life, violate a woman sexually, or participate in any form of violent behavior. Those who do will face God's wrath one day and it won't be pretty.

All these things, when held up to the light of the scriptures, are clearly wrong and definitely not God's will for His children. Once we see that, we can stand in opposition to them and avoid the snare of the devil that has captured so many of our fellow believers.

Another hook to hang your faith on is Acts 4:12, the "One Way" theological truth. *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* **Acts 4:12**

Jesus said, as recorded in the gospel of John, *"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* **John 14:6**



We know that the way to heaven is through Jesus and only Him. There is no path through being a good person or by believing in the church doctrines that promote religion as a way to salvation.

Jesus is the only way to God, the Father. Our destiny, hope of eternal life and very existence is in Him. To believe otherwise is error. Knowing this truth puts us in touch with God and full access to His grace and blessings. When we believe in Him as the only begotten Son of God that was sent as God's spotless lamb to be sacrificed on Calvary's cross for our sin, we find peace with God and realize the abundant life that Jesus promised. (**John 3:16, John 14:6 & John 10:10**)

It is hard for most folks that are not "Born Again" to understand why there is just one way to God, yet it is true. There is only one way and that is through Jesus Christ. The Bible is our source to prove that the one-way doctrine is valid. **Acts 4:12** is a clear teaching of this doctrine. **NO Other Name**

All the world religions cannot save us. Joining a church or specific faith cannot save us. It must be an acknowledgment of our sin, our cry before the throne of God for forgiveness, and our invitation for Jesus to come into our hearts and save us. His name is the only one that can get us through death into eternal life.

Here are a few scriptures that support the only “One-Way” doctrine.

1. There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. **(I Timothy 2:5-6)**
2. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved... **(Acts 16:31)**
3. That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, THOU SHALT BE SAVED. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **(Romans 10:9-10)**

The skeptic would say, ”You mean to tell me that all the religions of the world are wrong and only Christianity is the one true religion?” Remember, Christianity is not a religion. It is a relationship born out of love between man and the one true and living God. There is no one true religion. Religion, in itself, will not get us to God. It is the blood of Christ that unlocks the door and our confession of faith in Jesus that makes it all happen. **(John 14:6)**

Why is Jesus the only way to God? He is the only way because God planned it that way. He set the penalty for sin, which was death. The soul that sinneth, it shall die.**(Ezekiel 18:20)** In fact, Jesus was the slain lamb of God before the foundation of the world. **(Ephesians 1:3-7)**

Christianity states that the God of the Bible is the only true God and salvation is only possible by accepting Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son as Savior and Lord. **II Corinthians 5:21** says, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

God validated His Son as the only way in multiple ways so we can be assured that Jesus was indeed the only way to Him. Here are some to consider.

1. He claimed to be the only way as in **John's record 14:6** says but validation came through miracles that proved He was who He claimed to be.
2. Eyewitnesses saw Jesus' miracles and validated them as authentic. Over 500 followers saw Jesus, after His resurrection, and watched Him ascend into heaven.
3. The prophets foretold of His coming, where He would be born, that He would be God in human flesh and lots more...all prophetic statements were realized in Jesus, even those like in Isaiah chapter 53 that were uttered hundreds of years before Jesus came.
4. God Himself validated Jesus as His sole pathway to Him. "While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him!"(**Mathew 17:5**)
5. The Apostles lost their homes, wealth, and even their lives preaching the gospel. Would they do that if it were a lie? I don't think so. They testified to the truth and were willing to die for it if necessary. (See Foxes Book of Martyrs)
6. Thousands of Believers, over several centuries have testified of how Jesus helped them and blessed them.
7. I can personally testify that I have seen the hand of the Lord in my life and communicate with Him daily. I know He is the Christ.

The provability that one man could fulfill all prophecies about a Messiah that God Himself said would come, (**Gen.3: 15**), and perform fantastic miracles while here on earth, and be raised from the dead, and ascend into heaven while hundreds looked on is astronomical. But Jesus did just that...fulfilled everything that was foretold about the coming Messiah. He had to be who He said He was and therefore is truly the only way to God.

Now that you know all this, you can draw strength from the truth and believe in Him. It's time to hook your faith on Jesus.

Another Hook Is Romans 8:16-17... “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.”

The central truth of **Romans 8:16** is that God’s Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. We don’t have to wonder if we are saved or if there is a God or feel like we are all alone in this world.

As we seek the Lord, pray to the Father and ask for guidance, it is the Spirit that communicates with us, telling us what to do, when to do it and how to act. He actually teaches our hands to war against evil forces. Over a period of time ***we will develop a history*** of things that the Spirit has done in our lives. It is this history that becomes a hook for us to hang our faith on.

I can go back in my Christian experience with God, now more than 55 years, and see the hand of the Lord in action on my behalf. It is the Spirit that moves the hand of the Lord in my favor. If He was there then, there is no reason why He will not show up now, when I need Him again. Jesus said, I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” **John 14:18** “*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*” **John 14:26**

It is important to listen for the voice of the Spirit. He will confirm your birthright, destiny and resting place. He will walk beside you through every trial and heartache providing wisdom, peace, deliverance, and any other emotional or physical necessity.

Knowing that we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ is a powerful position to be in. It is worth all the suffering we may encounter as we serve the Lord. This perspective gives us automatic victory over fear, doubt, worry, and the fiery darts of the devil.

Another Hook Is Romans 8:28, “*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*”

Here is a hook that is sure to work every time. It is, however, predicated on two things: 1.) You must love God. 2.) You must be in the “Them” crowd who are called according to His purposes.

All, "Born Again" folks are in the, "Them" crowd. They make up the church. They are the "Whosoever" of **John 3:16** that believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

All, "Born Again" believers love God. We actually worship Him and adore Him because He first loved us and gave His only Son as a ransom for our souls.

So, do you qualify? If you do, you can rest assured that all things will work together for your good. It may seem like they don't but you do not see the overall picture as God does. He knows the beginning from the end and how to operate around man's free will to cause everything to work out in accordance to His will and in our favor.

We have a clear perspective in **Romans 8:28**. There can be no doubt. What we now are experiencing, good or bad, will ultimately work together for our good. Thus we can rest when we go through trials and experience tragedies and suffer loss. God is for us and is actively engaged in keeping us in His will and on the right path to Glory.

Hang your faith on this hook and you will find peace of mind, hope, a positive outlook on life and a deeper relationship with your Savior. I use a phrase when things happen. It reminds me of Romans 8:28 and that I should hook my faith upon it. The phrase is *"There's a reason for that"*

Conclusion

I have taken just a few of the bible verses that are special to me to show you how the scriptures can be hooks to hang your faith on. There are many more promises, biblical truths and treasures to be found in God's Holy Word. It's now up to you to search them out and make them a hook for your faith. I would suggest you read my other eBook, ["The Believer's Handbook of Battle Strategies"](#). There are many more bible verses that can also be hooks for the activation of your faith.

Remember, the times in which we live are full of terrorist attacks, fiery darts from the devil, critical judgments of us by others for being conservative, and attitudes of hate from the children of darkness. We must stand in faith, walk by faith and live in faith to overcome. Knowing the scriptures and believing them with all our hearts can easily accomplish all of this and more.

May the Lord bless you as you exercise your faith by believing God's Word. It was especially written for you so you can make it through these days.