

# Formulas That Work

Script - Heb. 4:12-13

Intro - Sometimes it's hard to find formulas that work so we can experience more of God's blessings in our lives.

1. (i.e. Tom wanting God to prove He was there by grabbing his hand. Sometimes it is hard to believe and trust).
  2. Article about Albert Einstein's formula  $e=mc^2$  validated 103 years later.
  3. Math formulas (area of a square is  $S^2 = A$ . Rectangle is  $L \times W = A$ ).
  4. Biblical formulas
    - a. Gen. 3:22-24 Human + Tree of life = eternal life.
    - b. Eph. 2:8-9 Faith in Jesus = Eternal life
    - c. Jn. 1:14 Faith in Bible = Eternal life
  5. Does the Bible have a formula, that actually works, for having the power of God in your life?
- A. Jacob's agreement with Laban (Gen. 30:25- 43). Background and history (Gen. 29, 30, and 31).
1. Jacob works for Rachael for 7 years (Gen. 29:18).
  2. Laban tricks Jacob and gives him Leah instead of Rachael and then requires Jacob to work another 7 years (Gen. 29:21-26).
  3. Laban changed Jacob's wages 10 times (Gen. 31:7).
  4. Jacob wanted to leave after Rachael bore Joseph; but Laban asked him to stay on and told Jacob to name his wages (Gen. 31:25-28).
  3. Jacob receives a vision from God about his pay being speckled sheep (Gen. 31:10-13) and tells Jacob he knows about the unfair situation with Laban (Gen. 31:12).
  4. The details of Jacob's plan (Gen. 30:37-43).
- B. Is this method scientific or just folklore and nonsense?
1. This website says there is some current research that says it was scientific.

<https://answersingenesis.org/genetics/animal-genetics/jacobs-odd-breeding-program-genesis-30/>

2. Does it matter if it is scientific or not?
  - a. If it is not scientific then what does that say about the Bible? Some say it brings discredit to the Bible.
  - b. If it is scientific then does that say about the Bible? Some would say that once again it proves the Bible as a source of scientific fact.
3. Are all the stories of the Bible valid only if we can understand how God accomplishes things? Is that part of our formula or just something holding us back from receiving the abundant blessings and miracles that God has for us? (Jer. 32:17; Lk. 1:37; Gen. 18:14; Rom. 4:16-25; Mt. 19:26; Heb. 11:6).
4. Faith has to be a part of our formula to have miracles in our life. Some people seem to float along the river of blessings, recounting miracle after miracle that has touched their lives, while other believers struggle just to get by, looking for something better, while plagued with fear and doubt.
5. There are other stories that are hard to believe? With what might be non scientific details.
  - a. Joshua's long day (Joshua 10:12-14).
  - b. The parting of the Red Sea (Ex. ?).
  - c. The 3 boys in the fiery furnace (Dan. 3).
  - d. Dan. in the lion's den (Dan. 6).

- e. The shadow going backwards on the sundial 10 degrees (Isa. 38:8).
- f. The talking donkey (Numb. 22).
- e. Etc., etc., etc. The Bible is full of unbelievable stories. That's part of its charm, and inspiration, showing that all things are possible with God.

C. Summarizing the details of the story of Jacob's wages (Gen. 29, 30, and 31).

1. Laban cheats Jacob for years in many ways.
  - a. By giving him Leah instead of Rachael.
  - b. By requiring him to work an additional 7 years.
  - c. By changing his wages 10 times.
2. We live in a world infected by sin and that means sometimes we will experience pain and suffering. Like now with the Corona virus. Sometimes bad things happen to good people! That doesn't mean that God doesn't love you or that you have done something wrong to deserve what is happening (Jn. 9:1-3; 1 Pet. 5:7; Heb. 13:5; Mt. 28:20).
3. God was aware that Laban was cheating Jacob (Heb. 4:13; Mk. 4:22; 1 Cor. 4:5; Gen. 4:10).
4. Jacob has faith in his God to protect him and provide for him (Gen. 31:4-9; 41-42).
5. Jacob follows what God told him to do. He takes action and doesn't doubt (Mk. 11:22-24; James 1:5-8).
6. God's formula for having His power in your life and seeing more miracles is...  
Faith - doubt + following what God says to do = miracles in your life Ps. 34:8).