

Claiming Promised Spiritual Rewards

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The Bible instructs and it is also a privilege for a believer in Christ to claim our promised spiritual rewards in this life. The spiritual blessings, rewards, and gifts that God's Word promises to give us, is an Atonement right to claim and enjoy. God communicates to us through His Word which teaches us to pray, so we should communicate with Him through our prayers made in His Name.

It is from God's Word that we learn what He promises and He provides. (Rev.3:20) "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." We need His spiritual counsel so He can open our spiritual eyes to see all that He has for us and wants to give us (Rev.3:18). "Therefore I counsel you to buy of Me gold refined in the fire that you may become rich(in faith and otherwise), and white robes to put on, so as to hide your shameful nakedness, and eye-salve to anoint your eyes with, so that you may be able to see", (the spiritual side of every issue).

When we are enabled to understand what spiritual rewards we can claim, God will give us confidence to ask Him for them in faith. (Romans 10:17) "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (and having been spoken by Jesus Christ). Our knowing the meaning of God's Word, will inspire faith in God's power. When we know that something is definitely true because (for instance) a trusted friend told us so, it enables us to accept that as a fact.

All spiritual enlightenment, and all faith and confidence are to come from understanding what the Word of God says, since all real 'faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.'" (Rom.10:17). Divine deliverance *apart* from the Word cannot be received, instead, it is always *through* the Word of God, and more importantly it carries spiritual blessing with it. Satan wants to get us away from the Word, however, so that he can hinder the victory and our spiritual blessing.

The Word informs us about what God has for us, and of the great spiritual blessings He offers to us for walking in His ways. For every right act we *do*, there is a spiritual reward to be *given* and received, but we will only receive those rewards as we claim them through faith.

(1 John 5:14-15) "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

Once we have asked God for something, whether it be healing, finances, protection, divine guidance, or anything else, we are then to believe we have received, which puts the Word and power of God into action. We are to ask in faith and take God at His *Word*, and then act on the promise that He gave us. His power operates like a good piece of machinery; and He completes the job unto perfection.

In a similar process the promises of God come to us through following His Word, so we ask God in faith and His divine power is put into motion. The Bible tells us (1 John 5:14) "If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us", so, then we should *know* that we have the answer. **God's promise is given to us in His Word which says that He hears when we ask in faith; so, we accept that promise, and believe the answer is waiting to be given and picked up or delivered to us free of charge.**

The Word of God tells about the spiritual rewards that result from walking by faith on the promises of God. They cannot be received, however, until we believe them to be true, and claim them in faith. When we know the Word of God has stated something, then we are to be definite in claiming that promise from God's Word.

(John 10:35) "Scripture cannot be broken," so that obligates God to do certain things, when we meet His certain conditions. What God has *promised* He will *fulfill* because He cannot say anything that is not true. Even eternal life, "which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began" (Titus 1:2), is ours to claim, receive, and enjoy-forever and ever.

As wonderful in love, and as awesome in power that God is, David wrote Psalm 138:2 "You have magnified Your word above all Your name." God places His Word *above* His Name. So that Abraham would be absolutely sure that he would receive his promised blessings, God told him (Genesis 22:16-17), "By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee." (The Word of God can never be broken.)

All the divine light; all the faith needed; all victories and blessings we can and will ever receive, will come from hearing and understanding the promises of the Word. That is the very reason Satan works so hard to get us to move away from the Word of God, or for us to distort the meaning of His Word, because he wants to destroy our faith so that we cannot make further spiritual progress in a life in the Truth of God. There is no other true righteousness apart from God's Word, and godliness is living according to the Word, as God gives us the ability to be godly through the gift of His Holy Spirit.

God intends for us to receive spiritual rewards for whatever things we do according to the Scriptures, which would mean that it was done according to the will of God, for that is revealed for us in the

Word of God. (Ephes.6:8) "You know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free."

We have a Scriptural right to claim God's promised peace in the present moment (and as needed). A believer has a responsibility to claim that promise, knowing that the Word of God has guaranteed it. Isaiah 53:4-5 "Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (That is quite a promise for us to take to heart and claim by faith on that Word of God !)

The moment we are troubled, upset, or afflicted by the devil, we should go directly to God and claim our peace and the victory that is ours according to that promise of God. (vs 6) "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Since all of our sins, sorrows, infirmities, and troubles were taken away by Christ on the Cross, we have atonement right to claim our victory in Jesus Name.

If we will believe on these verses of Scripture, and claim the rewards which they promise, we will enjoy God's promised healing, righteousness, and peace. (Matt.5:6) "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be completely satisfied. Blessed are the compassionate, for they shall receive compassion. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for it is they who will be recognized as sons of God."

If we ask God to enlighten us since He has promised wisdom and understanding for all who will ask of Him (James 1:5-6) "And if any one of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask God for it, who gives with open hand to all men, and without upbraiding; and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith and have no doubts; for he who has doubts is like the surge of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed into spray." So, God has promised us in His Word, and He can enable us to realize that 'everything is received through hearing the Word'; (as it was with Cornelius, who was told about Jesus by apostle Peter;) (Acts 10:39-40) that, "Whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day."

When Cornelius and those assembled there with him, heard that Word about Christ's Atonement for sin, the Holy Spirit was given to all who believed in faith. That is how valuable the Word is, when we will claim our reward from God. Faith comes from hearing, believing, and understanding the Word.

The young ruler (Mark 10:) could have claimed His divine inheritance, if he would only have been willing to give up (and get rid of) his stored money. For anyone who obeys the Word of God, God offers a great reward. The man was asked by God's Son to do just one more thing, to become a follower of Jesus, and to get him on the path

to Eternal Life, and that one thing was to transfer his surplus cash (which he no doubt was depending on), transfer it from an unsafe bank to a safe bank (in Heaven), (vs 21) "Then Jesus looked at him and loved him, and said, "One thing is lacking in you: go, sell all you possess and give the proceeds to the poor, and you shall have riches in Heaven; and come and be a follower of mine." (But the young man was not in a spiritual position to see the truth of the Word of God).

Following that, the disciples asked Jesus what their reward would be if they followed Him in faith. Jesus answered (Mark 10:29-30) "Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren" [everyone dear to them and everything valuable to them], "for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time [everything given up for His sake] with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

We also may have to make some big changes in our life, 'break off some unscriptural relationship (romantic or otherwise); give away stored up cash; or get rid of our treasured possessions (anything that we could or may be coveting or depending on). However, whatever is forsaken for us to obey the Word of God, we are instructed to present a definite claim before God for a hundredfold reward. If a worldly companion is given up in order to obey God's Word, He promises someone in the Truth to take their place (and a many times better companion). We have a scriptural right to claim the promised reward.

If our employer wants us to do something against the Word of God, we are to refuse to do so, but to obey God instead. If we are asked to tell a lie, cheat, or defraud someone, we must give up that job rather than disobey the Word. Whatever is given up for the kingdom of God's sake (even if it seems to go against the grain), we are to claim something better as our promised reward from God.

Anything we lose to obey God's Word, we are promised in return, more and better than we gave up. The Word says to us (Luke 6:30) "To every one who asks, give; and from him who takes away your property, do not demand it back." If we will meet these things right, we are promised one hundred times as much in return, but we first have to give, before we can receive.

Every command in God's Word is as important as the next. God says Luke 6:28-29 "Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic." Those commands given us by Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount, are as important as His Father's commands (Exodus 20:14-15) "Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal." (and the rest of those commands). **We may often try to get around, over, or under or past the Word of God, but the Scriptures will confront us every time. We will have to either obey God's Word or remove the "Christian" label that we want to carry upon us.**

The Word is clear in saying that if we will give up a worldly companion, or give up one dollar of our money for the kingdom of God's sake, we can claim the reward of a friend who is a hundred times better, or a hundred dollars for the one given to obey the Word (for Jesus told us "to him who asks, give; and from him who would borrow, turn not away." We must claim our reward as God's Word teaches, and God will give that reward. Any-thing or every-thing that we may covet, or anyone outside of God's will and Word for us, is worth losing for the sake of gaining our eternal life.

If we will tithe 10% on our gains, God promises 100% financial blessings poured out to us, and to such an extent that we will have to share it with others (not lay it up to be depended on when it may be needed, as with the rich young man who did not want to give up his treasures on earth). God says this is what we are to do to prove it for ourselves (Malachi 3:10) "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That *there* will not be room enough to receive it."

Tithing is not just a command under the law of Moses, because Abraham who tithed, is given for us as the Gospel example. (Gal.3:9) "So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham."

Any money given to the poor, includes a wonderful promise from God. To increase our income, the Bible teaches that we should increase our donations. (Prov.19:17) "He who is kind to the poor, lends to the LORD, and He will reward him for what he has done."

When we give to the poor, we could think of it as like God coming down from Heaven and asking us to loan Him some money, then He would pay it back with interest. When we are Scriptural with our finances, we can claim and receive more money than we need. (2 Cor.9:6) "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

All the money that has been gained by the covetous and greedy persons of the world, via overcharging, profiteering, and taking advantage of people, (is all known by God and will bring His spiritual anger against them in the end).

(James 5:1-9) "Come, you rich men, weep aloud and howl for your sorrows which will soon be upon you. Your treasures have rotted, and your piles of clothing are moth-eaten; your gold and your silver have become covered with rust, and the rust on them will give evidence against you, and will eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded up wealth in these last days. I tell you that the pay of the laborers who have gathered in your crops, (pay which you are keeping back) is calling out against you; and the outcries of those who have been your reapers have entered into the ears of the Lord of the armies of Heaven. Here on earth you have lived self-indulgent and profligate

