

# Faith and the Promises



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We have a passage of scripture in the 34<sup>th</sup> Psalm which is a great inspiration of faith when David was comforted when in great trouble and distress.

Psalm 34:4-6, *“I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.”*

Couple this up with what Peter said in the book of The Acts of the Apostles, that God is no respecter of persons and Malachi 3:6 which tells us that *“I am the Lord, I change not.”* What God did for David, He is well able and willing to do for us today. We can just as well get down on our knees and pray to be delivered from all our troubles, just as David did.

As we read about the deliverances, the ways of escape that God made; and that He is no respecter of persons, that Jesus Christ has not changed, that He is the same yesterday, today and forever; immediately we can couple that up and come to the conclusion that if God has not changed, we can certainly receive the deliverances, and we can have the same inspirations of faith to receive the deliverances as they did.

Satan does all he can to keep us away from the Word, he knows that if he can keep us away from the Word, he can succeed in robbing us through our ignorance. He will suggest to our mind when oppressed and not getting our prayers answered that the Lord is holding back our deliverance to teach us some great lesson.

That is only putting human experience ahead of God’s Word.

The Word of God says that He is always able, willing, and ready to heal us, and will do so when we meet His easy conditions. If we would only give God even the slightest chance, He will give the needed victory. If we don’t receive our victory, there is something seriously wrong spiritually and a need of real repentance.

With such a loving God, who provided such a great Atonement; and with that great provision, and with the manner in which it reveals the possibility of our deliverances, it places the responsibility fully upon us—never upon God—and no one can ever need the slightest human help with such a Truth, if they desire to be scriptural.

The late Pastor said he was speaking to someone who didn’t see anything wrong with taking something as innocent looking as mint flavored hot water for a slight oppression they were going through. He explained to them that if they could not trust God for the minor oppressions, how could they ever trust Him for the healing of a serious oppression? Just imagine trying to trust God for a long-standing oppression, and when we have a minor attack, we think it no harm whatever to take human remedies.

Luke 16:10, *“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.”*

As we dwell on these promises of God, they are the most direct way of receiving deliverances of every kind, they have all been bought and paid for at the Cross and we receive them all through the promises, or the Word of God.

It is written in Psalm 107:17, *“Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted.”* God has then made a provision in verse 20, *“He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”*

That is directly opposite to the human plan of receiving anything. The human plan is always by sight and feeling; God’s way is through the Word alone. He sent His Word and healed them.

Peter gives us a little light on this in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:23, *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”*

This Word should be as real and emphatic to us, as if God stood in front of us and spoke it to us. When we get that hold on the Word, and realize that it is directed to us, that it has been written especially for us, and He is speaking directly to us as if He were standing in front of us and speaking to us with His own lips; of course, we would then accept it as full of life and power, which it is.

These promises point us directly to God. There is not one promise, either in the Gospels or Epistles, and there are over a hundred in the New Testament, which does not point us directly to God for all our help. They shut out all human help and do not allow the slightest dependence upon anyone or anything but God.

This Bible does not allow us to even use a cup of water for any relief. The principle of truth involved here is that it is as much idolatry to place our trust in any man-made idol the world may set up for worship. The question involved is whether we are to place our faith and confidence in the wisdom of God or in man, and this is fully explained in the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5, *“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”*

These promises point us directly and only to God, they shut us up with God, just as fully and completely as Israel was shut up with God, when they left Egypt and crossed over the Red Sea. These promises take us into what we might call a desert experience as far as human help is concerned; a desert where only God lives as far as our help is concerned.

The second general characteristic, which is of great importance, is that they all have “YES” at the end of them and on the face of them. It is of great importance whether we accept these promises at their face value, whether we will receive our victory or not. If we pray apart from the promises, our prayer is bound to be unanswered.

Some people may pray, “I want this deliverance, I hope I get it, I am doing the best I know how to receive it.” That is not the attitude to take, we are to be positively sure we are going to receive that answer to prayer. We are to settle it as a positive fact, before we pray, that our prayer is already heard and answered, because the promise has “YES” on the end of it.

James 1:5-6, *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”*

This means that we are to have no doubt about it, to be positively sure that when we get up after prayer, that prayer is heard and answered. The Blood of Jesus Christ gives us that privilege.

Hebrews 10:19-22, *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.”*

If you went to the store to buy some items, you would not beg the storekeeper to sell you the items, he is there for that purpose. If you have the money, you can go into that store and pick up anything you desire, give them the money, and freely walk home with the goods. Why? Because everything is planned that way, you have the money to pay for the goods and that man is in business to sell just what you are desirous to have.

That is just the same at God’s store; everything that God has is ours. It is already paid for; we do not have to buy it. All we do is ask for the goods, take them up in our arms, and go home. The price has been paid, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:18-19, *“Not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold.... But with the precious Blood of Christ; as a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

We need to let these promises and what they say sink deep into our mind and heart, trust God to get a real hold on them, as they are so simple that anyone can understand them.

2 Corinthians 1:20, *“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen.”*

That is what God says about them. Your prayer is answered because the promise has “YES” at the end of

them. Whatever we ask for, God says, “Let it be so, even as you want.” That is what “Amen” means—“Yes, so let it be.” We have a statement from God Himself every time we pray, “Yea, so let it be.” We do not need to wait to see and feel that we have received our deliverance or have the answer to prayer. We can get off our knees and say, “I know my prayer is answered, I have the deliverance.”

From the moment we pray, these promises say our goods are on the way, He is at the very door knocking for you to come and take the goods in. If you will answer the knock, you will receive the goods.

Revelation 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.”*

The Word of God is our inspiration of faith. If we are in trouble or difficulty and cannot get our deliverance, if we go before God with a promise, and pray as it directs, God would be delighted to accept that promise and grant the deliverance.

We have a promise, which is very familiar to us, and yet at times we do not understand the full meaning of it. It is found in John 16:23-24, *“And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”*

There are many who have wished that Jesus Christ was here on earth, so they could go to Him in person and ask Him for the wisdom and the spiritual light they need; for the forgiveness of their sins and have Him tell them with His own lips that they have received just what they have asked for. They would like to ask Him in person for the cleansing of their heart and for Him to breathe upon them for them to receive the Holy Spirit.

How delightful it would be to meet with Jesus Christ as He was, here in the flesh; to go about with Him, as people did at that time. Yes, it would have been great, but; we have a far greater privilege than anyone of those who were on earth facing Jesus Christ in person. And why? It takes far more faith to believe a spoken Word than it does to believe God’s written Word.

Even the religious leaders of that day, who studied the scrolls that tell of the Messiah, heard Jesus speaking

day after day and yet said that Jesus Christ was not who He professed to be. They called Him names, cast stones at Him and chased Him out of the Synagogue. They would not believe that He was the Son of God.

People may say what they please, but we know that we have a Word which is Divine; we know that it is God’s Word, written in black and white, which points us to God alone; and best of all, we know that it cannot be changed or broken. It is the surest foundation for faith in the universe. Jesus gave us that promise to be used throughout the entire gospel age, which was to be used in place of His personal presence; for He said, “And in that day, ye shall ask me nothing.”

He meant that we would be denied the privilege of speaking to Him in the flesh; we would not be able to ask Him any question or ask Him to answer our prayers. In other words, He said, “After my crucifixion and resurrection and ascension, you will not be able to approach Me as you have in the past; but there is a wonderful provision made.”

John 16:23, *“And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.”*

Whatever we would ask the Father in Jesus’ Name, during the Gospel Age, He will give it to us.

(Verse 24) *“Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”*

Jesus made this promise to those who had surrendered their lives to God. They are the ones who can successfully, persistently, and continually use this promise; because if we are not surrendered to God, we are not able to believe or act it out. After we have confessed and forsaken our sins and surrendered our lives to God, then the promise tells us, *“Ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”*



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