

# God's Word Assures

# Spiritual Rewards

# From Him

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The Scriptures written for us in God's Word, assure us spiritual blessings and rewards as God promises to give true believers, and we have an Atonement privilege to claim them in faith on that Word to be received into our mind and heart. God communicates to us through His Word, so we must communicate with Him through our prayers made in faith to receive His Promises. We can learn from the Word of God, just what He has provided. (Reve.3:20) "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." We need that counsel of God, so He can open our spiritual eyes and enable us to see what He has promised and assures that He wants to give us (Reve.3:18-19) "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent."

When we understand what spiritual rewards are available for us to claim and to have, God will give us the confidence to claim them by faith, because it is written (Rom.10:17) "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." For one to know the meaning of God's Word, inspires one with faith in God's power. Knowing that something is definitely true (because it was heard from a trusted source), will enable us to accept that as a fact.

All spiritual enlightenment and faith and confidence needed, will come from understanding what the Word of God says (as Rom.10:17) tells us that "faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." We cannot receive our deliverance apart from the Word of God, but it always comes through the Word. Satan wants to get us away from the Word, so he can hinder us from receiving our victory.

However, the Word of God informs us about what He has for us, also of the great spiritual blessings and rewards that He offers for our 'walking in His ways'. For all that we do in God's Way, there is a 'spiritual reward' awaiting to be given us, but we must claim them in faith to receive just as we are to claim all other things in (and by) faith on God's Promises, or we will not receive those rewards. (1 John 5:14-15) "This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He

hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked [desired] of Him."

Once we have asked God for anything (whether it be healing, money, protection, or guidance), we are to just believe to put the 'works of God Word' into action. It means that we are to ask in faith, take God at His Word, and act on the promise that He gave us.

To receive of the promises of God, we need to give our consent to receive them from Him (as we do when we ask God in faith), then His divine power is put into motion for us. (1 John 5:14) "If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us *"must believe know that we have the answer)* because God's promise is the Word that says He hears when we ask in faith; therefore, we accept that promise, and we then must believe the answer is waiting to be picked up, delivered and received.

The Word of God tells of the many blessings and rewards that will result from 'walking by faith' on His promises for us, but until we believe them to be true, they cannot be received until we claim them in faith. When the Word of God has stated something for us, then we believe that and claim it as a fulfillment of God's Word.

(John 10:35 reminds all of us), that *"Scripture cannot be broken,"* so that means that God is obligated to do things for us, if we will meet certain conditions by faith. What God has promised, He must fulfill, because He cannot say anything that is not true. Even 'eternal life' (says Titus 1:2) *"which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began."* So Eternal Life is ours to claim, receive, and enjoy forever and ever.

As wonderful as God is in love and awesome in power, David wrote (Psalm 138:2) *"You have magnified Your Word above all Your name."* God places His Word above His Name. In order for Abraham to be absolutely sure that he would receive his blessings, God said (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; all victories and blessings that we will ever receive, will come from hearing and understanding some Promise in God's Word. It is the very reason Satan works so hard to get us away from 'the Word' (he wants to destroy our faith). There is no righteousness apart from God's Word, and 'living according to the Word' is godliness, as God gives a Believer the ability (through the gift of His Holy Spirit) to live according to the Word.

We are to receive 'spiritual rewards' for whatever we do in a Scriptural way (done according to the will of God), which is revealed 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 (and privilege) to claim 'peace' in the present moment (concerning any thing or situation). The Word of God guarantees 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."*

The moment we are troubled, upset, or oppressed, we should go directly to God and claim our victory. (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 and sorrows, diseases, difficulties, and troubles, were away taken by Jesus on the cross, we have a right to claim our victory in Jesus.

If we will believe these verses of Scripture, and claim the rewards they promise for us, we will enjoy righteousness, peace, and deliverance. Everything is received through hearing and believing the Word; as it was with Cornelius, who was told about Jesus; (Acts 10:39-40) "whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly."

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

The young rich man could have claimed his divine inheritance, if he would be willing to give up his laid-up stored money. To anyone who obeys God's Word, God offers a great reward. The man was just asked to transfer his surplus cash from an unsafe bank on earth, to a safe bank in Heaven, but he (being an unbeliever) was not in a 'spiritual position' "to see and understand the truth of the Word of God." We are told repeatedly in Scripture that the Holy Spirit is sent for obedient Believers. (John 14: 17,21) "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." And (John 12:46) "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness." Thus, we are promised in God's Word that a true 'believer' will be enabled 'to see and understand the truth of the Word of God.' (How valuable that is to have the Spirit of Jesus manifested in us!)

Following Jesus' conversation (with the rich young man), the disciples asked Jesus what their reward would be if they followed Him in faith? Jesus replied (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 may have to make some big changes [breaking off some unscriptural relationship (romantic or otherwise); giving up stored cash; or getting rid of treasured possessions.] Whatever is forsaken to obey the Word, we need to make a definite claim for hundredfold reward. If a worldly companion is given up to obey God's Word, He promises someone in the Truth a hundred times better. We have a Scriptural right and privilege to claim the promised reward.

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

Anything we lose to obey the Word, we are promised in return (more and better than we lost or gave up). The Word of God instructs 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 in return (but we first have to give, before we can receive.)

Every command given us in the Word of God, is as important as the other. God's Word 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 through Jesus are just as important as God's commands (Exodus 20:14-15) "Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal." We may often try to get around, over, or under the Word, but the Scriptures will confront us every time we try. We will have to either obey God's Word, or (remove ourselves from the label of "Christian").

The Word is very 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 we gave to obey the Word of God. We must claim that reward, and then God will give it to us. Anything, everything, or anyone, is worth the loss for the sake of eternal life for ourselves and our family.

If we will tithe 10% on our gains, God promises to pour financial blessings on us to such an extent that it will be difficult to handle them. God told us that we are to do this to prove His Word (Malachi 3:10) "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 under the law, because Abraham tithed, and he is given for us as the Gospel example. (Gal.3:9) "So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham." Money given to the poor, includes a wonderful promise from God. To increase our income, we should increase our donations. (Proverbs 19:17) "He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done."

(In that sense, we could try to picture in our mind), that 'when we give to the poor, it is like God coming down from Heaven and asking us to loan Him some money (then He would pay it back with very much interest). When we are scriptural with the use of 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 unbelievers by overcharging, profiteering, and taking advantage of people, is waiting for believers to claim. (Proverbs 11:24) "One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty." (25) "The generous soul will be made rich." [ We have to first give it away, before claiming our spiritual rewards in faith to receive.

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**The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia**