

Promises of God

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As we dwell on these promises of God, they are the most direct way of receiving deliverances of every kind. All we receive is to come 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 made a provision then in verse 20--*"He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions."* The natural man does not like this plan, because it is just as opposite to man's way of receiving as is possible; spiritually, physically, and financially. Our own plan of receiving is 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 1st Peter 1:23--*"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."*

This Word should be as real and emphatic to us, as if God stood before us and spoke it. When we get that grasp of the Word, that it is direct to us, that it has been written expressly for us, and means the same as if He stood in front of us and spoke it with His own lips; of course, we will 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 this New Testament, that always point us 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.

We are not to go into debt under any circumstance. This Bible does not allow us to owe any man anything, but we are to trust in the living God alone. Romans 13:8, *"Owe no man anything."* 1st Timothy 6:17, *"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy."*

This Bible does not allow us to use even a cup of water for our health. The principle of truth involved here is that it is as much idolatry as worshipping an idol if you are depending on that water for your health. It is the same spiritually, physically, or financially; in fact, in everything. The question involved is whether we are to place our faith and confidence in the wisdom of God or man; which is fully explained in the Scriptures.

1st 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 out into what we might term 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, and one which is of the utmost importance, is that they all have "YES" at the end of them and on the face of them; hence, it is of the utmost importance whether you accept these promises at their face value, whether you are going to receive your deliverance or not. If you pray apart from these promises, your prayers are bound to be unanswered.

We are to be sure we are going to receive the answer to that prayer. We are to have it settled, an established fact, before we pray that our prayer is already answered, because the promise has "YES" to 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 we are to have no doubt about it, we are to be positive that as we get up, after prayer, that prayer is going to be 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, which 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."*

These promises have "YES" to the end of them. 2nd Corinthians 1:20, *"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen."* because the promise has "YES" at the end of it. That is what God says about them. Your prayer is answered, 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 royal decree from God Himself every time we pray, "Yea, so let it be." This being the case, we do not need to wait to see and feel that we have received the deliverance, or have the answer to prayer, we can get off our knees and say; "I know my prayer is answered, I know I have the deliverance."

God's Word says we have the answer, if we don't get what we have prayed for we cannot feel that 'maybe God has something else for me', That would be Satan's suggestions to the mind. He comes ever so softly, and we feel that it is our own thoughts. We did not make up our mind ahead of time to remain steadfast, and as a previous lesson brought out, that would be a 'wavering heart'.

These promises tell us everything we need to know, from the moment we pray, these promises say our goods have been shipped, they are on the way, 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 hears my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me."*

The Word of God is our inspiration of faith. We have two promises, which are very familiar to us, and yet, at times, we do not grasp the full meaning of them. The first 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 people who have wished that Jesus Christ was on earth, so that they might go to Him and ask Him for the wisdom, 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 asked for. They would like to ask Him in person for the cleansing of their heart and for Him to breathe upon them and they to receive the Holy Spirit.

We have a far better and greater privilege than anyone of those who were on earth facing Jesus Christ in person. It took a far greater stretch of faith to believe the Word He spoke than it does to believe His written Word, although some may not think so.

We know that we have a Word which is divine; we know it is God's Word and that it cannot be changed, it is God's Word which cannot be broken. These promises have a greater value than Satan's word. We have a Word in black and white, which points us to God alone; and best of all, it cannot be changed or broken. It is the surest foundation for faith in the universe. Jesus gave us a promise to be used throughout the entire Gospel Age, which was to take the place of His personal presence; for He said-- "And in that day, ye shall ask me nothing."

This means that we would be denied the privilege of speaking to Him in the flesh; we would not be able to ask Him any question, to ask Him to answer our prayers. He said: "After my crucifixion and resurrection and ascension, you will not be able to ask me anything in the flesh; you will not be able to approach me as you have in the past; but there is a wonderful provision made."

John 16:23, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."* Whatsoever we 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 assertion to people who had surrendered their lives to God. They are the only people who can successfully and persistently and continually use this promise; because if we are not surrendered to God, we are not able to believe or act it out, and Satan will overwhelm us with doubts and fears. After we have confessed and forsaken our sins and surrendered our lives and wills to God, then the promises tell us how to meet the various details of our life according to the Word and what the result will be.

Now our having the Holy Spirit does not cause God to answer our prayer, it only puts us in a position to receive the answer. It does not cause us to earn or merit the answer; neither does it cause God to give us the answer to our prayers. God has already given us everything we desire. The Holy Spirit just prepares us to open the door and let the answers in.

Another promise which couples up with the one in John 16:23,24, is found in Mark 11:22--"*Have faith in God.*" Most people believe that faith is a lump of something inside us. Not at all; it is simply a matter of choice, and it is without signs or feelings of any kind. Faith can only work through a written or spoken word. Someone tells a friend about something they have seen, or heard about, and as they hear the account, they see a mental picture of the whole occasion and immediately they believe it and it becomes a reality.

Hebrews 11:1, "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*"

After we have prayed according to the promise, we are to see ourselves delivered through the Word of God alone--that is faith. Faith accepts God's Word as a statement of plain commonsense facts, just as we would accept a fact from man. As we accept the Word of God in this way, it becomes a reality at once.

If we will place the Word of God between us and our condition, and are determined to hold it there, even though Satan may try to get us to take it out a hundred times a day; we will discover that God is on the scene and that He has done a real work of pardon and cleansing, that we have a real deliverance according to Mark 11:23,24.

Many people are fooled on this matter of faith. They often think that if they do not feel as if they have any faith, they do not have any at all. We have been given the power of choice to either believe God's Word, or we can choose to disbelieve it. All the trouble that ever came to this world, came through Adam choosing to doubt God and believe Satan. Then, all the blessings we will ever get from God, will be when we choose to believe Him and doubt Satan.

That eliminates a great deal of trouble in exercising real faith in God, when we are willing to listen to and follow out all the directions of God's Word, as given in the New Testament. Then the Holy Spirit can take full possession of us and will teach and train us, and also develop our faith in God.

It is altogether the choice of the will, whether we are going to believe God, who always tells the truth, or Satan who is the father of lies. God has proved His honesty and reliability beyond all shadow of doubt, also His willingness to hear and answer every prayer. And the beautiful part about it is that He is the same today and will do as much and even more for us, right here and now, than He did for people in Bible times.

Malachi 3:6, "*For I am the Lord, I change not.*"

When we come to the place where we will have perfect faith in God--where nothing would induce us to do anything but what God's Word says nor would we let anything or anybody influence us to trust in anyone or anything but the living God alone for everything. Then we will enter into our full inheritance in Christ, have everything we need and desire, be perfectly happy, and best of all, be really and truly prepared for eternal life.

