

CLAIMING OUR BLESSINGS

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We are to claim the blessings which are offered to us through the Scriptures. God, Himself, deals with us through His Word, and we are to deal with God through His Word. It is also through the Word that we are to see, not only what God has provided, but we are to see how to claim it, and how to receive it. God has provided everything for our enlightenment and strength, and He says in 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.*”

Revelation 3:18, He says, “*I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*”

God is waiting to inspire us with confidence, not feeling, but confidence. Through enlightenment on the Word, we are to receive our confidence. It is written in Romans 10:17, “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

As we grasp the meaning of God's Word, that moment it inspires FAITH as a natural consequence. All our enlightenment and all our faith are to come through understanding what the Word of God really says, as all “faith is to come by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” We, many times, try to get faith apart from the Word, we try to receive our deliverances apart from the Word, but every deliverance

must come through the Word. Satan will try to get us away from the Word because he knows we will then have a hard time receiving our victories.

When praying for a victory, we are to take a promise from God's Word and pray as it directs and believe it. Dealing with God through a promise is a proper way.

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.*”

After taking that promise, we believe that word which says that when we ask, He hears; we accept that promise, accept the fact that He hears our prayer and believe that we have received what we have asked of Him. When we are willing to receive the deliverance through that Word, we will receive our deliverance.

All the deliverances in the Bible came that way. The Word reveals just what God has provided, and also reveals the blessings and rewards which are to come from walking in the light. However, we do not receive these blessings unless we claim them.

We are to take the Word of God and discover what He has provided and then claim it. God has assumed an obligation that if we will meet certain conditions, He will do certain things, and His Word cannot be broken. What He has promised, will be done, we can always be sure of God fulfilling His Word. He will never fail, and His Word cannot be broken. Of all the things God will honor, it is His Word. He holds His Word in the highest esteem. Psalm 138:2, “*for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*”

God is a loving God, and then to think that He puts His Word above His name. In order to make Abraham sure that he would receive his blessings, He took an oath by Himself. The Word of God can never be broken. All the light we will ever receive, all the faith which will come into our hearts, all the victories and blessings we will ever receive will come from hearing and understanding something in this Word. That is why Satan tries to get us to lay aside the Word,

lay aside faith and to walk by sight and feeling. In all our dealings with God, that Word must come between us and Satan and then we will always be successful.

There is nothing so refreshing as God's Word, there is no real godliness apart from it. Real godliness, or living according to the Word of God, in His strength alone, is very profitable, great profits come from it, not only in this life, but in the life to come.

1st Timothy 4:8, “*But godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*”

There are great rewards written for us in Isaiah 53:4-6. From this we can see what wonderful deliverances we can claim. It tells us that our sins, our sorrows, diseases, and all difficulties and troubles, were borne on Calvary's Cross. In other words, we have the right to claim perfect peace about everything in the present moment. The very moment we are troubled, we are to go to God and claim this peace.

God never forsakes us, no matter how weak we are, or how little we obey; He will stand by us, “*The chastisement of our peace was upon him.*”

Satan has no right to harass us with trouble; he has no right to bring our sins and temptations back; he has no right to touch our bodies and oppress us; and he cannot do it while we claim and hold on to those three verses in Isaiah 53. As we believe and claim these verses, we will become righteous, happy and well—victorious in spirit, soul and body.

Only through hearing a few words, as in Cornelius' case, and other cases in the Bible. They were instantly delivered from their troubles through hearing and accepting the good news. The Truth Cornelius heard, was that “*our iniquities were laid upon Jesus Christ, whom they slew, and hanged on a tree.*” (Acts 10:39)

As Cornelius and his company believed that Word, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who believed. From this we can see how valuable this Word is. How the Holy Spirit can enable us to fully understand this Word. Faith comes through receiving real light on this Word.

God has given us some wonderful promises in this Word; one of which is found in Mark, the 10th chapter. We have a story of a very wealthy young man, who was asked to forsake some money, or property for the kingdom of God's sake. In other words, he was asked to transfer his surplus cash from an unsafe bank to a safe bank, and he would not do that; because he was not in a position spiritually to do it. Following this incident, the disciples asked Jesus what they were going to receive as they had forsaken all and followed Him. Jesus answered in the 28th and 29th verses:

“Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren and sisters, and mothers, and children and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

This is a very far-reaching statement, but we will never receive the hundred-fold unless we claim it. We are to present a definite claim to God for the hundredfold.

When we start to serve God there are ways of living, which will be necessary to give up. There may be things in the home-life we will be called upon to forsake, there may be business relationships which may not be according to God's will, from which one will be called upon to separate, and maybe lose a lot of money.

Sometimes it is necessary for us to give up a position because of the Truth's sake. When we are called upon to lie and cheat, it is time to give up our work, but whatever we forsake for the kingdom of God's sake, we can claim our great reward. Everything we lose to obey the Word of God; we are to receive a hundredfold in return.

Suppose someone comes to borrow money; they desire a hundred dollars, which you had put away for something else. The Word of God says, *“lend, hoping for nothing again.”* (Luke 6:35)

If anybody takes anything from you, you are not to try to get it back. If you will take this attitude, you shall receive one hundred times as much in return.

“Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.” (Luke 6:30)

The average person would say you would be foolish to allow anybody to steal from you and not try to get it back; but God's Word says, *“and him that taketh away thy cloak, forbid not to take thy coat also.”* (Luke 6:29)

That must be obeyed as much as "Thou shalt not steal." It is just as important in God's sight. One command is just as important as another, when it comes to obedience. That is a very valuable command and also a far reaching one—to allow people to steal from you without trying to stop them, without stepping in with your efforts—not to do one thing; it is a killing process in the self-life.

The Word tells us if it is a friend or a neighbor with whom we have fellowship and we forsake them for the Kingdom of God's sake. We can claim friends and neighbors one hundred times better than the ones we gave up.

Anything we lose to obey God, or for His kingdom's sake, the Word says we will receive one hundred-fold in return. We must claim this by a definite act of the will, then God can work to give us the hundred-fold for every friend we lose. Surely it is worth losing them for the Kingdom of God's sake.

God also has a wonderful reward for tithing. Many give 10% of their income and never make a claim of any kind. God has promised to pour out His blessings to such an extent that we will not be able to handle it. That is what God has promised, but you will not receive it unless you claim it.

Malachi 3:10,11, *“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of*

your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.”

That is some reward. We are to have every power broken over our financial affairs and to have the windows of Heaven open and God's blessings poured out so there will not be room enough to contain it. This pertains primarily to financial prosperity. There are some, who pay their tithes, and yet all they expect from week to week is what is brought home weekly. We go entirely by what we can see with our eyes, and feel, with our hands. That is all we expect, and that is all we receive.

If you desire an increase in your blessings just increase your offerings to the poor, and then watch your blessings increase; they will jump by leaps and bounds. *“He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.”* (Proverbs 19:17)

Every penny we give to the poor is like a grain of wheat sown and will bring forth thirty, sixty and a hundredfold return. God will not only pay us back but will give us good interests on our money. Just imagine that when we give a dollar to the poor, it means as much as if God came down and asked us to loan Him the money, and He will pay us back again with interest.

“He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.”

What a wonderful promise that is, what a wonderful claim it gives us on God financially. If you are on Scriptural grounds financially, you can claim and receive more than you can handle.

“He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” (2nd Corinthians 9:6)

May the Holy Spirit open our eyes to see what God has provided, what God has promised and the great riches of wealth and prosperity which are waiting for us to enter in and claim.