

# “SPIRITUAL REWARDS”

First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia S11A (Ref. Claiming Our Spiritual Rewards #1773) 0815 21

All spiritual blessings and rewards that God promises through Scripture to give true believers, is our Atonement right to claim and receive. God speaks to us through His Word, so we are to speak to Him through our prayers. It is only from His Word that we can learn what has been provided for us. Revelation 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 His presence, so He can open our minds and hearts to see and understand all spiritual blessings and rewards that He has for us and is waiting to give to us.

When we understand what these spiritual rewards are, and are ready to claim and receive each one, God will give us the confidence we need to claim them in faith, because as Romans 10:17 tells us, *“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* When we understand the meaning of God’s Word, we are inspired by faith in God’s power. Knowing that something is definitely true, because it came from a trusted source, enables us to accept it as a fact.

All spiritual enlightenment and all faith and confidence are to come from understanding what the Word of God is telling us, Romans 10:17, *“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, but always through the Word. Satan wants to get us away from the Word, so he can hinder the victory.

The Word tells us what God has for us, of all the great spiritual blessings and rewards that He wants to give us, when we are following in all His ways. For everything we do, God’s spiritual reward is there waiting for us to accept it, but we will not receive the rewards unless we claim them in faith.

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 of Him.”*

Once we have asked God for anything—whether it be healing, finances, protection, or guidance—we are then to believe, take God at His Word, and act on the promise.

The promises of God are true, so we must ask God in faith, then by His divine power we will receive what we have asked for. 1 John 5:14, "*If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us*"—By faith we know we have the answer. God's promise is the Word that says He hears when we ask in faith. We must accept that promise, and believe the answer is waiting for us to take it and receive it by faith.

The Word tells of the blessings and rewards that result from walking by faith on the promises of God, but they cannot be received, until we believe them to be true, and claim them in faith. If the Word of God has stated it, then we are to claim it.

John 10:35 tells us that "*Scripture cannot be broken*," so God is waiting for us, He wants to give us all these things, if we will meet certain conditions. What God has promised, He will fulfill, because He cannot say anything that is not true. Even eternal life, as Titus 1:2 tells us "which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began." So, it is ours to claim, receive, and enjoy forever and ever.

Considering how wonderful in love and awesome in power that God is, David wrote in Psalm 138:2 "*You have magnified Your word above all Your name*." God places His Word above His Name. For Abraham to be absolutely sure that he would receive his blessings, God said in 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 the victories and blessings we will ever receive, will come from hearing and understanding the promises 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 godliness is only by living according to the Word, as God will give the ability through the gift of His Holy Spirit.

God has promised spiritual rewards for whatever we do in a Scriptural way—anything done according to the will of God, and is revealed in the Word of God.

Ephesians 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 peace in the present moment concerning anything that we may be going through. The Word of God promised 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 afflicted in any way, we are to go directly to God and claim the victory. Verse 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, diseases, difficulties, and troubles were taken by Him on the cross, we have a right to claim the victory in Jesus Name.

When we believe these verses of Scripture, and claim the rewards they promise, we will enjoy righteousness, peace, and deliverance. Everything is received through hearing the Word; as with Cornelius, who was told about Jesus in 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 heard the Word on Atonement for sin, the Holy Spirit was given to all who believed in faith. That is how valuable the Word is, when claiming our reward from God. Faith comes from hearing, believing, and understanding the Word.

The rich young man in the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Mark, could have claimed His divine inheritance, if he would have been willing to give up his stored-up money. To anyone who would obey this Word, God offers a great reward. The man was just asked to transfer his surplus cash from an unsafe bank to a safe bank, but he was not in a spiritual position to understand the truth of the Word.

Following that, the disciples asked Jesus what their reward would be if they followed Him in faith. Jesus answered in Mark 10:29-30 *“Verily I say unto you, There is*

*no man that hath left house, or brethren (and 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. Maybe breaking off some unscriptural relationship, whether romantic or otherwise; giving up stored cash; or getting rid of treasured possessions. Whatever is forsaken to obey the Word, we are to present a definite claim for a hundredfold reward. If a friend or questionable relationship is given up to obey God's Word, He promises someone in the Truth a hundred times better. We have a scriptural right to claim the promised reward.

If our employer asks us to do something against God's Word, we are to refuse, and obey God. If we are asked to lie, cheat, or defraud someone, it is better to give up the job, rather than disobey the Word. Whatever is given up for the kingdom of God's sake, even when it seems against the grain, we are to give it up and claim something better as our promised reward.

Anything we give up to obey God's Word, we are promised to be given more and better, in return, than anything that we have given up. God's Word tells us in 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 it away, 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 are as important as Exodus 20:14-15 *"Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal."* We may wonder sometimes does that really mean what I am faced with and maybe try to get around it in some way, but the Scriptures will confront us every time. There is no getting around it, God's Word is clear. We need to give God the benefit of any doubt in every situation.

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 His reward of a

friend who is a hundred times better, or a hundred dollars for the one given up to obey the Word. We need to claim this reward, and then God, who has promised, will give it. Anything, everything, or anyone is worth losing for the sake of eternal life.

When we are giving in our tithes, God promises to pour financial blessings on us to such an extent that it will be difficult to handle it. God tells us what His blessing will be in 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 as the Gospel example. Galatians 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 Proverbs 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, God has promised He would pay it back with interest. When we are scriptural with our finances, we can claim and receive all that we may need. 2 Corinthians 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 overcharging, profiteering, and taking advantage of people, is waiting for us to claim. Proverbs 11:24 *"One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty."* Verse 25 *"The generous soul will be made rich."* We have to first give it away, before claiming our spiritual rewards in faith.

We have that Scriptural responsibility to claim our spiritual rewards afforded by our belief on all that has been provided for us through Jesus' Blood, 1st Peter 1:4-5, *"An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, (you) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

We are promised that in God's Word, that He will keep a sincerely surrendered person faithful to Him, and bring them to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, it is reserved in heaven for you, you who are kept by the power

of God through faith for salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. That means at the 'End of the Age'. That is why it is so important that the surrender of our life to God is sincere, definite, and final, because, 'Eternal Life' is the result, the ultimate spiritual reward.

---

*The First Century Gospel Church/*

Philadelphia