

“USING GOD’S PROMISES”

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It is of great importance that we understand how to use the promises and know all about them, it is the Word of God. All that God has for us is to be received through the Word, all that we could possibly need or use. That includes our health and protection; finances; peace and happiness in heart until our joy is full. All these blessings are to be received through the promises.

If we realized the importance and value of these promises, we would seek to know more about them, because through them we can receive everything we need or desire, everything in this life, which includes many things which money cannot buy; such as righteousness, peace and cleansing of our hearts, health and protection to our bodies.

Through them we also receive the salvation of the members of our families; we can go before God and take one of these promises, and the power of the enemy will be broken in our loved ones; when we know how to use the promises.

Satan makes his greatest fight because of these promises. In the Garden of Eden, Satan robbed the whole human race of every blessing God had provided, by getting them to lay aside the Word. He well knows the only way we receive these blessings is through the Word of God; therefore, he makes his fight on the promises. You will also notice in the parable of the sower, that he made his fight on the Word of God.

Matthew 13:18-23, *"Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;*

"Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

"But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

There were three classes who heard the Word. The first class Satan robbed at the very beginning; the second, he robbed through temptations and trials; the third, through the deceitfulness of riches and the pleasures and cares of this life. All these things were from Satan, and he does it to get us away from the Word.

However, the fourth class took hold of the Word and held on to it, and Satan could not defeat, or rob them; and they brought forth fruit thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.

We must get hold on the Word and keep hold on it, take a firm grip on it, in order to receive the desired benefits and victories. Daily we take the word of man in dealing with each other. He tells us something, and we only have his word to go on, but we believe it. In all our dealings in the world, we continually have faith in the word of man.

It is the same way with God; it is His written Word, or promises, through which we receive everything. In 2nd Peter 1:3, we read--*"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness."*

Everything we need--everything we desire in this life has already been given. People are doing many questionable things to get what they desire, that is where the greatest test comes concerning the things of this life. We want things in this life to make us happy, as we might think.

People do all sorts of things to get a little money; but it is so nice to know that God has a plan where we do not need to defile our conscience and struggle to get money, or anything else. Everything that we need to make us happy and victorious and comfortable has already been given; and if we leave the human ways and the

questionable, tainted ways of getting what we desire and accept God's right way, we will receive it, without a defilement of conscience. It is through the promises that we receive our victories and deliverances.

2nd Peter 1:4, *"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises;"*

We could be surprised how many things have been given us. People think we cannot have comfortable things in our homes, good things to eat, and that those things are only enjoyed by the world; but God "hath given us all things richly to enjoy." The reason, perhaps, that many have not received it yet, is because they have not believed that God would give it to them.

Matthew 7:11, *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"*

You can apply God's promises to anything which pertains to this life, anything you can use in this life. It is not the thing you have, but it is how you use it; and when questionable things are involved, what you have it for, and what you use it for, is the main thing to settle.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature."

It is necessary to be partakers of the divine nature first, before we receive the other things. Because God knows that if we become partakers of His divine nature, we will have our eyes opened, by the Holy Spirit, to see the things which are freely given us by God, and it will be no trouble to receive them.

If we were able to get the lesser things first, we would never seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness; therefore, God tells us in Matthew 6:33, *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

If we try to receive these lesser things, without first seeking God's kingdom, Satan is allowed to block them. However, if we seek godliness first, we will have no trouble to get anything we desire to make us righteous, happy and well.

We have this same thought in John 15:7 concerning abiding in the Vine. *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."*

God's Truth allows us to have just the things we need: hearts cleansed and made right with God, good health and protection for our bodies, peace in our homes and our desires fulfilled. You need not be afraid that God will take away any legitimate desire: He will only take away those desires controlled by the power of Satan, which makes us do things that displease God and make us unhappy.

That is what salvation does for us. It takes away the power of Satan, which gets us into trouble and causes us to do evil things; but, when the Holy Spirit comes in, those evil desires are taken away and we only desire good things, according to God's will.

James 1:17, *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."*

These promises will always point us to God. The principle involved here is that the promises shut us out from all human wisdom, human power, and every human plan and give us a plan to use that is directly opposite. They take us away from all human help and leave no one but God on the scene; they shut us right up with God alone.

There is not a promise which says that man is to help. Take the promise in Matthew 18:19. *"That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."*

God is to do all the work; man is not mentioned. Anyone can agree with you in prayer; or even the whole Church unite together in prayer, but God does all the work.

The Word says in Matthew 18:18, *"Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

These promises are always to be applied exactly as they read and how careful we should be in going over them, to see that we do not add or take from them. The moment we add any human plan, no matter how simple or insignificant, it makes the promise void and of no effect; they must be applied exactly as they come from God, exactly as written in the Word of God.

We should rest assured that our prayers would be answered, because it is a positive fact that all the promises of God have "YES" on the face of them and "YES" at the end of them.

Paul brings this out clearly in 2nd Corinthians 1:20--*"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."*

We should be positively sure that God has given us the answer to prayer when we come before Him, as Hebrews 10: 22-23 tells us, *"with a true heart, and full assurance of faith and hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, we can prove that He is faithful Who hath promised."*

Every unanswered prayer denotes that there has been a waver in our heart. If the question arose in our hearts, "Will God answer or not; He did not answer me in the past, I wonder if He will hear me now?"

That is Satan doing the thinking for us. We have forgotten that the promise has "YES" to the end of it, therefore, we are not expecting the answer. But, when we leave our past experiences, lay aside our feelings, and the thoughts on our mind--which is Satan's suggestions to our mind--we shall receive the answer to our prayer.

We are to lay aside such thoughts from Satan, who tries to make us believe they are the logical conclusions of our own mind. He likewise uses our feelings and past experiences. But if we get hold of the promises, our prayers would be answered at once; God will be faithful to His Word, and His promises all have a great, big, comprehensive "YES" to the end of them.

If we believe the promises have "YES" to the end of them, there would be no vague thoughts to our mind; we would not look at our past experiences, nor go by our feelings whether they be good or bad. God says it is so in His Word and that should be enough evidence for us. Our thoughts should be, "God's Word says it is done, and I am going to believe it."

That is what it means to take hold of the Word and hold on to it, and bring forth fruit with patience. Every deliverance and blessing hinges on that attitude that we take toward the promises.

John 16:23,24, *"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."*

Mark 11:24, *"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*

Another fact about these promises is that we should never forget how valuable they are; they are full of life and power. That means exactly the same as if God stood at our side and said; "I am here to answer your prayer; I have selected you personally, and I have come to forgive your sins."

1st John 1:9, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

We are to receive our pardon, cleansing, healing, and everything else through the Word as we hold steadfast using the promises of God.