

How To Use the Promises

PART 1

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We cannot realize too keenly the importance of understanding how to use the promises, or Word of God. All that God has for us, is to be received through the Word. He has given us spiritual victory—all we can possibly need or use; He has given us health and protection; financial wealth; peace and happiness in heart until our joy is full.

All these blessings are to be received through the promises, so it is of the utmost importance that we understand just how to use these promises and know all about them.

If you had a bank note that you could take anywhere in the world and receive whatever this world had to give you and by that bank note you could rent an automobile or purchase clothing, or food, comfort of life, fuel, or anything you could possibly need, you certainly would like to know all about the note and would desire to use it in order to receive the very greatest benefits that it offered.

If we realized the importance and value of these promises, we would seek to know more about them than the bank note, 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; and supplies of money as well.

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; if we know how to use the promises. Satan makes his greatest fight because of these promises.

You will remember it was in the Garden of Eden that he 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 that parable of the sower, that he made his fight on the Word of God.

“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 at once with joy receiveth it;

Yet hath he not root in himself, but endureth 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 care 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.” Matthew 13: 18-23

There were three classes who heard the Word. The first class he (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.

The point we desire to make here is that we must get hold of the Word and keep hold of it, in order to receive the desired benefits and victories. We cannot receive from man, except through their word. You purchase goods and you ask the proprietor of the store— “Is this my package; does this package contain the goods I bought?” He says— “Yes.” You then take the package and go home. You receive that package through that man’s word. Then again, you accept the label on packages and cans as sufficient evidence that they contain the goods you desire.

Daily we receive the word of man in dealing with each other. You get on the bus in a strange city, and you ask the driver about the way you should go. He tells you, and you only have his word to go on, but you believe it.

In all our dealings in the world, we continually have faith in the word of man, and the moment we cease to exercise that faith, we cease being able to do business with each other.

It is the same way with God; it is His written Word, or promises, through which we receive everything. In 2 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 lots of questionable things to get what they desire down here--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.

There are men going out with guns and revolvers, in order to get what they desire. Others do it in a sly way, as by charging high prices for things that people need; others by lying and cheating, and in various other ways. People do all sorts of questionable things. Even Christians fail to reason soundly in their conscience 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 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.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises." (2 Peter 1:4)

Now, beloved, you would be surprised how many things have been given us! People think we cannot have comfortable things in our homes, good things to eat, an automobile to ride in and that those things are only enjoyed by the world; but God "hath given us all things richly to enjoy." If you want an automobile to enjoy a ride for pleasure, He would give you one, just as much as Henry Ford would give one to his son. The reason, perhaps, that you have not received any so far is because you have not believed that God would give one to you.

"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?" (Matthew 7:11)

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."

Why is it necessary to be partakers of the divine nature first, before we receive the other things? Because God well 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; thus, God tells us:

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

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 the 15th chapter of John 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."* (John 15:7)

I am so glad that the Bible does not reveal a holiness like some people think. They think if you possess holiness, you are not human; there will be nothing human about you, you will have no human desires, you cannot live with your wife as husband and wife; you cannot drink tea or coffee as that is wasteful expenditure; you must not ride in an automobile as that is worldly. Thank God, there is not one good thing socially, morally, industrially, etc., that any human being cannot have in God's Truth.

That is just what God's Truth is; it 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 controlled by the power of Satan, which makes us do things that displease God and make us unhappy.

That is all 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.

"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." (James 1:17)

Some people are under the impression that when you accept God's truth, you cannot have anything nice, or anything you desire; but the actual truth is, when we get into His will, we can have everything we desire and can be purely and strictly human.

Now, we desire to briefly review how these promises are to be used. They 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. You cannot find a promise, which says that man is to help.

Take that 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. Some person can agree with you in prayer; but God is to do the work. The whole church may unite together in prayer, but God must do the work. We agreed in prayer one night for the young man with lockjaw, who was near death. God heard and answered prayer by granting him an instantaneous deliverance.

We agreed in prayer for a very sick woman, and she was instantly healed. Why? Because the Word says— *"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."* (Matthew 18:18) That young man and that woman were loosed from Satan's power, as the church met and prayed, and perfect healing was the result.

Peter was in prison, bound with chains and guarded by soldiers; but the church met and prayed for him, and in answer to that prayer he was delivered from that prison. The church has a mighty influence and power in its working; but God Himself does the actual work.

Furthermore, 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 none effect; they must be applied exactly as they come from God, exactly as written in the Word of God.

The third point is that these promises always have "YES" at the end of them. No doubt: you think, "Everybody knows that." Well, they do not know it at all. What do you suppose would happen if we were all real sure that we have the answer to every prayer we ask in Jesus' name? That would be the result of our believing that the promises of God had "YES" to the end of them; we could rest assured that our prayers would be answered. However, 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."*

Just consider for a moment, that when we get down to pray, we should be positively sure that God has given us the answer to the prayer; and that when we come before Him *"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."* (Hebrews 10: 22-23) Every unanswered prayer denotes that there has been a waver in our heart. When we got down to pray, 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?"

Beloved, it is Satan doing the thinking for you. You have forgotten that the promise has "YES" to the end of it, therefore, you do not expect the answer. Have you ever prayed that way? "I have," the pastor said, "whether anybody here has done so or not." But praise God, when we leave our past experiences, lay aside our

He likewise uses our feelings and past experiences, which hit us fair and square. However, if we would get hold of the promises, our prayers would be answered at once; God must be faithful to His Word, and His promises all have a great, big, comprehensive “YES” to the end of them.

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