

Receiving Through the Promises

Part 2

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We had a man come to us, saying: "I cannot work in that job anymore."

"What is the matter?"

"They put us on "piece work"; they gave us enough to get an idea of what we could do, and we worked our best and made a big week's wages; then they cut down the rate, so we must work just as hard to make a poor living wage.

They wanted to find out just how much we could do and then cut down the wages and still made us do the same amount of work. The foreman we have will not even give us the money we do make; and he robs us of a few dozen.

We told him not to worry but lay the whole matter before God; that the Lord had something better for him and would give him grace in the meantime. We ended by telling him that he might get the foreman's job. He looked as if he thought the windows of heaven would fall out before such a thing would happen.

In four weeks' time that man came back, saying: "What do you think? That foreman was discharged, and I got his job." We must remember it is a fact that these promises always point us to God.

Since the promises of God are for everyone who places their faith and trust in Him alone, we, too, can have answers to prayer concerning the workplace. If we have a desire to work in a different line of work, we can go to God in prayer, and He can close one door and open another if that is His will for us, rather than us just quitting to move to a job that we think we will like better. We must remember that God knows what is best for us, and He blessed us with that job in the first place, not just because we

needed or wanted a job but because He knew that that job would give us an opportunity to grow spiritually.

Therefore, if we desire better coworkers and or bosses, better pay, better hours, a change in where we work, or any other changes in the workplace, we should go to God in prayer and allow Him to work things out on our behalf.

A woman making bread or cake, especially the newlywed, goes exactly as the cookbook says; she is very careful to put in just the exact number of spoonfuls as the recipe calls for. It is just as sensible to apply God's Word exactly according to weight and measure—exactly as it directs.

There is another important thing about these promises, and that is they always have YES at the end of them. How easily we forget that! Satan likes to come to us and tell us that every promise has NO at the end of it.

Here is an illustration of how Satan comes. "Your prayer is not going to be answered yet." That means the promise has "NO" to the end of it. "It may be some time, but you are not good enough." There is the "NO" to the promise again. "You have not faith enough." There is the "NO" again.

Listen to the Word of God: "For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen." (2 Corinthians 1:20)

"YES" is also on the face of them.

We have two illustrations of how truthful the promises are. The pastor was holding a service on divine healing when he asked the question, if God Himself came down and told them that He had heard and answered their prayer would they believe it; if they knew it was Him in person and that He had come especially to answer their prayers, every prayer they offered to Him? How many of you would expect to have your prayers answered? Surely quite a few would have expected to have their prayers answered.

Then the pastor said: "Suppose God was waiting here, and it was a real fact that He asked you what you desired and promised to give it to you; He told you plainly: 'I have come for the express purpose of answering every prayer, forgive every sin, cleanse every heart, grant unto everyone the gift of the Spirit, heal every body; that stomach which has been giving you so much trouble, is to be put into perfect working order,

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and you may go home and eat anything you desire; every part of your body is perfectly well; I have heard your cry and you are well' How many would believe these statements?" Almost everyone would believe.

Then we explained that the promises exactly expressed all that. Then the question was asked which was stronger, a spoken or written word? One woman said a spoken word. I then asked her if I borrowed fifty dollars from you, would you want a verbal or written receipt. Well, she concluded, when money was involved, she would rather have it written. Then if a written word is stronger than a spoken one among men, it must be with God.

Suppose I found a place in His written Word where He said He would positively hear and answer every prayer; how many would believe it? Of course, most would believe it. God has made such a promise.

I then turned to 1 John 5:14-15. "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, "confidence" is not the real English word. In the Revised Version it reads "boldness" that we have toward Him, that is God. "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."

That promise comes right down to us; the very moment we ask God for spiritual blessings, healing, a position, or any other desired blessing, the promise takes hold of us and lands us on the victory side. Notice that it says, "ask any thing according to His will; he heareth us." That is a plain statement. "And if we know that He hear us whatsoever we ask we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."

Is there any room for doubt? It states positively that God hears, and if He hears, we know we have what we have asked for. Well, we got down to Prayer, and I impressed upon those people to settle it in their hearts to BELIEVE that God did answer their prayers.

Those who were sick were to leave their pains at the Cross; the cripples were to put their crutches aside and leave them there; those who had stomach trouble were to go home and eat whatever they found on the table. Several were

instantly healed, as they accepted the written word without sight or feeling.

One man testified a few days later; "I had suffered with stomach trouble for quite a few years, when I took that promise and determined to start out to eat anything; the next meal set before me was corned beef and cabbage. I was on the fence—shall I eat or shall I not—I finally got off on the right side--God's side—and ate the corned beef and cabbage with no other evidence than the Word of God that I was healed of that stomach trouble. I gave God just half a chance and He healed me. I had no trouble at all after eating."

A woman was at that meeting, who had throat trouble, and she began to sing—not loud, but did the best she could—and was quickly delivered and discovered that the promise did have "YES" to the end of it.

There was a man, who had been dealing with chronic pains. This man had committed sin, and he knew it, but he took a chance; thought he could get away with it, although he had been warned about it.

One night we received a message to visit him, as he thought he was dying. The sickness had gone to his heart to some extent. I asked him if he had lived as he had promised God, and he said: "Fairly well."

Then I knew where the trouble was. "Fairly well" does not please God. He was letting himself down easy. I told him he would have to settle that matter right, or there would be no use praying. He promised to do this, and was anointed, after which I said: "Brother, you are well, get up and walk around."

"You don't know how bad I am; I cannot move in bed; cannot turn myself; cannot move the covers; I cannot wipe my mouth; I have to be fed like a baby."

I said: "If God stood at your bedside and told you that you were well, like He did the man who came through the roof, would you believe it?"

"Oh, yes, anybody would."

I said to him: "Which is stronger a spoken or a written word?" He agreed that in business, or legal matters, where money was involved, man considered it much stronger to have it black and white. I then added that if men considered a

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written word stronger, it was the same with God and directed his attention to James 5:14-15.

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

This means the same as if God Himself stood at your bedside and told you that you were well and to get up. In this promise God says if we call for Elders and are anointed with oil, there will be an immediate deliverance.

Beloved, the Word was God, the Word was with God and the Word was made of flesh and dwelt among men, which was Jesus Christ, God's Son. That is one of God's names (Logos) Word of God.

This dear man said: "If you help me, I will get up." His wife and I took hold of him, and I said: "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, step out." It was a feeble step, but he got stronger with every step, went around the bed two or three times. Then I told his wife to let go, and finally I let go, and in a very short time he was delivered. Why? There was no sight, no feeling, no manifestations; just the stand of God's Word and he was healed and proved that there was a "YES" to the end of the promise.

We generally read the above promise as follows: "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; sometimes, somewhere—any time but in the present moment."

That is Satan's interpretation, and we readily accept it. Satan also has another interpretation: "Is any sick among you? call for a doctor to help you." And in today's world, Satan has provided a doctor or specialist for every type of sickness or oppression known to man.

Just before you die, send for the Elders of the church, and try divine healing; you cannot die any sooner anyhow; you are going to die anyhow, and it is a sort of pious thing to do. Perhaps the prayer of faith will bring you just a little speck of comfort, and you will pass away with just a little clearer conscience.

Most professing Christians follow that translation—forgetting that every promise has

"YES" to the end of it—sometimes, somewhere it will all come out right; any time but when you need it; after you are dead, or before you were born.

However, beloved, that promise positively states that the prayer of faith SHALL save the sick and the Lord SHALL raise him up and although he has committed sins, they SHALL be forgiven him. There is no possible shadow of a doubt about the whole promise, and all the promises are the same.

"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." (John 16:23-24)

I care not whether you need work, money, or are sick, or whatever the difficulty may be, if there is a real willingness in our heart, there is a deliverance, unless we discount the promise. To have a long drawn-out, or unanswered prayers we must accept Satan's suggestions in place of the living Word of God. As you take that Word and stand on it, deliverance is yours.

You remember Matthew 13, that four classes of people heard the Word. The first class, Satan robbed before they started out; the seed was sown by the wayside and Satan came and stole it away, took it right out of their hearts.

How often have we been robbed in this way? We get down to pray according to the promise, asking in Jesus' Name, or we have been anointed with oil; Satan at once makes his suggestions, "Look at yourself; you are not delivered."

"I guess that is right, I am not."

"You are not going to be delivered now, perhaps sometime, somewhere."

What have we done? Just like Adam, we have laid aside God's Word and accepted Satan's word—the same process exactly.

The second class accepted the Word. "Oh, my that sounds good to me!" Then Satan began to aggravate symptoms, and they said: "I never thought I would find it like this; I did not expect this, or I would not have accepted divine healing; I am sorry I ever tried." When temptation (because of the Word) arises, they fall away, having no root in themselves.

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Beloved, it is better if you never start out, if you do not intend to go through with God, for I tell you it is impossible to experiment with God in anything. Beloved, when Satan is aggravating symptoms and fighting hard and things are getting worse and worse, if ever there was a time when we need to hold on and believe God, that is just the time.

The Word says: "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." 1 Peter 5:10

The third class are those that received the Word among the thorns. They heareth the Word, but the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word, and they become unfruitful. Certainly, this seems to be more prevalent today than ever before.

So many people in today's world have no time for the Word of God and going to church on a regular basis. So much of their time is spent worrying about what they are going to wear, what they are going to eat, do they have enough money, do they have enough money laid up for the future, and many other things.

If they are not focused on the cares of this world, then their attention is focused on the pleasures of this world—all the made-up television shows and movies, professional and college sports, their next vacation, and so on.

And, of course, the love of money, the root of all evil, grows stronger and stronger every day. Many people today are unhappy with their job simply because they want to make more money, so they are always quitting and moving on to another job that offers more money. Others are always playing the lottery, hoping to strike it rich. Many people today are convinced that they must have a college education in order to get a job that will pay them enough money to be able to pay for the cares of this world and to be able to enjoy the pleasures of this world.

The fourth class received the Word and held on to it, and that Word brought forth thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold of fruit and blessing. That is the contrast! They received it in a good and honest heart; which does not mean a good heart, as there is no good heart that comes to God; they are all "evil" when they come to Him. There could

be a sincere, honest heart; but in this instance it means people who were willing to consider and accept the Word at its face value.

They accepted that Word for just what it was worth and also accepted Satan's word for what it was worth—absolute falsehood. The very moment we weigh God's Word and Satan's word in the just balance, we will discover that God's Word is TRUE and Satan's word is FALSE.



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