



God's Promises to the Believer First in a Series of Four Articles

2 Peter 1:3-4, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

God's Word is full of promises for the believer. However, in times of struggle or difficulty, it may be hard to grasp these promises and believe them. Many people know the words of the verses but do not internalize them and experience the power of their Truth. It is important for the believer to personalize the promises *and choose to believe they are true for him or her!* Below are some steps for internalizing these promises:

- Identify the promise from the Scripture as the truth.
- Make the choice to affirm it as truth in your life. That is, believe that the promise is true for you.
- Ask yourself, "If I lived like this promise was 100% true, how would I live? What type of difference would it make in my life?"
- Make the choice to live like the truth is truly true even if your feelings don't match. Remember, when your feelings and the truth are in conflict, always follow the truth of the Word.

Believers can claim the promises below because of God's grace and goodness toward them. We cannot claim any right to these promises based on our own worthiness. Therefore, in order to keep these promises in perspective, it is helpful to use the following sentence stems:

- Because of salvation through Christ...
- Because of the Holy Spirit's work in me...
- Because of God's love, power, and plan...

In this series of articles, we will examine some sets of promises in God's Word and discuss how these promises could have application in our lives of faith.

Set 1: I have the promise of eternal life.

1 John 2:24-25, "Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. And this is the promise that hath promised us, even eternal life."

Hebrews 9:15, "And for this cause he [Christ] is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

We sing in a hymn, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine," and yet this truth can be difficult to grasp in times of doubt. As these verses indicate, if we abide in Him, we have the promise of eternal life. This isn't just wishful thinking but a lively hope of being with God in eternity. The Hebrews' writer reminds us that because Christ died, converted believers have redemption and the promise of eternal inheritance as a present possession. Even though we know this to be true, we may not feel it in our

hearts because we may feel that our lives haven't been good enough. However, it is not by our goodness that we are saved but through faith in the shed blood of the Son of God.

Set 2: I am a child of God.

John 1:12-13, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Romans 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Romans 8:16-17, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Galatians 4:6-7, "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

To be considered as part of the family of God by way of relationship is a higher calling than we can comprehend. However, in these verses we see that it is God's desire and design that we do become sons and daughters of the Almighty. He has sent His Son to become sin for us that we might be able to have this relationship with Him and become joint heirs with Jesus. Nevertheless, we are reminded in Romans that we may also be required to suffer with Him. This promise of sonship demonstrates God's desire for an intimate connection, like an earthly father has with his son.

Set 3: I have access to God.

Ephesians 2:18, "For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father."

Ephesians 3:11-12, "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him."

Romans 5:2, "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Often in our distress and difficulties, we may feel that God is unavailable or inaccessible. He may seem very distant but here we find that He is nigh to us and we need only come before Him in faith, believing that He is. These verses show not only the instant access that we have to the Father, but that we can come to Him boldly and with confidence that He will hear us. This promise can give us great comfort and we can "rejoice in hope of the glory of God."