



## God's Promises to the Believer Second in a Series of Five 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 are examining some sets of promises in God's Word and discussing how these promises could have application in our lives of faith.

### **Set 3: I have been adopted into God's family and can call God my Father.**

***Romans 8:15,** "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."*

The idea of being adopted carries with it the connotation of being sought out and selected. Parents who have their own birth children did not seek them out directly, but parents who adopt children must go through a process different than natural birth. In this case, there is a longing and seeking for a child that hasn't been satisfied through birth. Likewise, God has sought us out, called us to Him, and has adopted us into His family that He might call us His children.

Some orphaned children or those up for adoption may have lived in a state of fear that is perhaps similar to the fearful state of the unconverted. However, God has adopted us out of bondage and fear to become a child of the King, and we can then call Him "Abba" which is a term of endearment very similar to the word we hear so often today: "Daddy." His unconditional love for us has been demonstrated in His sacrifice on the cross. God wants us to love Him like an earthly father desires the love of his children.

#### **Set 4: I am loved by God.**

*1 John 3:1*, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”

*Ephesians 2:4-5*, “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)”

*John 15:9-10*, “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.”

*Romans 5:8*, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

*Ephesians 3:17-19*, “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”

*1 John 4:19*, “We love him, because he first loved us.”

*Revelation 1:5*, “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”

It can be very difficult, at times, to understand how God loves us especially when we may feel unlovable. Nevertheless, He continually reminds us that He loved us first, that His love is great, and that His love extends unconditionally to each of us.

#### **Set 5: I have been chosen by God.**

*1 Peter 2:9-10*, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people [a precious possession belonging to God]; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”

*John 15:16*, “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

*Ephesians 1:4*, “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”

Being chosen by God goes along with God's love for us in that He chose us and loved us before we came to Him. We have a choice whether or not to follow Him, but He has chosen us even before the world began. This is a precious promise that can give us great comfort in recognizing that it is His desire to give us the kingdom.