



God's Promises to the Believer Third 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 completely 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 7: He created and fashioned me and gave me a purpose to fulfill. I am not an accident.

Ephesians 2:10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Not only were you created by God, but you were created for a purpose. It wasn't just a chance happening. His promise to us is that we are not accidents, but our lives have meaning and He wants us to fulfill His purpose by His grace.

Set 8: I am accepted.

Ephesians 1:6, "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved [Christ]."

Satan wants to discourage and mislead by tempting us to feel alone and outside of God's inner circle. Here we see that in Christ we are accepted into communion with the Father.

Set 9: He cares for me when I'm weak.

Hebrews 4:15-16, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

1 Peter 5:7, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

We may often feel weak and unable to deal with the stresses of life, but God has promised that He will care for us and even invites us to come boldly into His presence.

Set 10: I am forgiven.

Colossians 2:13-14, "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;"

Romans 8:33-34, "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

Forgiveness is promised to those who will claim it by submitting to God in repentance. We are then justified and quickened, or restored, to full communion with Him. Satan would love to condemn us, but God forgives all trespasses. We need to claim this promise of God even if we don't feel forgiven. Our feelings do not change His promises.

Set 11: I am free from condemnation.

Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

This is similar to forgiveness but yet deeper as we are no longer condemned in Christ but called to walk after the Spirit. He will convict us if we stray but with outstretched arms bidding us to return fully to Him.

Set 12: I am a new creature in Christ. I have been transformed.

2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Our transformation is complete in Christ as it is His promise that *all* things are new; no exceptions.

Set 13: God will strengthen me to do all I need to do.

Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

This promise can be difficult to grasp considering the idea of all things being possible through Christ. Nevertheless, this thought ought to give us courage and strength.

Set 14: I have peace with God. My peace is based on Christ, not my emotions.

Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

The peace of God is so elusive in the world but so abundant in the heart of a believer. This verse isn't a suggestion but a statement and a promise from God. Through our Lord we have peace with God.

