



God's Promises to the Believer

Fourth 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 through faith that 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 and have faith 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 15: God will not leave or forsake me.

Hebrews 13:5-6, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

To never leave or forsake seems like a very long time, and it is. Nevertheless, that is what God promised. We need not fear man.

Set 16: I am an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ.

Romans 8:17, "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."

The promise of being a joint-heir of the Kingdom of God is difficult to grasp. This promise comes with a qualification that we be ready to suffer with Christ and then be glorified together with Him.

Set 17: I have an inheritance in Heaven.

John 14:2-3, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Colossians 1:12, "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet [qualified] to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:"

Philippians 3:20, "For our conversation is in heaven [we are citizens of Heaven]; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:"

Heaven is an inheritance because we are children of the One who has it to give. He has qualified us to enter a place that only He could prepare and, He desires for us to be there with Him.

Set 18: I am able to overcome.

1 John 4:4, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

Jude 24, "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,"

2 Corinthians 12:9, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

We are promised the ability to overcome sin, Satan, and the world through God's grace. He also gives us the power to remain in Him if we so choose.

Set 19: Christ's righteousness has been imputed to me.

Colossians 1:21-22, "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled. In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:"

Colossians 3:3-4, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

Romans 4:23-25, "Now it was not written for his [Abraham's] sake alone, that it [righteousness] was imputed to him [Abraham]; But for us also, to whom it [righteousness] shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."

Righteousness to a level which we could never attain on our own is ours through Christ. He promises that though we are imperfect, through His death we can be presented unblameable and will appear with Him in glory. Again, this isn't just a suggestion but a real promise given to real people.

Set 20: I have an advocate.

1 John 2:1-2, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father. Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

The Greek word that was translated to advocate means "comforter", which indicates to us that because He died for all

mankind, He is our Comforter as well as the Holy Spirit who dwells in our hearts. “Him being the propitiation” would declare to all the world that the best of heaven paid the ultimate sacrifice and that His blood was satisfactory payment for the sins of all.