

Receiving Via God's Promises

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Satan has the biggest fight of all against the Word of God, and the very moment we get into a wrong attitude toward that Word, he also has a power over us. We remember that in the Garden of Eden it was the 'Word of God' that Satan attacked, and he succeeded through that attack to rob Adam and Eve and an entire human race, of every blessing which God's great love had provided for believing on His Promises. We can recall that Satan began by saying: "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" He was really saying to them, "Is God's Word true? "Well, we thought it was; because it is so plain," is no doubt what Adam and Eve meant to answer Satan.

Satan continued by saying to them: 'It is not true', and then proved to them via logical argument, why it was not true. Then they laid aside that Word of God, but instead, followed the direction or suggestion of Satan. That one act was the cause of all the trouble which has ever been in this world.

God had planned that our deliverance shall come through reversing that process, laying aside the suggestions, doubts, lies, and fears from Satan, and, shutting ourselves into the Word of God. We lost our blessings through laying aside His Word, and we receive them back through accepting that Word. [Jesus Name is "The Word of God," we are told (Reve.19:13).]

In the so-called Christian world, a great ignorance prevails concerning that Word. They are absolutely ignorant of its truths, its promises, its principles, and its plans; they do not understand it, nor receive the benefits of it. It is so easy to lay the Word to one side and try to get along on the strength of our past experience, our feelings, or something else; but our prayers are to be answered through praying according to the Word. (Jesus is the Word!)

Many people have given testimonies, and others have written to say, "I was terribly oppressed, down-hearted and discouraged, so I got hold of my Bible and started to read the 91st Psalm, and other encouraging promises. I asked

God to bless it to my heart, and immediately I began to be delivered from my burdens and oppressions; I began to feel better in my body. After I sat down and meditated upon the Word, I was fully delivered. "Why was that? We will tell you the reason from Scripture (the late Pastor said). (Romans 10:17) "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

The Word of God always causes us to look away from ourselves, but toward GOD, and it will always speak of deliverance. When we lay the Word aside, it allows Satan to fill our mind with various doubts and suggestions, such as, "Just look weak you are; how ignorant you are; how little faith you have; how bad a shape you are in; God surely would not hear and answer your prayers; you are not good enough; you have not faith enough; you are not delivered from your disease, and you know it."

People listen to such suggestions, as if they were positively the truth, and if they ever had any faith, it leaves them at once. However, when they go back to the Word of God (which always says just the opposite to what Satan suggests), they discover that God has made a great provision, one which fits every case, to deliver and bless people who need it, to heal sick people and lift the burdens of those who were burdened and crushed with heavy loads. Whenever He found a wicked, sinful, sick, weak, and burdened person, He immediately began to work for them, to save, heal, and lift their burden. As analogy, an automobile repairman is not looking for automobiles new and spic and span from the factory but looks for those which are out of order in some way, which he can repair and replace any broken parts and put into perfect running order again.

The people God is most interested in are the people who need Him and His Word of Promise. When you or I need Him and His help, we have a ticket of admission to His powerhouse. Many times, we have entirely lost sight of that, and have believed that falsehood of Satan, that God does not do anything except for "good" people. The Bible tells us just the opposite. Brethren, if we have not come to that place yet, we will be compelled to come to the place where we will have to come to God just as we are, and will be compelled to trust Him for every bit of change which is to be made in us (whether spiritual,

physical, or otherwise); so what is the use of our waiting, for in the end God must do it all; all things are of Him and everything comes from above.

In (2 Pet.1:3-4) we have two very remarkable statements—it is God's plan in two verses, “that His divine power hath given us ‘all things’ that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.” The “all things” mentioned here includes everything for this life and the next; it relates to spiritual life and all other things; it includes physical and temporal supplies, and we are to receive these “all things?” We are to receive them through the promises. His Word says, “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature.”

Through these Promises, we are to be partakers of God's own character; Jesus Christ is to be enthroned within, just through believing the Promises; (just as electricity flows through wires, the Power of God is to flow through the Promises, or ‘Word of God’. All we need to know is just how to use these promises. We need to be very careful in our use of those promises, as they are very specific and very definite in what they say; and it is always a rule that we must not add nor take from God's Word and Promises in anything.

We will find that these Promises point us to God alone for all help; they really just shut us in with God. (what better place could there be, no matter how much the devil tries to make man's plans look good). If we get away from those Promises of God, there is no help from anybody; (but just a wilderness for us to get lost in), but if we allow Him, God will take us out of Egypt through the Promises that He gave us.

We might illustrate that via a personal testimony, if you will pardon me for it (the late Pastor said). “I lost my job position many years ago, but I knew there was a Promise provided to meet that case. When you have no money saved up, and, have a family on your hands and you lose your position which you have had for seventeen years under four different firms (and you have lost that position because you would not cheat for the company), it is a rather serious problem to face.

I thought I had some faith while I had that weekly salary coming in; I held my head high and prided myself on my faith for financial needs; I thought that I had splendid faith, not a flaw in it;

you could not have found a speck in it with a microscope. But when I lost my position, you could not have found my faith with a microscope; all my faith was in that weekly salary, but I did not know it, for I only thought that I had faith in God.

I began to tremble and wonder what I would do, and I soon came to the conclusion that this world was cruel, cold, and heartless. If I had been placed in the North Pole, I could not have felt more blue. I knew however, that God had a promise to fit my case, and I began to search for it. However, I met the worst discouragement and trouble from those whom I thought were trusting God in the right way, but they were not. However, I discovered that (Phil.4:6,7) fit my case. “Be careful for nothing;” (means ‘Do not worry if you lose your position and have no money’; ‘do not worry if there is nothing to eat’; ‘do not worry if the rent is due’; ‘do not worry about anything’)”but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanks-giving, let your requests be made known unto God.” Most people read this promise to mean, “Make your requests known unto God and to man.”

As we read that promise, I realized that I was worrying about my position; so I decided with God's help, that I would apply that promise exactly as it was read. I opened my heart to God and told Him my troubles—nobody else—and, that I would not go to anyone else. Many of my friends heard of my being unemployed and tried to get me a position. They came and found that I was not trying by human efforts, and they said: “I will try to get you a job position.” I answered. “I am not worrying.” I suppose they thought I was a very ungrateful person, when they seemed so interested in my welfare, and wanted to get a job for me so that I could support my family. When they heard I was trusting God, you should have seen their countenance change. “Poor fellow, I am glad I am not in your shoes” (was written on their faces). I did not blame them.

(One supposed spiritual man came and told me) (one who had gone through a similar trial), saying, “I ‘trusted the Lord’ to support me when I was out of work, and my wife was in a condition where she needed good, nourishing food”; and, he said, “we would have starved if I had not been helped by my relatives.”

“We fully decided the matter one morning (when: I had gotten down to the last six cents),

that if we all landed on the street and starved to death, that I would go through with God.

Satan fought and pictured some things dreadful to us. While I still had a little money, I had tried to believe God to send me some; I had prayed and I thought that I had confidence in God, but in reality, I had just been experimenting to see whether He really would answer prayer for money, and, of course, the Lord did not answer while I still had some in my pocket, because I did not need it."

"When I had gotten down to those last pennies, and I got before God in prayer and put my request for the supply of that need, Satan then presented himself, and said: "You will not receive the answer to that prayer; look at so and so who are better Christians than you are, and they failed to receive their answers; you are not going to get any deliverance; there will be no job for you unless you go out and seek one from man; you will lose everything and your life included." (if you take this risk on God).

Then the Lord began His 'moving pictures'. He took me back to 'the time of my conversion', and told me that there were not many people receiving 'real conversions'; and of how, even though I had told a lie to try to get out of being converted; He had reached my heart and finished the work (and I received a 'real conversion').

Then He took me back to 'the fulness of the Spirit', telling me that there were not many people wholly consecrating themselves, or trusting Him right for 'the fulness of the Spirit', but that I had been made successful in that, and had received 'the fulness of His Spirit', when I only gave Him half a chance.

Then He took me back to my healing, telling me that there were few being healed, but that I had been healed when I gave Him half a chance- how I had hardly a particle of faith when I sat down and ate that dinner (while I was nearly scared to death, as if I was sentenced to the gallows), but He instantly healed me. I was compelled to say "YES" to all these things.

Then He said: 'Now try this for yourself; let other people alone; forget all ABOUT THE OTHER MEN who FAILED, AND 'PROVE THIS FOR YOURSELF'. "So, I decided to go through with God no matter what the cost. As soon as this final decision was made my trouble was over.

I received a job position where I eventually only worked about three hours a week and made

a good salary." "That was applying Promises of God exactly as they are read, and without addition nor subtraction. That one final decision of taking God's Promise and accepting it exactly as it reads. Every promise is just the same! This one quoted above is a universal promise (Phil.4:6,7), which fits all cases, such as family trouble, financial trouble, business trouble, work troubles, physical troubles, and every other trouble.

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

"What is the matter?"(we asked).

"They put us on 'piece work'; they gave us enough for them to get a line on what we could do, and we worked our best and made a big week's wages. Then they cut down the rate, so we have to 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 that amount of work. The foreman we have will not even give us the money we do make; he robs us of some of that.

(The Pastor said) "We told him not to worry or be anxious, but to lay the whole matter before God; and that the Lord had something better for him, also that He would give him grace in the meantime; and then ended by telling him that he might even get the foreman's job. He looked as if he thought the windows of heaven would fall out before such a thing would happen.

Four weeks later that man came back, saying: "What do you think? That foreman was discharged, and I got his job." (What we must always remember, it is a fact that God's Promises always point us to God).

(As analogy) "a woman making bread or cake does exactly as the cookbook says, she is very careful to put in just the exact number of spoonsful as the recipe calls for. It is just as sensible to apply God's Word exactly according to weight and measure, exactly as His Word directs us.

Another very important thing about His Promises 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. As an illustration, he comes at us saying, "Your prayer is not going to be answered yet." And that means the promise has "NO" to the end of it. "It may be so some time, but you are not yet good enough. "Again, there is that

"NO" to the promise, or "You have not faith enough." Again, adding "NO". But if we will listen, the Word of God says: "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen." (2 Cor.1:20) "YES" is also on the face of God's Promises, and it is expressed exactly that way.

The question was asked, which was stronger, a spoken or written word? One member said a spoken word. So, we asked, if we borrowed fifty dollars from you, would you want a verbal or written receipt? Well, they concluded when money was involved, they would rather have it written. So, if a written word is stronger than a spoken one among men, how must it be with God. If His written Word tells us that He would positively hear and answer every prayer, how many would believe it? Most all of us would, and, God has made such a promise as that if we will turn to (1 John 5:14,15). "And this is the confidence that we have in him", (in the Revised Version it says "boldness" that we have toward Him) "that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."

That Promise comes right down to us the moment we ask God for spiritual blessings, for healing, for a job position, or any other desired blessing if we will truly believe His Promise. His Promise takes hold of us and lands us on the side of victory. And we should take notice that it says, "if we ask anything 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 us to doubt? When it states positively that God hears, and if He hears, we know we have what we have asked for!)

Well, we need to get down in prayer to God, to settle it in our hearts to BELIEVE that God did answer each one's prayers. So, those who were sick are to leave their pains at the Cross; the cripples are to put their crutches aside and leave them aside; those who had stomach trouble are to go home and eat whatever they find on the table for a meal. (Several members were instantly healed as they accepted the written words of (1 John 5:14,15) without depending on sight or feeling.

One man soon after testified, saying, "I had suffered with stomach trouble for quite a few

years, when I took that Promise and was determined to start out to eat anything; the next meal set before me was corned-beef and cabbage, and I admit that I was on the fence-- shall I eat, or shall I not? He said, "I finally got off on the right side—on 'God's side'—and ate the corned-beef and cabbage, with no other evidence than the Word that I was healed of that stomach trouble. I really only gave God just half a chance, and He healed me, and I had no trouble at all after eating."

A woman was at that meeting who had a throat problem, and she began to sing- (not loud, but did the best she could). She was quickly delivered and discovered that the promise did have "YES" to the end.

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(Lord willing, we will have a part 2 on receiving via God's promises)

S369R SOME MAIN POINTS:

Satan puts up his biggest fight against the Word of God, and he knows that when he gets us into a wrong attitude toward that Word (such as doubt and unbelief), he then has a power over us to cause us to make wrong decisions to go against or look away from God's Word (and start looking toward ourselves).

The Word of God, however, will always tell us and cause us to look away from ourselves, but instead, to look toward GOD and His Promises which all have YES to the end of them, so they will always speak about and point us toward our deliverance. If or when we would lay the Word aside, it allows Satan to try to fill our mind with various doubts and suggestions that he uses to take us to defeat.

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