

Receiving Through the Promises

Part 1

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Satan puts up his greatest fight of all against the Word of God, and the very moment that we get a wrong attitude toward God's Word, Satan has power over us.

We remember in the Garden of Eden that it was the Word of God that Satan attacked, and succeeded, through that attack, to rob Adam and Eve, and the entire human race, of every blessing which God's great love had provided. We will remember that Satan began by saying in Genesis 3:1: "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" He really meant to say, "Is God's Word true?"

"Well, we thought it was; it is so plain." Without question that is how Adam and Eve meant to answer Satan.

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

In today's world, Satan is using many people to spread what could seem to be logical arguments, at least to those who are not depending on the Holy Spirit, in order to get people to lay aside the plain Word of God and to try to justify wicked lifestyles, laying up money for the future, depending on doctors and medicines, and many other worldly ideas. With the popularity of many and various types of social media platforms, it is very easy for Satan to spread his lies using what could seem to be logical arguments that are opposed to what God's Word plainly says.

Now God had planned that our deliverance shall come through reversing that process, laying aside the suggestions, doubts, lies, and fears of Satan, and instead listening to and believing only

the plain Word of God. We lost our blessings through laying aside the Word of God, and we receive them back through accepting and following His Word alone.

In the so-called Christian world, great ignorance prevails concerning the Word of God. They are ignorant of its truths, its promises, its principles, and its plans; they do not understand nor receive the benefits of it, and they are very likely to accept Satan's logical arguments, even those that a true Christian, depending on the Holy Spirit, would recognize as being totally false. Therefore, it is very important for us to really know the Word of God and His promises so that we can recognize Satan's false logical arguments being shared by so many in the world today. Ephesians 6:11 reminds us, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles or schemes of the devil." Ephesians 6:17 says, "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:"

It is so easy to lay the Word of God 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 God's Word.

Many people have given us testimonies, and others have written saying: "I was terribly oppressed, downhearted, and discouraged, and I got hold of my Bible and started to read the Psalm 91, or some 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 on God's Word, I was fully delivered." Why was that?

I will tell you the reason. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)

The Word of God always causes us to look away from ourselves and instead to look to GOD, and His Word always speaks of deliverance.

Laying the Word aside allows Satan to fill our mind with various doubts and suggestions, such as "Just look how weak you are; how ignorant you are; how little faith you have; how bad you are; God certainly would not hear and answer your prayers; you are not good enough; you do not have enough faith; you are not going to be delivered from sickness, and you know it. Just look at yourself, you have this or that which will last for a while or what you have is incurable

or you have a bad back or bad knees or some other lie.

People listen to such suggestions, as if they were positively the truth, and if they ever had any faith, it leaves then at once. However, when we go back to the Word of God, which always says just the opposite to what Satan suggests, we discover that God has made a great provision, one which fits every case, to deliver and bless people who need it, which does not mean "good" people, heal sick people, lift the burdens of those who are burdened and crushed with heavy loads. Whenever God found a wicked, sinful, sick, weak, and burdened person who was willing to turn to Him, He immediately began to work for them, to save, heal, and lift their burden.

An automobile repairman is not looking for automobiles which have just come out of the factory spick and span, but 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 interested in are the people who need Him. If you and I need Him and His help, and we certainly do, we have a ticket of admission to His powerhouse. We have entirely lost sight of that and have believed the falsehood of Satan that God does not do anything except for "good" people. The Bible tells us just the opposite.

If we have not come to the place yet, we will be compelled to come to the place where we will have to come to God just as we are, and we 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 waiting. In the end God must do it all; for all things are of Him---everything comes from above.

In 2 Peter 1:3-4, we have two very remarkable statements---it is God's plan in two verses— "According as 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. How are we to receive these "all things?" We are to receive them through the promises.

"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; 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 these 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 in anything.

We will find these promises point us to God alone for all help; they just place us alone with God. If we get away from the promises, there is no help from anybody; so, God takes us out of Egypt into the wilderness, and then into Canaan, through the promises.

The pastor illustrated that by a personal testimony. "I lost my position many years ago, but I knew there was a promise 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 it because you would not cheat, it is a rather serious problem.

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 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 find my faith with a microscope; all my faith was in that weekly salary, but I did not know it--I only thought I had faith in God.

I began to tremble and wonder what I would do and soon concluded that this world was cruel, cold, and heartless. If had been placed at the North Pole, I could not have felt more depressed. I knew God had a promise to fit my case, and I began to search. However, I met the worse discouragement and trouble from those whom I thought were trusting God in the right way but were not. However, I discovered that Philippians 4:6-7 fit my case. "Be careful for nothing;" 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 every thing by

prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

Most people read this promise as follows— “Make your requests known unto God and man.”

As I read that promise, I found I was worrying about my position; so, I decided I would apply that promise exactly as it read. I opened my heart and told God my troubles--nobody else--I would not go to anyone else. Many of my friends heard of me being unemployed and tried to get me a position. They came and found I was not trying by human efforts, and they said: "I will try to get you a position."

"I am not worrying," I answered. I suppose they thought I was a very ungrateful person when they seemed so interested in my welfare. When they heard I was trusting God, you should have seen their countenances. "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 (especially one who had gone through a similar trial) --"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 we would have starved if I had not been helped by my relatives."

I decided the matter fully one morning, when I had gotten down to the last six cents or as we would say today, the last six dollars, that if we all starved to death and landed on the street I would go through with God. Satan fought and pictured something dreadful. While I still had a little money, I tried to trust God to send me some; I prayed and thought I had confidence in God, but I was just 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 and put my request for the supply of that need, Satan 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 it from man; you will lose everything and your life included."

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 how even though I had told a lie to get out of being converted; He 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 consecrating themselves wholly or trusting Him right for the fullness of the Spirit, but that I had made a success in that and had received the fulness of His Spirit, when I 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--I was nearly scared to death, as if I was sentenced to the gallows--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." 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 position from God where I eventually only worked about three hours a week and made a good salary.

That is applying the promises exactly as they read, without addition or subtraction. I have never been under another employer since that time. I could go to work when I pleased and stop when I pleased. That was the first step toward this grand position that God has provided.

That one final decision, taking the promise and accepting it exactly as it reads. Every promise is just the same. This one just quoted is a universal promise, which fits any case, family trouble, financial trouble, business trouble, work trouble, physical trouble, and every other trouble.



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