

THE BIBLE REVEALS GOD'S PROMISES

Psalm 119:103; 139:17; 2 Peter 1:4

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: God's promises reveal the good that He wants for His people and through the work of His Son, Jesus Christ, mankind can benefit from those promises. Most people don't benefit from God's promises because they either don't know about them or they don't want to do what God requires to receive His promises. The Bible reveals God's intent for mankind and the countless promises God has made for the benefit of all people.

I. GOD'S PROMISES BRING GOOD AND REMOVE THAT WHICH IS NOT GOOD

1. God's promises are all connected to His great love for people.
 - God wants everyone to benefit from His promises.
 - God's promises have to be made known.
 - God wants people to know why He has made such great promises.
2. God's promises come from His love and concern and they come to great sinners, working great results, dealing with great matters.
 - Everybody can understand some of God's promises, but only the saved, believers in Jesus Christ, will really grasp just how precious God's promises are.

II. A SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S PROMISES BRINGS ONE GREAT BENEFITS

1. Great benefits come to those who understand/realize to whom God's promises belong.
 - God's promises are ONLY for those who have believed in His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - **2 Corinthians 1:20**
 - No one can approach God nor receive benefits from Him except through His Son, Jesus.
 - God's promises and the things promised come through the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - No one not yet a Child of God, a believer, a Christian can receive any of God's promises.
 - **Ephesians 2:12; Romans 9:8**
 - Sadly some preachers preach and teach that God's promises are for everyone and that is taking the "children's bread" and casting it to the "dogs.." and handling the Word of God deceitfully.
2. Great benefits come to those who work to make the promises of God their own.
 - One must become acquainted with the God's promises in order to make them their own.
 - Christians have experienced just a few of God's promises when they believed in Jesus and became a child of God, receiving an "earnest" but there is much more for them.
 - One must not only read God's Word to find God's promises, but one must also meditate upon those promises and ask the Holy Spirit for understanding. (**John 6:27**)
3. Great benefits come when one realizes the great area of God's promises.
 - Sadly, some Christians fail to pursue the vastness of God's promises and in doing so forget about their life to come and all it's glory and benefits.
 - God's promises cover every aspect of the believer's daily life. (**Hebrews 13:5**)
 - There is no line that the Christian can draw where God's promises do not cover. If one does indeed walk "uprightly" then he/she is entitled to every promise that God has ever made.
 - If there is a promise anywhere in God's Word that fits one's particular case and situation, that believer can claim it as his/her own.
4. Great benefits come when one discerns between the promises of God.
 - In ignorance of how some of God's promises are to be applied, some attempt "spiritual theft." They expect and ask for something from God that they are not entitled to.
 - Many of God's promises are addressed to particular people, under particular circumstances.

- *Psalm 25:9; John 15:77*

- If one ignores things such as his/her health and sickness happens, one should not be surprised if God does not answer one's prayer for healing.

- If one neglects God's guidelines for His promises, then God is not to blame if one fails to receive any of God's promises.

- God never ignores the requirements His holiness demands.

- Salvation will never come to anyone who refuses to repent, confess and turn to the Lord Jesus.

- If one has unconfessed sin in his/her life and has turned to others for help instead of confessing his/her sin and waiting on God, then he/she has no right to count upon God's promises.

5. Great benefits come when one is able to make God's promises his/her support and way of life.

- God's promises have been given out of His love but also to comfort hearts and develop faith.

- God could have given His promises without ever saying why.

- God could have given His mercies without ever promising to do so.

- If God had not given promises, then there would be no cause for one to have faith.

- What hope is there if there is no expectation of God's promises?

- Faith looks to the promises of God found in God's Word. (*Acts 27:25*)

6. Great benefits come when one waits patiently for God to fulfill His promises.

- God promised Abraham a son but look how long Abraham had to wait for God's promise to happen.

- God promised a priest (Simeon) that he would not die until he saw the promised One and he was very old when he finally did see the baby Jesus.

- There is often a long wait between the asking in prayer and the giving of that request.

- The work of faith is knowledge, trust and loving patience.

- God accomplishes many things in delaying His carrying out of His promises.

- Faith is grown, patience is developed, hope is exercised, submission to God's will is grown.

7. Great benefits come when one makes the right use of God's promises.

- God's promises are the reason for one to pray in the first place.

- One must ask according to God's will and in doing so, one lays hold of God's promises.

- God's promises have a beneficial effect upon those to whom the promises are made.

- Their hearts are set upon Godly things - *...For where a man's heart is, there will be his treasure will be also...*

CONCLUSION:

1. *"...Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God..." (2 Corinthians 7:1)*

2. God's Word reveals God's promises therefore if one wants to know what God's promises to him/her are, then he/she must get into God's Word and read for him/herself.

3. God has made countless promises to mankind and there are guidelines by which those promises will be carried out.

4. Great benefits come from God's promises to those to whom the promises are made and who follow God's guidelines in obtaining those promises.

5. What promises of God have YOU already received?