

PROMISES

I like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you about promises.

Yesterday, as I was waiting on the Lord, the Holy Spirit brought back to my mind a vision that he showed me quite a few years ago. It went like this.

My wife and I were in the market to buy a new house. As we were out looking at possible homes to buy, we came across a gigantic, beautiful house that was way out of our price range. We would have never been able to purchase that house. As we stood there gazing at it, a drunken homeless man stumbled by and bumped into me. Hey I'm sorry, he said. Would you happen to have a dollar so I can get a cup of coffee? I said yes and gave him the dollar.

Then he asked, what are you guys doing standing out here? I said we're just looking at this house. We're in the market for a new home, and we were just admiring this one but it's way out of our price range. He said oh don't worry about that, I'll buy it for you. Just write it up and I'll take care of it.

I looked at my wife, and she rolled her eyes in disbelief and we both shook our heads and thought, this guy must be crazy or something.

A few minutes later a Rolls-Royce limousine pulled up. The door opened and a man got out, it was Bill Gates the founder of Microsoft Corporation.

He said are you Jim Fuller? I said yes. He said I recently did a business deal with your father and I owe him lots of money. He said that if I just helped you and your wife buy a house he'd consider the debt paid. Is this the one you're looking to buy? I said we're looking at it, but it's way out of our price range. He said don't worry about that, I'll buy it for you. Go ahead and write it up and I'll take care of it. And here's my business card with my personal cell number on it. Let me know which moving company you're going to be using and I'll pay for that too and if there is any expenses that come up along the way just call me and I'll cover them all.

In this vision we received two promises. One we rejected immediately as ludicrous and delusional, the other one we saw as a stroke of tremendous good fortune and we're willing to act on it.

Both promises were identical. Both said, I'll buy it for you, go ahead and write it up and I'll take care of it. They were exactly the same.

Although the words may be exactly the same, the strength of a promise has everything to do with the trustworthiness and credibility of the person making the promise.

Let me set up another hypothetical situation to illustrate the next point.

Let's say my daughter comes to me and says Daddy they're selling T-shirts at school for \$10 to support our football team can I order one? I say sure, I'll buy it for you.

After I head off to work, my daughter says to my wife, mom can we not eat dinner tonight? My wife asked why?. My daughter says I'd like to fast and pray to make sure that Dad will give me that \$10 that he promised me.

I really want one of those t-shirts. Can you call the church and set up a 24-hour prayer chain to make sure that dad gives me that \$10 that he promised.

I know that this example is really far-fetched. But I used it to illustrate the point, that if we know and trust the person who's made the promise, we don't need to do anything extra to make it happen. We just say thank you Daddy.

Please understand, I'm not belittling fasting. It's a very effective way to silence our flesh so that we can focus our attention on God and his word, but it was never designed to be a tool to force God to do what he's already promised.

God's words are promises backed by His integrity, His authority, and His ability to perform it. To have faith in God's word is to be fully convinced that God can and will keep His promises.

Down through the years, Satan, through religion, has tried to make God's word into a book of teachings, concepts, doctrines, and bible stories.

John 1.1 explains that

In the beginning was the word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. God's word is not religious teaching. It's actually God himself.

God's words are statements of reality from the creator of the universe, who can say the word and it actually comes into existence.

God's words are backed with his Integrity, his authority, and his ability to perform them. Since God and His word are one, every word from God has within it the guarantee of fulfillment

Numbers 23:19

God is not a man that he should lie, nor the son of a man, that he should repent, has he said it, and will He not do it? Or has he spoken it, and will He not make it good?

Isaiah 46.9

I am God, and there is no other, I am God and there is no one like me. truly I have spoken, truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.

Isaiah 55:11

So shall my word be which goes forth from my mouth, it shall not return to me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

We've all been born into this fallen world and have been influenced by it our entire life.

We've all been schooled by it to believe that only what we can see, hear, feel, taste, and touch is real.

The scripture states, in 2 Cor 4.18

that which is seen is temporary and that which is not seen is eternal.

God is Spirit. Although he's not visible to our natural senses, He's the creator of all things and is more real than anything we can see. He is the only thing in the universe that actually is eternal.

In Genesis, chapter 12 God made a covenant with Abraham. A covenant is a promise, that everything I am and everything I have will be available to the one with whom the covenant is made.

Throughout the years God has made many promises to man. Deuteronomy 28 is a good example of some of those promises. In that one chapter there are about 30 positive promises that God made to the children of Israel and as many negative ones for breaking the covenant. God never makes a promise that he doesn't intend to keep.

His promises are often conditional. As in this example, there were promises of blessing and also promises of cursing for breaking the God's covenant.

On different occasions, the children of Israel experienced both the blessing and the curse, because God's promises are unbreakable.

He can never lie, or he would not be God.

People today often misunderstand God's promises. They often try to use them as principles, techniques, and methods, that they can apply with their own effort to create certain desired results. Much like our modern motivational speakers teach.

But there is a massive difference between God's promises and self help techniques. Self help techniques are applied by men utilizing their soul, which is their will, their emotions, and their intellect. The success of these efforts is predicated on their ability to perform them.

God is Spirit, and his promises are also spirit. Their fulfillment is dependent on God's unique ability to make them our reality, not our soulish effort.

Jesus said in John chapter 3,

that which is born of flesh is flesh and that which is born of the spirit is Spirit.

He also said in John 6:63,
it is the spirit who gives life, the flesh profits nothing, the words I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Down through the ages God has communicated with and made promises to men that he is in covenant with. His intention was that all men would be in a covenant relationship with him.

After Satan deceived Adam and Eve, and their subsequent fall from the presence of God, God initiated his plan to restore them back into fellowship with him. He came to Earth as a man, born of a woman, and in Jesus he paid the penalty for man's sin, to restore all mankind back into fellowship with him.

His plan, the gospel, was to put all men in Christ, crucify him, bury him, and raise him from the dead to a completely new life. Because man was in Christ, whatever happened to Christ, happened to man .

Man now had the opportunity to receive God's work on his behalf and become a new creation of God's making, and be restored into fellowship with God as a member of his family and the citizen of his kingdom.

The gospel is not a religion. It's the supernatural work of God on our behalf to restore us to our original created relationship with God.

By putting us in Christ, all of his promises to us, are all considered yes and amen in Christ. 2 Cor 1.20

I'd like to take a moment to highlight one of the promises God has made to us his children, because I believe it's the core and foundation of every other promise that he has made.

It's found in Hebrews 8.10. It is a quote from Jeremiah chapter 31.

This is the Covenant that I will make with the house of Israel. After those days, says the Lord, I will put my laws into their minds, and I will write them upon their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people, and they shall not teach every one his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother, saying, know the Lord, for all will know me from the least to the greatest of them.

Please note the operative words in God's covenant,
I will, I will, and I will.

In John 17.3 Jesus explains that,
this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

We become members of God's family by repenting of our life inherited from Adam Eve and exchanging it for the life of his son Jesus Christ, and by receiving Jesus as our savior we inherit God's eternal life.

1 John 5.12 states that,
The witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, the life is in his son, he was the son as the life.

I mentioned previously that God's eternal life was the core and foundation of all of his promises to man.

Reading from the Amplified version

John 1.12 says,

As many as did receive and welcome him. (Speaking of Jesus). He gave them (the authority, the power, the privilege), the right to become the children of God, that is to those who believe in (adhere to and trust in and rely on) his name.

Who owe their birth neither to blood, nor to the will of the flesh, (that of a physical impulse) nor to the will of man (that of a natural father) but to God, (they are born of God.)

In other words, the very thing that makes God, God, his eternal nature, is the very thing that makes us his children.

Ephesians 1.11

says that in him we also were made God's heritage and we obtained and inheritance.

Everything that we receive as God's children comes to us by inheritance.

Reading from the Amplified version,

Eph 1.13 and 14 state that,

And in Him you also who have heard the word of truth, the glad tidings, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in and adhered to, and relied on him, we're stamped with the seal of the long promised Holy Spirit.

That spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance, the first fruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage, in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring complete possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Jesus said in John 16.14 that

Everything that the father has is mine, and I've sent the Holy Spirit to give it to you.

Our inheritance as the children of God is the eternal life of the father.

2 Peter 1.1-4 explains that

God has given us his divine and precious promises, that by these we would become partakers of his divine nature.

God intends for his children to be like him. He wants his children to think like he thinks, to speak like he speaks, and to love like he loves,

1st John .4:12 explains that,

God is love. He who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him. By this union and communion with him we are perfected in love, and have confidence in the day of judgment, that as he is so are we in this world.

Our oneness with God by the Holy Spirit, empowers us to accomplish God's purposes with God's ability.

As I said before our oneness with God empowers us to accomplish God's purposes with God's ability by his holy spirit.

2nd Corinthians chapter 3 explains that,

We are not adequate in ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who made us adequate as ministers of the new covenant by His spirit.

The word translated adequacy means sufficiency, ability, and power from God.

Jesus told his disciples after the resurrection that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them to make them His witnesses to the ends of the Earth.

The word translated as power is the Greek word dunamis. It means God's ability and power.

Do you remember in Matthew 28, Jesus told his disciples that all authority in Heaven and Earth has been given unto me, because of this you go and make disciples of all the nations.

Does it seem funny to anyone but me, that he said I have all authority in heaven and earth, there for you go and make disciples of all the nations.

This command to his disciples demonstrates Jesus' complete confidence that we are one with him, by his perfect sacrifice.

Here are two scriptures that verify this.

John 20.17 and John 17.22-24

I think it bears mentioning, that every time Jesus sent someone out, he didn't send them out to do what they could do in their own ability, he sent them out to do what He could do through them.

Here are a couple examples.

He sent out the 12.

Matthew 10.1

He sent out the 70.

Luke 10.1-9

John 17.18 he said as the father has sent me, I am sending you.

In Matthew 28, he commissioned all of us to go and manifest his life and his kingdom authority to all the nations.

Let's examine a little closer Jesus' directions to his disciples as He sent them out.

Matthew .4:17 says that Jesus went about preaching repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

Matthew 10 says that

Jesus gathered his 12 disciples, and gave them authority over demons and the ability to heal every kind of disease.

Verse 7 says that he instructed them to

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and tell them that the kingdom of God is here.

Mark 16 records the results,

They went about preaching everywhere while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word of the Kingdom with the signs that's followed.

The Apostle Paul mentioned in his first letter to the Thessalonians that the gospel did not consist in word only but in power.

When we read scriptures like these, it seems a bit puzzling why a large portion of the church today, believe that since we have the written scriptures, that the Bible is all that is necessary to accomplish the God's Great Commission to make all of the people groups members of his family and all of the nations, citizens of his kingdom.

Many feel that God's authority and supernatural power to heal, restore and transform men back into God's original created image is unnecessary

It is also puzzling why much of the church that professes that these things are true and available either can't or won't manifest them to all the nations of the world.

In closing, I hope that these scriptures have encouraged you to lay hold of everything that God has made available to us through his promises,

I pray right now for all of us, that we would humble ourselves and submit ourselves to Christ's lordship in our lives.

I pray that we will allow God to say everything he wants to say through us, do everything he wants to do through us, and accomplished everything he wants to accomplish through us his children

I pray that we would allow God to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we could ever dare ask or think by his power that works within us by his holy spirit.

I'm going to close with one more mind-boggling promise from God.

It's from John 14.12

Jesus said,

Truly, truly I say unto you,

(my paraphrase, I really, really mean this)

Whoever believes in me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these, because I go to the Father.

GOD BLESS YOU.

Jim Fuller