

GOD

Claim God's Promises

God, our heavenly Father, so **loves** us that He made many **promises** that, when they are **fulfilled**, will truly make our lives **more abundant**. Because we have **freedom of will**, in order for these promises to be fulfilled for our benefit we need to **claim** them by taking believing action and trusting Him.

We'll consider what is **meant** by a "**promise**", then we'll see from God's Word **what He says** about the promises He has made. We'll see that when **God** promises something, He is **reliable** to fulfill that promise once the necessary conditions are met. Then we'll take a look at a few of the numerous **promises** found in God's Word that **we can claim** in our lives.

One dictionary defines a "**promise**" as "**a declaration** that something will or will not be done, given, etc." The *The New Bible Dictionary* gives a more detailed definition: "(a promise is) a word that goes forth into unfilled time. It **reaches ahead** of its speaker and its recipient, to mark an appointment between them in the future. A promise may be an **assurance** of continuing or future **action** on behalf of someone...It may be the **announcement** of a future **event**."

As we study God's Word, we find **numerous** promises made by **God**. In fact, there are actually more than **1,000 promises** to be found **in God's Word**. While **some** of them, especially in Old Testament times, can only be applied to **specific groups** of people, **many** Old Testament promises that God made **still** apply to **us** living in the Grace Administration today. **Also**, of course, we see many promises made **directly to us** as we read the Church Epistles, the "all truth" for **our** day and time.

When we discover a promise that we'd like to claim, can we **count on God** to fulfill it? **Unlike** many people, when **God** makes a promise, **He keeps it!**

Numbers

23:19 *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*

If **God** says He'll **do** something, you **definitely** can **count on it**.

Isaiah

55:10 *For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:*

55:11 *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

These words were written in **Old Testament times**, but since **God doesn't change (Malachi 3:6)**, we know these words are just as **true** today.

God made many promises that when fulfilled will greatly **enhance** our lives and those of our brothers and sisters standing with us in the household, **but** because He gave us **freedom of will**, we need to **do our part** and **claim** these promises before they can be manifested in our lives. **Before** we can claim God's promises, we need to **know** them. We need to **go to God's Word** and **study** it (**II Timothy 2:15**).

When we **know** a promise that God has made, we **claim** it by **taking action**. Claiming a promise God made **may** require that we do certain things outlined in the **context** where it is written; often this involves our **brothers and sisters** in Christ as we walk in love. At times we claim God's promises simply by **believing** what He said. No matter what promise of God we wish to claim, **believing** is **always** a requirement.

If we are **born again**, we **already** claimed one of God's promises simply by **believing**, **not** by any **works** we did because we were **saved by grace**. **First**, let's look at a familiar verse:

John

3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Because of God's **love** and **grace**, the **accomplishments** of His only begotten Son, **Jesus Christ**, paved the way for those who **believe** to be **saved**.

Romans

10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

God made it so **simple** to get **saved**, born again of His spirit. This great **promise** was **fulfilled for us** the moment we **believed**. No other action was needed to claim this promise.

The **moment** we got born again, we received God's **gift of holy spirit**, **first** made available on the Day of Pentecost when **twelve apostles** received "**the promise of the Father**" referred to in **Acts chapter 1**:

Acts

1:4 And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for (*until*) the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

1:5 For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost (*in holy spirit*) not many days hence.

We see the **fulfillment** of this promise in **Acts chapter 2**:

Acts

2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they (*twelve apostles*) were all with one accord in one place (*in the Temple*).

2:4 And they (*the twelve*) were all filled with the Holy Ghost (*with the gift of holy spirit*), and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit (*God*) gave them utterance.

On the Day of Pentecost, twelve apostles took **believing action**, and they **received** the **gift of holy spirit**, evidenced by **their speaking in tongues**. Since then, the **promise** in **Romans 10 verse 9** has been fulfilled for **everybody** who **believes**, and **they too** receive the **gift** of holy spirit and the ability to **manifest** it by speaking in tongues.

Abraham set a great example of **believing** as he claimed God's promise to him that he would have a son through Sarah. Look at **Romans chapter 4**, beginning in **verse 20**:

Romans

4:20 He (*Abraham*) staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith (*strong in believing*), giving glory to God;

4:21 And being fully persuaded that, what he (*God*) had promised, he was able also to perform.

Just like Abraham, **we** want to be **fully persuaded** that God is not only **able** but **willing** to fulfill His promises to us.

We see a great **example** of a promise that we can **claim by believing** in **chapter 11** of the **Gospel of Mark**:

Mark

11:23 For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

We know that Jesus Christ was **not** talking about removing a **literal mountain**: this is an **orientalism** referring to the removal of any **problem** or **obstacle** that may **seem** to us like a mountain in our path. Here we are **promised** that if we **believe** and **do not doubt** in our hearts, the innermost part of our being, that obstacle will be **removed**.

Now let's look at a few of the many **promises** that **we can claim** in our lives that will benefit both us and others in the household as we live God's love. We'll begin in the book of **Isaiah, chapter 41**:

Isaiah

41:10 Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

We **never** need to **fear** anything because **God is with us**: He promises to **strengthen** us, **help** us, and **support** us.

Isaiah

26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

This verse **more accurately** reads: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is **stayed because he trusteth in thee.**” When we **fully trust** God, our minds are “**stayed**” (set, established), and we can enjoy **God’s perfect peace** no matter what is happening around us. That’s a **promise!**

Psalms

37:3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

37:4 Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

37:5 Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him: and he shall bring *it* to pass.

God **promises** that He will bring to pass our heart’s desires as we **trust Him** and endeavor to **live according to His Word**.

We **won’t** take the time to read it, but **Proverbs chapter 3, verses 1 through 10** contain several great **promises** that we can claim as we **keep God’s Word in our minds, trust in Him** with all our hearts, and endeavor to **live according to His Word**. **Benefits** we can enjoy include length of days, long life, peace, favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man, **God** directing our path, health, and prosperity. Definitely promises we want fulfilled in our lives!

Chapter 8 of the Book of **Romans** contains several **promises** we can claim in our lives. We’ll just focus on the last part, beginning in **verse 35**:

Romans

8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

8:36 (As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.)

8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come,

8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God promises us that we can live as **super-conquerors**, and that absolutely **nothing** can separate us from **His love**.

Philippians

4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

From the **context**, we see that as we operate the principle of **giving**, **God** will supply **all** our **needs**.

II Corinthians

9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

From the **context** we see that as we **give of our abundance** to bless the household, we will be totally **sufficient** so we can **abound to every good work**, being especially good to those of the household of faith (**Galatians 6:10**).

In the Gospel of **John chapter 14, verse 12** is a truly great **promise** that **we can claim**:

John

14:12 Verily, verily, I (Jesus Christ) say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

We **can do** the works that Jesus Christ did during his earthly ministry, **and** today we can even do **greater** works, things that Jesus Christ **couldn't** do: we can **speak in tongues** (perfect prayer, among other things) and we can operate our ministry of reconciliation to **lead people to the new birth**, spiritually raising them from the dead.

God has made many **promises** that **we can claim** in our lives, making our lives **today** more abundant as we live God's love and do His Word.

But there's **more**: God even made promises for us to enjoy **after** this life. Let's just look at one, in **Titus chapter 1**:

Titus

1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.

We have **the hope of Christ's Return** and look forward to **eternal life**. Now **that's** a promise worth waiting for!

We've considered some of the many **promises** that **God**, through His love and grace, has made. Let's get busy and **claim God's promises!**

- Dr. Rick Batt