

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 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, *saieth 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 God*), 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