

## GOD

### With God We Can Expect the Best

God, our Heavenly Father, loves us and wants the best for us. Because of the accomplishments of Jesus Christ, God could make it available for us to be born again of His spirit and to claim great rights as His children. We can enjoy a more abundant life today, and we joyfully anticipate the hope of Christ's Return. As we learn what God has made available to us by studying His written Word and will, we can claim what He has promised, keeping God's Word in focus in our minds as we confidently expect the best.

We'll begin in II Peter Chapter 1, verse 3:

#### II Peter

1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

This verse says that God, according to the magnitude of His divine power, has given to us "all things that pertain unto life and godliness". The word "life" here is from the Greek word *zōē*, pertaining to life in all of its fullness. Godliness refers to a true and vital spiritual relationship with God. God has already given us "all things", everything we could possibly need, to enjoy life in all of its fullness and our relationship with Him.

In order for us to know what He has given us, we need "the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue". The word "knowledge" is from the Greek word *epignōsis*, meaning a full, experiential knowledge. In five of the seven critical Greek manuscripts, the remainder of this verse then reads: "...of him that hath called us by his own glory and virtue." God, by His glory and virtue, has called us, and for us to gain full, experiential knowledge of Him we need to study and rightly divide His Word. II Timothy 2:15 tells us: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Verse 4 begins with "whereby," referring back to God's glory and virtue mentioned in verse 3. God, by His own glory and virtue, gave to us "exceeding great and precious promises". God's Word contains more than 900 promises that we can claim and apply in our lives. If God said these promises, we can believe them. Look at Numbers chapter 23, verse 19:

#### 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?

When God makes a promise, He keeps it. II Corinthians 1:20 says: “For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” God’s Word is His will, so when God makes a promise, we know that He is not only willing but able to fulfill it. Just like Abraham, as recorded in Romans 4:21, we need to become fully persuaded that what God promises He is able (and willing) to perform. We surely can trust in God to keep His promises. Let’s return to II Peter 1:4:

### II Peter

1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

God’s promises made it available for us to become “partakers of the divine nature”. Ephesians 1:3 tells us that God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings. We have Christ in us, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). We are the children of God, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:16-17). We have escaped from the corruption that is in the world, the realm of the adversary who according to II Corinthians 4:4 is “the god of this world”. We have been delivered from the power of darkness, as we see in Colossians 1:13:

### Colossians

1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

The last part of this verse more accurately reads: “has made us citizens of his (God’s) kingdom by the works of his dear Son”. The accomplishments of Jesus Christ made it available for God to deliver us.

We’ll now consider some of the great things that we can enjoy and look forward to as we keep God’s Word in mind, claiming His promises and expecting the best.

We can expect the best because we are God’s children:

### I John

3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

The word “sons” here is from the Greek word *tekna*, meaning “beloved children” (sons and daughters). We are God’s beloved children. Our Father, the God who created the heavens and the earth, truly wants the best for His children. And as God’s children with the gift of holy spirit, we have power from on high. Look at Ephesians chapter 1, verses 19 and 20:

### Ephesians

1:19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*.

As we believe, we can manifest great power that God has made available to us. We don't rely on our own power or ability: Philippians 2:13 says "For it is God which worketh in you (energizes you) both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure." We can expect the best as we believe to operate God's power and do His will.

As God's beloved children who have been justified and made righteous by His grace, we can boldly go to our heavenly Father to get our needs met. Hebrews 4:16 says: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

We go to God in prayer, knowing that He hears our prayers and will take care of us. Look at I John chapter 5, verses 14 and 15.

### I John

5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Look at Matthew, chapter 7, beginning in verse 9:

### Matthew

7:9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

7:10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

So, as we believingly go to God in prayer, we are confident that He will provide the best for us. James 5, verse 16 says: "The effectual fervent (energized) prayer of a righteous man availeth much (prevails)."

We can expect the best when we believe for our needs to be met in all categories of life. Philippians 4:19 says: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." God is our sufficiency (II Corinthians 3:5).

We learn more about God being our sufficiency in II Corinthians chapter 9 in the context of the great principle of giving and receiving:

### II Corinthians

9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

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.

As we give of our abundance, God by His abounding grace can bless us back abundantly, giving us all sufficiency in all things so we can abound to every good work, doing the will of God as we enjoy the more abundant life and bless others in the household.

Having our needs met includes our health. Psalm 103, verse 3 says that the Lord, Jehovah (God in His personal relationship to us), heals all our diseases. III John 2 says: “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” And, I Peter 2:24 says “by whose stripes ye were healed”, referring to how the accomplishments of Jesus Christ freed us from sin and the consequences of sin, including sickness. As we claim God’s promises, we can expect the best for our health, also.

There will be times when challenges and obstacles will arise, but as we take believing action on God’s Word, we can overcome them. Consider Mark, chapter 11, verse 23:

#### 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 rather than referring to removing a literal mountain this verse relates an eastern expression where a great teacher who solved problems was referred to as “one who removed mountains”. Problems can often seem like mountains, major obstacles in our path. If we believe and do not doubt, we can “remove those mountains”. When we believe God, we expect results. It’s been said, “You get what you expect.” So why not expect the best?

As children of God, we can expect the best as we overcome obstacles. Let’s look at a few verses in I John, beginning with chapter 4, verse 4:

#### I John

- 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.
- 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment (*today, when man does the judging*): because as he is, so are we in this world.
- 4:18a There is no fear in love: but perfect love casteth out fear:

When faced with a challenging situation we can boldly and fearlessly take a stand on God’s Word. God in Christ in us is far greater than anything or anyone that might confront us.

#### I John

- 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God (*that’s us*) overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even our faith (believing)*.
- 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

We who are born again of God’s spirit can overcome the world (“world” is a figure of speech for Satan’s realm and influence). II Corinthians 2:14 tells us that God always causes us

to triumph in Christ. Romans 8:37 tells us that no matter what the situation, we are “more than conquerors (“super-conquerors”) through him that loved us.”

### I Corinthians

10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it (to endure)*.

No matter what the situation, God will see us through. He will always provide a way for us. We need to claim this, as well as the great promise in Romans 8:28:

### Romans

8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

According to I John 5:3, to love God is to keep His commandments, renewing our minds by putting God’s Word on in our minds and acting accordingly. The word “good” in this verse (“all things work together for good”) is from the Greek word *agathos*, which can be understood as “the best godly solution according to what is available in that situation.”

In the face of any challenge or opposition, whether it is physical, mental, or spiritual, we can stand on God’s Word and expect the best as we boldly and fearlessly claim the victory.

As we continue to put God’s Word in our minds and act accordingly, focusing on the great truths of His Word and claiming His great promises, we will find ourselves living the “Ephesians 3:20 lifestyle”:

### Ephesians

3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us,

When we dwell on God’s Word and claim His promises, we truly can expect the best.

- Dr. Rick Batt