

Spiritual Growth

Repairing & Rebuilding Firm Foundations in Christ

Session Two

Who is God

For Every Problem there is a Promise

Opening Prayer

Objective

- ❖ Realize the promises of God for your life
- ❖ Recognize that the promises are given to you
- ❖ Understand why you lack victory in certain areas of your life

For Every Problem There is a Promise

The Word of God lacks nothing, NO THING. It contains answers to and for every situation that could possibly come up in our life here on earth. For instance, it tells us how to be a daughter, a wife, and a mother. How to take care of our possessions, manage our money, gain promotion, or garner favor. The Word gives us answers to such hard questions as sexual immorality, divorce, legal disputes, employer/employee controversies, living with your neighbor, responding to those who spitefully use you. We must first desire to do things God's way, then be diligent to search out the Word for answers.

The Promises of God

Never Fail

1 Kings 8:56 – Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant. (KJV)

Backed by God's Oath

Hebrews 6:12-18

¹²that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. ¹³For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." ¹⁵And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

¹⁷Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, ¹⁸that by two immutable (Meaning these things cannot change) things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. (NKJ)

Fulfilled on Schedule

Gal 4:4 – *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, (NKJ)*

Kept by Faith

Rom 4:20-21 – ²⁰He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. (NKJ)

Centered in Christ

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. (NKJ)

2 Timothy 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, (NKJ)

Exceedingly Great

2 Peter 1:2-4 -- ²Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (NKJ)

Not Slow

2 Peter 3:4-15

⁴and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." ⁵For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ⁸But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day

of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ¹⁵and account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation-- as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, (NKJ)

Hebrews 10:22-23

²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. (NKJ)

Some of God's Promises

Instructor's Note: Assign someone in the class to read a couple of the Scriptures out loud

Promises for **Answered Prayer:**

Psalm 55:17; Matthew 21:22; John 14:13, 14; John 15:7; John 16:23, 24; 1 John 5:14

Promises for **Spiritual Growth:**

Psalm 32:8; Psalm 27:14; Ezekiel 36:26; Isaiah 40:31; Isaiah 41:10; MARK 12:30, 31

Promises for **Abundant Life:**

John 8:12; Luke 21:15; 1 Timothy 6:17; John 15:11; Galatians 3:29; James 4:10; Philippians 4:19

Promises for **Daily Needs:**

James 4:8; Psalm 18:30; Hebrews 10:23; Exodus 23:25; Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 73:23

Promises for **Troubled Times:**

Psalm 147:3; Romans 8:38-39; Psalm 34:15; Psalm 34:17; Revelation 21:4; Isaiah 35:4

Promises for **Peace:**

1 Corinthians 14:33; Psalm 119:165; John 14:27; Romans 5:1; Isaiah 55:12; Romans 14:19

Why We Lack Victory

We lack victory because we lack knowledge, wisdom and understanding through the Word of God. Further, we in many cases lack commitment, consistency, willingness and desire. Many times we lack these things because we are not fully persuaded that we can obtain what we need

from God. He said ask and it shall be given. If you lack wisdom and ask it of Him, He will freely give it to you.

Wisdom, Knowledge & Understanding

We need wisdom knowledge and understanding for every situation and circumstance in our life. If we need wisdom we only need to pray and ask God to give it to us and the Scriptures says He will give it liberally to all who ask. See Col. 1:9 & James 1:5 on the next page.

Colossians 1:9

*For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask **that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;** (NKJ)*

James 1:5

*If any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask of God**, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (NKJ)*

What Limits our Understanding?

Discuss possibilities with Class

Unbelief, Spiritual Blindness & Deafness, Difficulties

God wants to Develop a Deep Personal Relationship With You

Above all things, God wants you to acknowledge Him as your source and sufficiency for ALL things. He lovingly and wonderfully created you for His own pleasure. Just think of why He created man to begin with. After creating the heavens and the earth, the Word says that He created man in His own image. Since that time, He has desired to fellowship and commune with the people of His creation. He wants to be the object of our desire. God is love, and He desires that we love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind – to be consumed with love from Him and for Him. Just as God walked with Adam in the Garden, He wants to do the same with each of us. When we walk with someone, we are communing with him or her in conversation; spending time with them. Telling them intimate secrets, sharing our heart openly – it is a very pleasant experience for us. This leisurely walk indicates a deep relationship. When I read this, I see God and Adam leisurely walking together, sharing thoughts, laughing and enjoying the Garden.

Psalm 73:23-28 (NKJ)

²³Nevertheless I am continually with You; you hold me by my right hand. ²⁴You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. ²⁵Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. ²⁶My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. ²⁷For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; you have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. ²⁸But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all Your works.

A Love Letter From God

Metaphorically, the book Song of Solomon is a love letter from God to His people, and from Christ to His Church. It pictures Israel as God's betrothed bride (Hosea 2:19,20), and the church as the bride of Christ. Take time to read the entire book (8 chapters), and think of the "beloved" as Christ or God, and the "shulamite" as yourself.

Instructor's Note: Ask students to meditate on the following Scripture and write a journal assignment for homework during the week.

Song of Solomon 7:10-13 (NKJ)

I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me. Come, my beloved, let us go forth to the field; let us lodge in the villages. Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine has budded, whether the grape blossoms are open, and the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give you my love. The mandrakes give off a fragrance, and at our gates are pleasant fruits, all manner, new and old, which I have laid up for you, my beloved.

Closing Prayer

This Week's Assignments:

- ❖ Memorize one promise Scripture from each category discussed. Be prepared to share a Scripture during the next class.
- ❖ Meditate on Song of Solomon 7:10-13, and write a journal entry about how this Scripture reference changed your thoughts toward and about God.