

RECEIVING GOD'S PROMISES

Many people do not believe that God's promises are conditional. It is not that we are put into legalism, but that they cause us to have a right relationship with the Lord and our Brothers and Sisters. We begin today's teaching with

2 Corinthians 1:20 (KJVer) *For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*

This promise tells us that God wants us to receive all of His promises. We did this teaching because many of us have experienced standing on this promise and not receiving what we prayed for. The key is understanding that all of the promises are in Christ and Christ is in us. When we are not conscious of Christ in us we are actually not asking with full knowledge and this can cause us to not be walking in faith. Paul reinforces this in the following Scriptures.

Colossians 1:25-28 (KJVer) 25) *Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;*

26) *Even the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints:*

27) *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*

28) *Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:*

Galatians 2:20 (KJVer) *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.*

Numbers 23:19 (KJVer) *God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: has He said, and shall He not do it? or has He spoken, and shall He not make it good?*

The promise of 2 Cor. 1:20 that we just looked at tells us clearly that God is glorified by us receiving His promises. In this Scripture God is emphasizing that He will be faithful to deliver on His promises. He even states that He does not lie, neither does He have to repent for not honoring His Word.

1 John 3:18-24 (KJVer) 18) *My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*

19) *And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.*

20) *For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.*

21) *Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.*

22) *And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*

23) *And this is His commandment, That we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment.*

24) *And he that keeps His commandments dwells in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.*

God's promises are conditional. In this Scripture, He is making it clear, that one of the conditions is us loving one another. In fact loving God and others lets us know we are All walking in truth and our hearts do not condemn us. If we have committed sin, our hearts will condemn us but God is greater than that condemnation. And based on 1 Jn. 1:9, we know that He will forgive us; making our hearts confident toward the Lord. This Scripture becomes clearer stating we will receive by keeping His commandments and doing those things that are pleasing to Him. This is another example of the promises being conditional. Additionally, God is wanting us to believe in the name of His Son and in fact there are many names that help us to understand the personality and character of Christ. The Holy Spirit confirms to us that we are obeying God and therefore dwelling in Christ and Christ dwelling in us.

Matthew 7:7-12 (KJVer) 7) *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*

8) *For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened.*

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

10) *Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?*

11) *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?*

12) *Therefore all things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*

When we pray sometimes we receive our petition rapidly. Sometimes we have to seek which would be a little more involved and require a little more time. And sometimes we need to be persistent in our prayers by knocking, which would increase the need for us to be patient. The Lord is saying that there are times when we need to be persistent in our prayers, which requires us to continue to ask, seek, and knock. The examples of us being evil and feeding our children are God's way of again guaranteeing us that He, as being righteous and holy, will give to us the good things which we ask of him. Once again we are seeing another condition which is based on loving one another. All obedience is love which we all want to receive.

Matthew 18:19-20 (KJVer) 19) *Again I say to you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven.*

20) *For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.*

This is another promise of God provision, when two of us are in agreement regarding the Word of righteousness. We are not only in agreement, but in fellowship with one another. And this Scripture reminds us that Jesus will be among us, interceding with us for our prayers.

Hebrews 6:10-15 (KJVer) 10) *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which you have showed toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

11) *And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope to the end:*

12) *That you be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

13) *For when God made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself,*

14) *Saying, Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.*

15) *And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.*

God is pleased with us when we labor in His name. When we labor to our fellow saints, He considers ministering one to another, an act of love. This Scripture is saying we should all be caring for one another and not being slothful but like others before us in faith and patience and we will inherit the promises. Once again the Lord is stating that His Word is true. He is also saying patience and endurance may be necessary.

Mark 11:22-26 (KJVer) 22) *And Jesus answering said to them, Have faith in God.*

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

24) *Therefore I say to you, What things soever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.*

25) *And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*

26) *But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.*

In this Scripture the Lord is talking about moving mountains. Mountains are obstacles for us to receive the will of God. The requirement is that we believe in our hearts that what we have said will come to pass. We are told to believe that we have received that which we are praying for. Those who can believe that they can receive and not doubt in their hearts, are those who have spent time with the Lord, have a history of Him answering their prayers, and know Him well enough to have complete confidence that His Word never returns void. In order to move mountains, we must be sure that we have no unforgiveness in our hearts. With unforgiveness in our hearts not only will we not see mountains moved, we will not have our sins forgiven.

Psalm 37:1-9 (KJVer) 1) *Fret not yourself because of evildoers, neither be you envious against the workers of iniquity.*

2) *For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.*

3) *Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shall thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shall be fed.*

4) *Delight yourself also in the LORD; and He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

5) *Commit your way to the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.*

6) *And He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and your judgment as the noonday.*

7) Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him: fret not yourself because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked devices to pass.

8) Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not yourself in any wise to do evil.

9) For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

In this Psalm we are being told not be envious of evil doers for they shall soon wither as the green herb. We are told to trust the Lord, to do good, to delight ourselves in God, to commit our ways unto Him and He shall bring them to pass. In doing so our righteousness will be a light and we will judge right from wrong continually. It continues by telling us to rest, wait patiently, cease from anger and all evil and we will be blessed mightily.

James 5:16 (KJV) *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

Sometimes God wants us to reach out to a trusted Brother or Sister and confess our sins for us to receive healing in the spirit, soul, body, the work of our hands and covenant relationship, covenant relationships being with the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit and our mates. The Lord may be looking for us to be humble, meek, poor in spirit or we may be weakened because of our infirmities and need the strength of a righteous believer.