

## **02 | God's Promises to Believers**

### THE PROMISES OF GOD Series

Thank you for joining me again on this great adventure through The Promises of God. This session, we're going to learn that God has made promises to believers. So, in the first session, we looked at the fact that God is the Almighty Creator of the universe, and He has communicated by breathing through the men of God as they wrote Scripture. And those scriptures are laden with revelation about His character, about His heart toward us, and His trustworthiness as the powerful, Almighty God of the universe.

And I suppose that the first observation coming to this teaching today is God didn't have to do it. In other words, God didn't have to reveal anything about Himself, and He certainly didn't have to make any promises. But this is the personal God that you and I serve. That's why you will hear some people say, "my personal Lord and Savior." Not only is He a person, but He is personal. So He is near every one of us, it also says in another portion of Scripture, So God is true, and as such, His words are true. Look at this Scripture with me again, 2 Peter 1:3-4: "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness." What else is there, right? "...life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him, who called us to His own

glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."

So, God has made them. As you begin to just open the scriptures, and even if you're new to the faith, and you were to start in any one of the gospels or some of the epistles--the writings of Paul, Peter, James, and so on--as you begin to read, you'll begin to detect there are some promises there, not just promises for salvation. In other words, where we become born again, where we are no longer just living in the world, but we become a follower of Jesus, and we receive the Holy Spirit. All that, the Holy Spirit, salvation, all of it--they're promises, they're in the Bible. That's how we even know about them. And the fact that He didn't have to do it, but because He loves us, He made promises to us. I have four children, and I can assure you over the seasons of raising those children, Mom and I made a lot of promises to them. And those promises were based on the fact that we cared for them. And I can't wait to show you the scriptures where it shows so clearly that God makes promises because He cares and because He loves. So, love is that reason. Well, what is a promise, after all? I mean, let's just break it down to the actual definition. A promise is someone saying, "I will do: fill in the blank." I will do this. I will do that. I will clean up my room. I will read my Bible every day. I will, and so on. Well, when God makes promises,

He's doing the exact same thing. God is saying, "I will do this."

So, God is true, and as such, when He says, "I will do," guess what? He will do. He will do! Now, immediately, the enemy of our souls and even our own, kind of like "unborn-again" parts, as it were, begin to question and go, "Will He really do it? Will He really do that?" But let me just show you some of these promises. And I think you're going to discover that some of these promises that are in here, He's already done it for you. There's a promise for Him to save you. And for many of you, that's exactly what He's done. You're now born again. You're living for God. The old is gone and the new has come. You're a new creation.

So God has already fulfilled one of His promises to save you. How about healing? You know, in one of our house churches just recently, there was a young man there with flat feet, and he was having such terrible foot pain and pain specifically in his heel. And so, one of the people there who was kind of having some doubts about healing and wanting to really understand more, was asking some questions of the House Church leader. The House church leader said, "Hey, let's read the scripture." So they read the scripture about healing and how Jesus healed. And they prayed for the young man and then asked the question, "How do you feel? Rate your pain." And the young man said, "Well, my pain's still at about an eight." And so, guess what he did? Prayed again, just like we saw Jesus do with the blind man who was only seeing men like trees. And

then Jesus prayed for him again. So following the scripture, believing for God to heal as He's promised several times throughout the Scripture, they did it. And guess what happened? The boy put the foot down on the floor, and it had an arch, and all the pain was gone. God is a healer. And, matter of fact, the Scripture says, "I am the Lord who heals you."

So, healing is one of those promises. Also, to provide for you, to provide for your needs. The Old Testament, we call that Jehovah Jireh, the provider, He provided for the children of Israel in the wilderness after they came out of bondage with almost, you know, no way to make a living. They had been slaves all this time, and yet He provided a cloud by day and fire by night to keep them cool in the day and warm at night in the desert climate. So, He will provide for you. I'll never forget, my wife and I were church planting up in Minnesota early in our ministry, and money was extremely tight, and the energy bills in those climates are pretty extreme. You know, it gets really cold up there, and bills were starting to come due, and we were getting a disconnect notice and all these things. And it's like, what do you do? Do you buy food or do you pay an electric bill? And that day, in our mailbox, showed up a check from someone we had never met, who we did not know. And it was enough to do both things, both to buy food and to pay for that electric bill. And do you know who we ask about that for money? We ask the Lord, God, You see us, You said you would meet all our needs according to Your riches in glory by

Christ Jesus. That's Philippians 4:19, by the way. And guess what God did? God motivated someone up in New Hampshire to write a check to someone in Minnesota that they had never met. God provides for His children!

God has made promises to guide us. Proverbs 3 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not your own understanding; in all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." So, there again, you combine that with the scripture in James that says that when we need wisdom, we go and ask God and believe that we'll receive it and we're going to receive it. How many times has it been throughout our lives, in our personal lives, and in our ministry, when we have needed wisdom from God and believed that the Lord was a God of His Word and would provide that wisdom that we heard from the Lord, either looking at the truth in Scripture or by a present ministry of the Holy Spirit, or the good counsel of other godly people. God provides wisdom.

God promises to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Isn't that good news? Anyone who's filled with the Spirit today, that's because God made a promise, and because He's true, when you asked, He gave it. He has offered in Romans 8 to take any situation that we're in and to work it together for the good of those who love Him and are the called according to His purpose.

Do you see how many different categories of promises that I have listed there in the variety of scriptures? And this is just the

tip of the iceberg! So, if you are new to the Christian faith and you are just coming into an awareness that God has made some promises, let me tell you, as beautiful and full of provision as was the promised land that God was going to send the Israelites into, the Bible itself is a promised land, full of Scriptures that are promises that God made to His covenant people--that's you and me--and God has sworn by covenant, "I am a truthful God, I'm a faithful God and I'm making some promises." He told Abraham, "I'm going to bless you and you're going to be a blessing."

So, God promised these to us. Now, I think that's important, because God just didn't turn, you know, the Father didn't turn to the Son and say, "Hey, I'm making a promise." The promises are to us. It's not an attempt for us to make ourselves the center of the gospel, as if we're the most important thing; God is the most important thing. He's the one who gets all the glory, but God because of His love ... you know, the Bible says that God is love, and love requires an object. Do you understand what I mean? It's like love doesn't just exist inactive. Love seeks after the object to show love. So, God promised these to us, not to Himself, not to some other member of the Trinity. They are to us. 2 Corinthians 1:20 says, "For all the promises of God in Him..." (meaning in Christ) "...in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen..." (a word which means so be it) "...to the glory of God..." Now check this out! "...through us." These promises, they're made possible by Christ. By Father God. It's full of love and compassion and all of that.

But that compassion and everything flows out from the Father, and we are the recipients.

I think we ought to just take a moment to thank God for that. Thank God that You made promises to us. Thank God that You have fulfilled so many, and so many are yet to be fulfilled. And notice the certainty of God in this Scripture. All the promises of God--now funded by the resurrection, the crucifixion, the burial, the resurrection of Jesus that is sitting at the right hand of God right now, making intercession for us based on these promises are, what's the word? Yes! They are yes, and in Him, so be it. So, the next time you're looking at a promise and you're wondering, is that promise for me? And that's a good question. We're going to talk about what promises apply to us and such like that in another teaching. But listen, all the promises of God in Him, yes and amen, to the glory of God that's coming through us. That prophecy's coming to us, through us. "Now, He who establishes....," this is verse 21. "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee." There is that indwelling Holy Spirit that we talked about was a promise. And the beautiful thing about this promise of the Spirit and Him indwelling, is that even on the inside of you right now, as I talk about these scriptures, faith is starting to grow on the inside. You know how that faith is growing? By the Word of God, but it's also by the witness of the Holy Spirit, who is confirming these words to you right now, crying out in your own

spirit, "These are for you. These promises are for you."

Receive the love of God in this way. It is beautiful! God made these promises to us because He wanted to. And again, it's not to put us on a pedestal. It's not to make humanity more important than God. It's just saying this is how God worked it out. Because He is love, His love pours out to us. This is what He wants to do for us. Listen to Luke 11:13. He's talking about provision. He's talking about good gifts and using an illustration between humanity and God and doing a little comparison and contrast in terms of like, God is this way, humans are this way. Listen to what He says, "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" And again, this is a contrast between good fathers and what they would give to their children, and saying that even earthly fathers wouldn't give a serpent or a scorpion to one of their kids. And I remember our daughter, Kate, gave me a birthday card, and she always liked to make her own. Very artistic, that one! And she wrote down, "Thank you for never giving me a serpent or scorpion." I think she was about four years old, and she was getting it, this is the measure of a good father. Well, guess what our good Father in heaven wants to give us? The Holy Spirit!

Now, look, I know this is not deep, doctrinal teaching here in a certain manner of speaking, but God is three in one--Father, Son, and Holy



Spirit. So, check this out. God is so good. He wants to give us Himself in the form of the Holy Spirit. Do you understand that He did not have to do that? I mean, we were sinful humanity, rebellious humanity. We didn't deserve anything but hell. But such is His love to rescue. And what does He even have to rescue? He's making promises, "I will save you." Consider this one: "Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." That's His promise for deliverance. It doesn't matter who calls out to Him, so that He wants to give us Himself in the form of the Holy Spirit. Oh, my goodness, what a promise that is! He is a good Father. Psalm 81:10 says, "I am the Lord your God who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." And listen, how He's going to talk to the children of Israel here, "Open your mouth wide and I will fill it." That's not a stingy God. That's not one who's like, "Well, you know, if you act a certain way..." And look, we can stop up blessing and we can limit the fulfillment of prayer. We'll talk about that in another session. But listen to the way God wants His children to approach Him: "Open your mouth wide. I've delivered You. Look up to Me with expectancy as a Father who has fed you and will fill you to the full again." Listen to Psalm 37:4: "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." Ask Him even now. Fill me, Lord. Overflow me, Holy Spirit. Cause me to become a partaker of the divine nature by seeing these great and precious promises come to pass in my life. Alright, get ready! We're going on to the next session right after this.