



MAGNIFICENT PROMISES **for times like these!**

“For by these He granted to us
His precious and magnificent promises
in order that by them you might become
partakers of the divine nature.”
(2 Peter 1: 4)

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1. IN TIMES LIKE THESE

Troublesome times are here, filling men's hearts with fear. Freedoms we all hold dear, are now at stake. We are living in an anguished society; the nations are in perplexity and decline.

The newspapers, the radio, the television, are all couriers of bad news. We don't expect to read much good news, now-a-days. If there is a lull, and the newspaper does not outline a disaster, we say, "What wrong with the world that it's not so bad today?"

For most days, the description is pretty grim — that is, **very** grim — and not so pretty. Suicide, bride-burning, rape, murder, terrorism, brutality, disruption, corruption, drugs, diseases, a poisoned planet, national debts, more taxation, depression, War !

It's the threat of a "no future" that worries many. There doesn't seem to be much point left — in living, in striving, in planning. It's a blank wall ahead — the goals that everything one has worked for, are ready to collapse !

Leaders are in disarray; decency has fled from politics, and it's now a war to the finish — topple or be toppled. Promises are made to be broken; it's the realm of the ruthless — and men have lost their reason. Society has become sin-sick and sordid. Homes have become harassed and helpless. At times it seems that the bottomless pit has already been opened, and the realm of men has become the playground of demons and dragons.

Some say the world needs a renewed hope and faith. But a vague hope that Society will somehow correct

itself, that the nations will discard their war preparations, that everything will not topple, is not enough! It is very definite, the Bible says the world is going to be shaken as never before:

“And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised; saying. ‘Yet once more I will shake not only the Earth, but also the Heaven.’ And this expression, ‘Yet once more,’ denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.” (Hebrews 12 : 26-27)

A vague “faith” that world leaders will somehow solve our many problems, or that “God” won’t let anything serious happen, is not what we need today!

In times, like these, we need a word from Almighty God; a word, a promise — a promise that we can **trust** in. We need a rock upon which we can build confidence. And we also need a faith that **TRUSTS** the promises of God.

Yes, God has given, not just one promise, but a whole series of promises. They are called by the Apostle Peter, “precious and magnificent promises.” He received many of the promises direct from the Master’s mouth; and although at times he did not understand why some things worked out the way they did, he came to know the promises were guaranteed by the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

The Apostle Paul also. He could have had a thousand questions — why? why? — because of the various circumstances in his life, when things, from a human point of view, seemed to go so wrong. But he came to the conclusion:

“For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are **yes**; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.” (2 Cor.. 1:20)

Both Peter and Paul were sustained by the power of God, as they believed the promises of God. Both could go all the way, triumphantly, to martyrdom, because of the confidence that Y'shua*/Jesus was the Rock of Ages cleft for me, and that with Him, our lives are hidden in God. (Colossians 3: 3). (* His original Hebrew Name, meaning "salvation.")

The same promises given to Peter and Paul, dear reader, are given to you and me. But the important fact is that the promises of God must be **taken hold of, believed, claimed and trusted.**

You might write out thousands of promises on pretty paper, and paste them on the walls of your house; but if you don't believe those promises, and TRUST God to fulfil them, they will do you no good.

In times like these, we need **faith** to **trust** the magnificent, God-given promises, which are ours through Jesus/ Y'shua Messiah.

2. THE PROMISES OF GOD

When we talk about promises today, the general response is sceptical. "You can't trust in promises. The times are like that." It's true, the corridors are filled with broken promises. It's true, promises are made to be broken. Yes, people are so often a disappointment; and if we will admit it, we may be a disappointment to others.

(Of course, **my** broken promises are quite justifiable — there are genuine reasons why I could not keep my word. It was in my heart, the Lord knows, and I had every intention ... but! But **that** man, he just always breaks his word).

Okay, that's man. Human intentions so often fail.

But let's talk about the promises of God /Yahweh the Almighty! There's a magnificent promise which says :

“Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. **He will not fail you or forsake you.**” (Deut. 31:6)

Now I ask you, can we, or can we not, trust in God's promises ?

“Of course,” you say. “Absolutely, no doubt about it. God never fails. His promises are ‘Yea and Amen.’ He cannot lie, He cannot forget. He is for real.”

Sure?

“Of course, I'm sure. You can definitely trust in God's promises!”

Then why don't we do it?

“But I do,” you say “...well, ordinarily I do.”

Ah, that's the point. We trust the Lord when things are going fairly well, or when we can see some reason or help on the way. But what about when circumstances get really tough, when everything seems to be adverse; when we feel so utterly down and helpless; when we're pressed to the corner and there's no-one to deliver us ? Do we trust then? Or do we give way to depression, fear and doubt?

Some people even say, “But I **asked** God for this and that, and He did not answer. How can I say His promises never fail?”

Yes, you may ask, you may ask five thousand times, and not receive. The reason; either you asked without faith, or you asked amiss, or you kept sin in your heart. And the Word of God cautions us about these terrible triplets — **Non-belief, Wrong Motive and Iniquity.**

“And **without faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” (Hebrews 11: 6)

“You ask and do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.” (James 4: 3)

“If I **regard wickedness** in my heart, the Lord will not hear.” (Psalm 66:18)

These terrible triplets are like a gang of thieves. They rob a person of the provision God has made for them. Beware of these gangsters!

3. BY FAITH

“**Without faith it is impossible to please God.**” (Hebrews. 11:6)

Why is faith so essential? Because God has established faith as a principle, and it's the means by which a person might participate in His life and provision.

It's not that God wants to set a stern condition — “believe me or else!” It's a spiritual law. Just as we must operate by the law of aero-dynamics if we are to fly, so we must operate by the law of faith if we are to experience the power of God.

We do not receive an answer from God because of our begging or bargaining, nor because of our status, or our self-attainment — we receive the answer by grace, through exercising faith in His word. It's simply trusting God.

Say your friend offers to take you to a destination in his car. What do you do? You just take your seat, trust the driver and relax. You don't have to prove to

him that you are a fit person to go in his car. You don't have to prove your lineage. You don't have to bargain, and swear that you will do this and that if he will give you the lift. You don't have to go into all the mechanics and ask if there is air in the tyres, petrol in the tank, and how many gears or horsepower the vehicle has. You just trust your friend because he has offered — he has promised to take you.

Of course, it is possible your friend may fail you; it's possible, the car might break down. But with God there is no breakdown or failure, provided you "sit in His car."

If you say to your friend, "Don't ask me to simply trust you! I'll help push the car," then of course you're -not going to get very far.

And that's what we sometimes do when it comes to the offer — the promise of God. We're more inclined to say, "Well Lord, I'm telling You all about this problem of mine. So Lord, please listen, and then let me tackle the problem in my own way."

Our problem is **non-belief**. It's not that we don't believe God can do it. It's simply that we don't TRUST Him to do it. And yet at times, we may doubt that God can take care of this particular need.

A man having a demon-possessed son once came to the Lord Jesus. Do you remember the account?

"And they brought the boy to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling about and foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked the boy's father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood. And it has often thrown him both into

the fire and the water to destroy him. But **if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!**

“And Jesus said to him, ‘**If you can!**’ All things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the boy's father cried out and began saying, ‘I do believe; help me in my unbelief’.” (Mark 9:20-24)

Some of us come to the Lord with the same attitude – “if You can do anything, take pity on us.” And the Lord replies to us, “What do you mean, **IF** I can do anything? The only IF is whether **you** will **believe** (that is, **trust me to do it**).”

Without faith, **nothing** is possible, and thus we are left to our own resources. With faith, **all** things are possible, for by faith the resources of God can be released in our lives.

Hebrews eleven is the chapter on **Faith in action**. We read:

By **faith**, **Abel** offered a better sacrifice to God.

By **faith** **Enoch** was taken up,

By **faith** **Noah** prepared the ark.

By **faith** **Abraham** went to the land of promise.

By **faith** **Moses** chose to stand with God's people.

By **faith** **Israel** passed through the Red Sea.

By **faith** **Jericho** was tumbled.

By **faith** others conquered kingdoms, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, put armies to flight, received back their dead, and endured torture and martyrdom.

Hebrews eleven seems to be a list of examples illustrating what Jesus meant when He said:

“All things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” (Matthew 21:22)

And then there was blessed Sarah:

“By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.” (Hebrews 11: 11)

We always remember that Sarah laughed when the Lord promised Abraham that his wife would have a son, even though she was so aged. (Genesis 18:9-15)

But that was not the end of the story. Sarah repented, and she was enabled to lay hold of God's promise by faith so that in due time she gave birth to Isaac.

If Sarah had not believed and trusted this promise of God, she might be still waiting for the promised child. But by faith she conceived. And unless you and I lay hold of the promises, my reader, they will not be fulfilled in us.

Another example of faith was the virgin, Mary. The angel Gabriel appeared to her and said she would have a Son - the Messiah. Mary asked, how is it possible when I have no husband? The angel explained that the Holy Spirit would overshadow her, and her offspring would be the Son of God.

Notice Mary's beautiful response, “Behold, the bond-slave of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:26-38)

Mary could have been filled with unbelief. She could have argued with Gabriel, and said, “No, no, no! If this happens to me everyone will say I'm a bad woman. I could not handle that. It's never happened before that a woman had a child, without having a man. No! Mr. Angel, no!”

But by **faith** Mary said, “Let it be. I’ll trust the Lord to take care of what people gossip. I’ll trust Him to fulfil His purpose in choosing me to be the mother of the Messiah.”

If Mary did not believe and trust the promise of God, then Gabriel would have needed to find a woman who would believe the word of the LORD.

My reader, I think of the millions of lost opportunities people have had because of non-belief; the millions of “could-have-beens.” If only the people had laid hold of the promises, and trusted God.

I think of my own life, and of how some things could have been different, and so much more blessed, if I had simply trusted God instead of harnessing my own resources, and ploughing away in frail-belief.

Friend, this is a basic lesson - it’s a kindergarten lesson — **trust in God** regardless. Some of us need to go back to kindergarten, and re-learn; **without faith, nothing** is possible. **With faith, everything** is possible. **So let’s bind this gangster, “Non-belief.”**
PRAY right now!

“LORD GOD, I come to You in the authority of the Name of Y’shua (Jesus) right now, and I confess my sins of non-belief, doubt and anxiety. I have been letting these sins rob me of the provision You have made for me. I have been hindered in my spiritual walk because of my failure to trust You Lord. I now forsake this attitude of unbelief, and I bind it in the Name of Jesus. Lord I believe Your word, and I take Your provision for my further growth in faith. Thank You, Lord. Thank You. Amen.”

4. RIGHT MOTIVE

Another gangster we have to bind, is **Wrong Motive**. This thief will have you working your fingers to the bone, to no avail. It will fill you with goals and dreams, and lead you up a dead-end alley.

It will encourage you to cry to God to help you prosper in carnality; it will keep you busy fulfilling your own ambitions; and it will congratulate itself when it hears you cry, "I don't know why God doesn't answer my prayer."

Apostle James says: "You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures." (James 4:3)

Now once again, my reader, let us go back to kindergarten and relearn the ABC of the Christian Life. When we are saved - born again - redeemed, **we were bought by Christ**.

"Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ." (I Peter 1:18-19)

"You are not your own. For you have been bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body**." (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

The purpose for which God has both created us, and redeemed us, is that **He might be glorified through our lives**. To put that in other words; that the innate **qualities of God** might be known through their working in our lives; that the beauty, holiness, light and

love of God might be manifest in our redeemed and sanctified personalities.

Messiah Y'shua said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work." (John 4:34).

And He did so. Thus he could say to the Father:

"I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work that You have given Me to do." (John 17:4).

To glorify God, one must live to do the will of God. And the attitude that the Lord Jesus had, must be our attitude: "Not my will but Your will be done."

Now the Lord gave this magnificent promise - but notice for what purpose !

"And whatever you ask **in My name**, I will do, **that the Father may be glorified** in the Son. If you ask Me anything **in My Name**, I will do it." (John 14:13-14)

Praying in the Name of Y'shua/Jesus is not a magic formula, but it is praying in **faith**, because of the **authority in His Name**, and because of the **magnificent promises** that He has given. We pray with faith in that Name because that Name guarantees the Promises.

And the right motive in asking anything of God is that the will of God might be fulfilled, and that He will be glorified.

Notice again what Peter said: "God has given us His magnificent promises in order that we might become **partakers of the divine nature.**" In other words, God gives us promises that we might increasingly

partake of His life. He has called us into fellowship with His Son, and this means not merely friendship and communion with the Lord, but a participation in His life, and harmony to His will. Yahweh wants us to live by the principle of faith and dependence on His Son, and to live for one purpose — for the will and glory of our God and Saviour.

Of course, we are progressing beyond kindergarten now. We are reaching on to maturity; and what we learn in theory or doctrine, we have also to learn in experience. To put it simply, the Lord wants us to walk with Him, to live for one purpose — the will of God, to live in harmony with Him and His directions, commands and ways.

Although we must live in the world, work for our living, provide for our family, and do good to all men, yet we do all these things with one goal and motive — to glorify God in our lives (to let the life and character of Y'shua shine in and through our behaviour and being).

This is what Peter means by “partakers of the divine nature.” Paul puts it another way. His prayer is that Christ may dwell in the hearts of believers through faith. (Eph. 3:17)

By faith, we receive Jesus into our lives as Saviour. By faith also, we experience the fullness of Christ — Jesus filling our lives by His Spirit, so that He lives out His life in us. Paul also puts it this way; that we each one might be **“a body filled and flooded with the fullness of God.”** (Eph. 3 :19).

You may be saying: “Brother, you are taking us from kindergarten to Post-graduation. Oh that I could, my friend! I don't want to take you merely to 1st class. And although spiritual maturity may take years to reach,

it certainly helps if we know what we're reaching for.

So as early as possible, I want to help set you free from that terrible hijacker, **Wrong Motive**. I want you to be saved, not only from the penalty of your sins, I want you to be saved from a petty little spiritual life that mostly wants to use God for its own benefit.

I want you to live for God, and not for your own trivial ambitions. I want to convert you from a self-empire builder, to a wise master-builder in the kingdom of God. (I Cor. 3:10)

“Now if any man (*person*) builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward.” (I Corinthians 3:12-14)

So my friend, when you pray, don't pray amiss. Pray for the will and glory of God, so that you may take hold of the magnificent promise of the Lord in John 14: 13-14:

“And whatever you ask in My Name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My Name, I will do it.”

And here is another magnificent Promise:

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.” (John 15:7)

5. A CLEAN HEART

Another reason why our prayers are unanswered, and why the promise of God is not fulfilled, could be a **dirty heart**. This may be the result of disobedience, the surrender of our minds to impure desires, or by the yielding of the members of our body — the eyes, lips, hands, etc., to any form of sin. It could be a spirit of **hatred** or **revenge** that we cling to, that soils our hearts.

It may be the practice of slander, gossip, back-biting, careless speech, or unwholesome talk, that blackens the heart. The Scripture is clear :

“If I regard **wickedness in my heart**, the LORD will not hear.” (Psa. 66: 18)

“So when you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide My eyes from you. Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of bloodshed. Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil.” (Isaiah 1: 15-16)

Friends, we’re back in kindergarten. Sin is evil in the sight of God because He is absolutely holy. Sin is also a big hindrance because it **blackens our heart, infects our minds** and **decision-making faculties**, and it **binds our hearts** so that, except by His grace, **we cannot exercise faith correctly**. Sin builds a **ceiling above us**, so that our prayers bounce back as vain words.

Sin is like sugar in your petrol tank. Your car won’t go; or it’s like a virus in your computer, that fouls up your system. And it’s like a microbe in your blood that robs you of health.

This we should know! But sometimes we are deceived by another of the terrible triplets, Iniquity in the Heart, so that we feel our dirty heart is a suitable launching pad for prayers to a holy God. We are deceived into believing that because a little mud never hurt a baby, and because “a little poison never killed anyone,” a little sin, a little rebellion, a little disobedience, a little iniquity, is not going to “put us in God’s bad books.”

Well one thing is sure! Your “little iniquity” is going to prevent your prayers being answered, and it will rob you of the fulfilment of the magnificent promises that could be yours.

Now there are several magnificent promises which you can lay hold of, to get rid of that hijacker, that iniquity in your heart.

“Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.” (I John 3:21-22)

Praise God, here are other magnificent promises you can claim, to get rid of your iniquity.

“If any one sins, we have **an Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins.” (I John 2 :1-2).

“If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness ... **The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**” (I John 1: 9,7)

There is no way to get a clean heart, to have your sins forgiven, and your life cleansed of iniquity, except by

confessing our sin and availing ourselves of the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It's **not** a patched-up heart; it's **not** "a new leaf" you need; it's a **cleansed, converted heart**.

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is Eternal Life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 6:23)

"In Him (Christ) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace." (Ephesians 1:7)

The blood of the Lord Jesus is not a detergent; the shed blood of Jesus signifies the sacrifice of the Son of God, who paid the penalty for the sin of the world. Forgiveness and salvation become effective in every person, who by faith, receives the pardon God offers.

"He *makes* you alive together with Him, having forgiven you all your transgressions. *He cancels* the **written judgment** that condemned us - *the legal decrees* that were hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having '**nailed it to the cross**'." (Colossians 2:13-14)

All the benefits of the redemptive work of Christ on the cross; and the benefits of His risen life, are imparted to us **as we place our faith** in the Saviour.

"Cleansing their hearts by faith." (Acts 15:9)

Cleansing is His work; faith in Him is ours!

To take hold of the promise and provision of God for the cleansing of our iniquity. **Pray like this:**

"Oh God, I take hold of Your promise, and by faith I receive Your cleansing of all my sins.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. I thank You for all that Jesus did for me. And I thank You for His risen

life. By faith I receive the benefits of His sacrifice and risen life right now. I accept deliverance from my sin, my sinful ambitions and practices, by the saving power of the Lord Jesus. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, I ask in the authority of the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen”

6. DARE TO BELIEVE!

“If you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you.” (Matthew 17: 20)

Some people just simply cannot believe. They want to figure out everything first, and be assured that everything is going to work out as **they** expect. They want to be in a situation where they don't have to trust. Some want to be masters of their own destiny — hardcore mathematicians and materialists who don't allow for faith. They dare not believe.

“Other people” have had bad experiences in trusting people, so they figure they can no longer trust anyone; and they dare not even trust God.

To some people, however, simply trusting God, is **too easy**. (“There cannot be any real value in **simply trusting,**” they feel.) They want to do something to impress God — climb a mountain; trek for miles to some special place; pay a goodly amount in some form or another; afflict their bodies in some way — do something to get God's attention, and thus get Him to fulfil their need. Try anything, except faith! Some even try to bribe God. Some people try to impress God by trying to impress people; the attitude that says; “Well, if many people think I'm wonderful, then surely God must think likewise.”

Then there are others, who are “too humble.” They feel that they are so worthless that God would never even notice them. They have no doubt that God can do anything — anything except answer their prayers. They can trust God to meet another person's need, but not their own need. Why? “Because ...Well, I'm me! And God hardly knows I even exist.” Sad! It seems they haven't learned to shout loud enough for God to notice them !!

The truth, of course, is that God knows by number, every hair on our heads. He knows how many tears we have ever shed; He knows also the degree of hardness of our heart; how many times we resisted His Spirit, refused His promises, and despised His entreaties.

Oh reader, if you are inclined to doubt, because you feel you are not significant enough to warrant God's attention, let me remind you, you are included in the “who-evers” Jesus mentioned.

“That **whoever** believes, will in Him, have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever** believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on Him.” (John 3:15,16,36)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:24)

“I am the bread of life . **he who comes** to Me shall not hunger, and he who **believes** in Me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35)

“If **any man** is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.” (John 7:37)

“I am the door; **if anyone enters** through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.” (John 10:9)

“I am the resurrection and the life; **he who believes in Me** shall **live** even if he dies, and **every one** who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

(John 11:25-26)

God loves **YOU**, and has a plan for your individual life, and He will fulfil it, **IF** you believe and trust Him. **You are worth much more than sparrows!**

The Lord Jesus taught in His famous “sermon on the mount,” about God's care:

“Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not worth much more than they?** And which of you, by being anxious, can add a single cubit to his life's span? And why are you anxious about clothing ?

“Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will **He not much more do so for you, O men of little faith ?**

“Do not be anxious then, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we clothe ourselves.’ For all these things the

Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:26-34)

“Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For **everyone who asks** receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.

“Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he shall ask for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much **more shall your Father** who is in heaven **give what is good to those who ask Him!**” (Matthew 7:7-11)

If you read such words of the Messiah, and your heart responds to them, then faith will grow in your heart.

WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is not a “leap in the dark.” Faith is not a “trust to luck.” Faith is not blind, unreasonable or rash. Faith is not some commodity you must search for, or buy in a supermarket. It is simply **trust** in God.

The Scripture says: “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

This statement contradicts the idea that we must leap into the dark with blind faith. God does not ask

for such a “gimmick or stunt.” God gives promises, He reveals the way; He gives the knowledge of His ability, His trustworthiness; He gives examples of His dealings with men, of what many have attained by faith. He gives solid grounds and reasons for us to trust His word.

Faith is the confident assurance that I can trust God, the great Almighty God, the Creator of the Universe, the source of light, love and power; that I can trust God to fulfil **His promise to me**, and He will work out a solution for my situation, as I trust Him.

The Word of God, the Bible, is so very important for the growth of our faith.

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

As one reads and digests the words of the Lord, faith begins to grow. It starts like a small mustard seed that can hardly be seen, but as it takes root in the heart, it springs to life.

The Lord Jesus said, “the seed is the word of God.” (Luke 8:11). It is not dead seed — it is seed with the power to come to life. But it must take root in the heart, in our mind and soul. It is the mind and heart that responds to that word, that seed; and this response becomes faith. It now needs to grow, to be established and grow into a “deep-rooted tree.”

While faith is still a few days old, while it is like a small seedling, it needs to be carefully nurtured, for an enemy, a snail, a single hailstone, a gust of wind, a careless foot, can snuff out its life.

Of course, even a solid tree can suffer damage by an axe of affliction, persecution or adversity. But if the

tree is rooted in good ground, it will endure such adversity. That's why our faith needs to be rooted in Christ.

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk in Him**, having been **firmly rooted** and now being **built up in Him** and **established in your faith.**” (Colossians 2:6-7)

DARE TO TRUST GOD

Some people think that only when their faith has developed into a mature tree, can they dare to trust God. Oh no! If you don't trust God, your young faith will never grow into a tree. Faith grows as you exercise it, as you nurture it by the Word of God, and as it is encouraged by testimonies of the Lord's faith-filled people.

The Lord did not say, if you have faith like a great oak tree. No!

“If you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it shall move, and nothing shall be impossible to you.”

Friend, this is a magnificent promise! But it's one that we usually prefer to leave rolled up in the promise box. It's too magnificent to claim, even though it only requires faith the size of a micro-seed.

This is surely a promise that we must dare to trust.

Moving mountains by faith ? Yes ! It is possible to move a mountain by faith, if it is in the will of the Lord, and for His glory.

Now normally we don't need to move physical mountains, but there are other mountains that we should remove; mountains of satanic opposition, overwhelming difficulties, towering threats and piles of pressures.

Sometimes I have a mountain of work on my desk that I cannot conquer, except by faith. Of course I have to put my brain and hands to work, but only by the mighty enabling of the Lord, can that mountain be moved.

We need to move the obstacles, whatever they are, by faith in God. When we come to that place where we say, "I can't do it," we need to learn the lesson: "**By faith** in God, I can!" The element of faith is necessary for us to go "out on the limb." We need to express our faith, to speak out; "Mountain, in the Name of Jesus, be removed."

God has given us many examples to stimulate our faith, so that we will follow the lead of those who, by faith, are now a great cloud of witnesses to the mighty power of God. (Hebrews 12:1)

When Israel, escaping from the tyranny of Egypt, came to a blank wall — Red Sea — God said to Moses, "Go forward! Lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea." When Israel came to Jordan, God said, "Step into the waters, and **then** you'll see the miracle."

When the Apostle Paul was on the ill-fated ship, heading as a prisoner for Rome, he dared to believe what God revealed; and then **by faith**, announced to the crew of the storm-tossed vessel that there would be no loss of life. (Acts 27:22)

When he spoke those words, there was not the slightest external hope that anyone would be saved. But **by faith**, all the lives were saved.

Some may say, when Paul had such great faith, how is it he ended up as a beheaded saint in Rome? Why didn't God deliver him from martyrdom?

It was the will of God; and it was revealed to Paul that he would be given to the hands of the Romans (Acts 21: 10-13). He was ready for it.

Paul wrote to Timothy: "I am already being poured out *as a drink offering*, and the time has come for my departure." (2 Timothy. 4:6)

Paul is included without doubt, amongst those who **by faith** . . .

"were **tortured, not accepting their release**, in order that they might obtain a better resurrection." (Hebrews 11:35).

I cannot imagine the Apostle Paul removing the mountain of martyrdom, in order that he might die a "natural" death in retirement. He was most willing to glorify God, as a martyr for Christ.

But even more than a martyr's crown, he coveted a crown for **obedience**, obedience to whatever the Lord had called him to endure.

So my reader, while claiming the magnificent promises of God, let us have this right motive:

"Whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**" (I Corinthians 10:31)

Always be wary of the terrible triplets; **Non-belief**, **Wrong Motive** and **Iniquity**; but **by faith**, dare to claim God's promises.

7. PROMISE OF SALVATION

Most of the world seems to think that salvation is something we earn by our good behaviour, and meritorious works. But it is not so! Salvation must be received as a free gift, **by faith**.

What is Salvation? A home in heaven? Yes, but much more. It involves :

1. Having our sins forgiven.
2. Being redeemed (saved) from the kingdom of darkness, from the clutches of Satan, from the power of sin, and from the wages of sin which is eternal death (hell and the lake of fire.)
3. Being born again/receiving a new heart/being converted or made anew.
4. Receiving the Lord Jesus as our Saviour and Lord.
5. Receiving the gift of eternal life/partaking of the divine nature.
6. Receiving the Holy Spirit as Resident in our soul and spirit, which of course, resides within our body.
7. Being received into heaven and the presence of God; receiving the glorified, supernatural perfect and eternal, spiritual body.

None of this is a result of our own righteousness or effort. It's only through faith. This is very definite!

“All **our righteous** deeds are like a **filthy garment**.” (Isaiah 64 : 6)

The next scripture makes it very clear :

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one should boast.” (Eph. 2 : 8-9)

Yes, we were created in Christ Jesus for good works (verse 10), but good works themselves — no matter how many we do — can ever save us.

We must be saved **through faith**. And yet it is not our faith that saves us. It is **grace** that saves. It is our gracious Redeemer who saves. It is our faith however, that must trust Him to do it.

Now here are some of the magnificent promises given to “whoever will believe,” pertaining to the seven salvation points listed above :

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness...The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (I John 1:9,7)

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.” (Eph. 1: 7)

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.” (Romans 5: 9)

Notice in these three promises, forgiveness and redemption is through the blood of the Lord Jesus. We have spoken of the importance of the blood, on page 18. Now what I would emphasize, is that forgiveness of sin is not something God decides, partially, as though it depended on the mood He’s in at the particular time, as to whether He will forgive or not.

No! God's desire is that all men everywhere should come to repentance, and to faith in Christ, so that He might gladly forgive them. And remember, it was not an easy thing to provide **redemption** — it cost the sacrifice of the Son, Jesus, on the Cross of Calvary.

Now if God could pay **that** price, and if Jesus could pay **that** price, do you imagine that He is not willing to redeem all who call upon the NAME of the Lord.

Here's more magnificent promises about being saved from judgment and eternal death:

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?” (Rom. 8:31-32)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:24)

“Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” (2 Corinthians 5: 17)

“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.” (I John 5 :1)

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13)

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. ... He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on Him.” (John 3:16, 36)

“He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature.” (2 Peter 1: 4)

“Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out saying, ‘If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, “From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water”.’ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive.” (John 7:37-39)

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” (Acts 1: 8)

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?” (I Corinthians 6 :19)

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:3)

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power

that He has, even to subject all things to Himself.” (Phil. 3: 20-21)

My Reader, like the Apostle Paul, I ask you, “What shall we say to those things?” What shall we do with such magnificent promises? If you have believed, claimed and received this wonderful salvation, then I rejoice greatly with you. My heart’s desire is that **every one** of my readers will come to experience the salvation that is available through faith in Jesus Christ.

“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?” (Hebrews 2: 3)

God is reasoning with you, my friend. He says:

“At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the Day of Salvation I helped you. Behold, **now** is ‘the acceptable time,’ behold, now is ‘The Day of Salvation’.” (2 Corinthians 6: 2)

That’s also a promise! **Salvation today**; if you believe the promise, and simply trust the Lord Jesus to save you.

Do it now ! The following prayer will help you to express your faith. First, read it through carefully, and sincerely pray and believe in words like these . . .

PRAYER

Oh Heavenly Father, I come to You, just as I am. a sinner in need of Salvation. Today I have read Your promises, and by faith I am claiming them now. I call to You in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is, I believe , the Son of God, who died on my behalf on the Cross.

By faith I receive You, Lord Jesus, as my Saviour and Lord. I ask You to forgive my sins, as You said You would, if I confess my sins. (*Tell Him*

about the sins in your life that you are aware of.) I believe Your work on the cross will cleanse me from my sin. I trust Your promise, Lord, to redeem me from the clutches of Satan, and I believe You will, from this day on, live in me by Your Holy Spirit, and that You will make me a new person.

I **receive** by faith Your gift of eternal life, and trust You to complete the work of salvation in me, and finally, to receive me to Yourself in Heaven.

Thank You, Father, for planting the seed in my heart and for giving me the faith to trust You.

Thank You Lord, for fulfilling Your promises — forgiving my sins, receiving me, cleansing and saving me. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit, and for the joy of Your salvation.

Thank You , thank You , Heavenly Father. *Amen.*

8. Promise of Restoration

There are many precious souls who once knew the Joy of Salvation. They were born again, and became part of the family of God. They became disciples of Christ, and were zealous to serve the Lord and to share His message with others.

But later, something went wrong. It may have started with a gradual drift from their first love, as they gave priority to “the cares of life,” or to some personal ambition. This drift may have continued until it became a rift with the Lord. This is commonly called backsliding.

Sometimes, the “losing of first love” arises from a discontented or quarrelsome spirit. Sometimes, the decline develops out of an unforgiving attitude.

Sometimes spiritual life is stifled because of sin in the believer's life. When a person comes to the Lord, he is brought into the kingdom of light. His conscience is re-sensitized, and he is called and expected to "walk in the light, as He (God) is in the light." (I John 1:7) The believer, however, is **not instantly perfected**. There's a process to maturity which he needs to pursue.

No believer is sinless, and, "if we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (I John 1: 8)

But there is provision for constant cleansing.

"If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins." (I John 2:1-2).

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9)

This does not give a believer a license to continue in sin, and to think that sin hardly matters, because the blood of Jesus is the remedy. All sin grieves the Lord; it offends His holiness; and it also hinders our spiritual progress.

We will always have a battle against sin, against evil, while we live on this earth. But God has made provision, not only for cleansing, but also for the defeat of sin in our lives. On our part we must learn to avail of His provision, and to TRUST Him for the victory.

The provision and victory requires that we confess our known sins, and to daily present our bodies and lives to God, to be a living sacrifice unto Him.

When one becomes indifferent or careless about sin, and fails to confess his sin, his spiritual life deteriorates, and it becomes carnal, worldly, powerless and discontented. He thus stands in need of restoration.

Some believers come to a state where they cease “striving against sin.” (Heb. 12:4). They say: “I’ve tried so many times it but I keep on failing. They sink into a disappointed state of mind, as though there was no hope. They even reason, irrationally, that it is no use continuing in a cycle sinning-repenting, sinning-repenting and therefore they may as well stop trying, and stop worrying about sin. That attitude is irrational, for it leads to a joyless, no-man’s-land existence.

Some believers in this condition feel so guilty that they assume there is no hope — no restoration. Some feel they have committed the unforgivable sin, and therefore they have no right to even ask God for forgiveness once more. And how Satan loves to keep them in such a state of mind.

The unforgivable sin is a deliberate blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, and a deliberate rejection of the Gospel .

And here are the magnificent promises that declare God will restore, if we come to Him in confession and in faith.

“The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul.” (Psalm 19 :7)

The law of the LORD, that is, the precepts and guidance of the Word of God, plays an important part in the restoration of a soul. Obedience to the Word is always required if we would benefit from the Lord’s direction.

The shepherd Psalmist, David, could say from his experience:

“The LORD is my shepherd ... He restores my soul.” (Psalm 23:1, 3)

The LORD reasons with backslidden Israel, through the prophet Isaiah:

“Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD, though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool. If you consent and obey, you will eat the best of the land.”

(Isaiah 1:18 -19)

The Apostle Paul exhorts believers who are established, to help restore the defeated:

“Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to yourselves, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and thus fulfil the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6 :1-2)

Even the nauseating lukewarm church of Laodicea is invited by the Lord to be restored:

“I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent.” (Rev. 3 :18-19)

A promise the Lord gives to those weighed down by sin, worries and failures, is:

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11: 21)

“The one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.” (John 6:37)

To any readers who are defeated and backslidden, I say, “Y’shua our Redeemer is waiting for you. He is able to meet your need. You may have failed for various reasons, but the Lord is more than willing to restore your soul and the joy of salvation; and He will lead you on further into victory.”

“I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely for mine anger is turned away from him.” (Hosea 14:4)

He’s just a prayer away! Why don’t you call upon Him now? Confess your sin and failure. Give your body and life to Him anew. Ask Him to restore you to His fellowship. Ask Him for the renewed joy of salvation. Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit, and to lead you on from victory to victory.

9. PROMISE OF VICTORY

So often we feel that victory is something **we need to win**. The fact is that Jesus has already won the victory, and now He promises to give that victory to all who will, by faith, receive it.

“But thanks be to God, who **gives** us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (I Corinth. 15: 57).

You may ask: Is victory something we simply receive by faith? Yes indeed it is! Just as one receives salvation by simply trusting the Lord, we must receive His victory by faith. Our faith itself is not the victory, but it is our faith that trusts the Lord to give the victory. And

faith trusts the Saviour to bring about the victory in His own way and time. No matter what the battle may be, we must overcome by faith.

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.” (I John 5:4)

Some battles are long and protracted, but the promise is, **He gives** the victory. In the meantime, while the Lord is working it out, the situation is a test for us, so that we will continue in faith, and grow stronger in faith.

Sometimes we will trust the Lord for victory over external forces — but we feel that internal temptations are just too strong. Two promises for us to believe and appropriate here, are:

“Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and **stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.**” (Romans 14:4)

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.” (I Corinthians 10:13)

To avail of the Lord’s provision, we must use our decision-making capacity, and **choose the way out** that He provides. If you simply stand in the middle of the road and call to the Lord to save you from the rushing traffic, you can expect to be hit. You need to keep away from the mad rush!

But you say, “I started to cross the road, and then suddenly there were vehicles coming from every

direction.” Well it may be that you didn't look before you leapt.

Regarding temptation, it may be that you find circumstances all around which do not seem to allow a way of escape. Well, God says **He will provide** a way — so, ask Him and trust Him. It may be that He will slow down a car to allow you to cross safely.

On our part, with temptation, we need to “burn our bridges behind us.” That means we need to cut off the sources of temptation.

If your TV, or mobile is a source of temptation to you and your family, axe them (that is: the TV or MB. Not your family).

If friendships are a source of temptation, terminate them. If some private goal or object is a temptation and hindrance to you, yield it up to the Lord. Put it on His altar, and let Him burn it up, or redirect you.

And if there seems to be nothing you can do, then simply **trust** the Lord for the way out. But don't play with temptation, or with tempters, temptresses, and the objects or modes of temptation. Remember Samson!

But call on the Lord. He's waiting for your call. Ask Him to “come and talk with you!”

“Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

“The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation.” (2 Peter 2:9)

10. PROMISE OF DELIVERANCE

Sin is a cruel taskmaster! All around we see lives bound by sinful habits; men and women, boys and girls, caught in a quagmire, in pits of enslaving vices.

Satan's strategy, of course, is to infiltrate a person's habits, warp his decision-making capacity, and to influence his moral choices. The person's life is thus brought into bondage.

Some people are afflicted or possessed by demons, and exist in a constant state of torment. Sometimes the bondage is so total, that it would seem there is no hope whatever for the person — apart from a miracle.

And **there** is the answer! Y'shua/Jesus is still able and willing to perform miracles today. And He is doing it, day after day — thousands of miracles every day. Lives are being touched by His power, as people call out to the Master in faith.

The deliverance of sin-bound and demon-afflicted people is taking place all the time. In fact, all the world could be delivered from darkness and bondage, **IF** the people would only **TRUST** the Lord. But alas, as in the days when Jesus walked in Galilee, it could be said of today's majority population:

“And He did not do many miracles there because of their **unbelief**.” (Matthew 13:58)

But, as Jesus said to Martha: “If you **believe**, you will see the glory of God.” (John 11:40)

The fact is, Jesus became a man so that He might deliver those who are held captive by sin:

“Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is the devil, and might deliver those who through fear of death, were subject to slavery all their lives.” (Hebrews 2:14-15)

Another magnificent promise is:

“God ... who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and **will deliver us**; He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us.” (2 Corinthians 1:10)

And another promise:

“And you shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.**” (John 8:28)

Pontius Pilate once asked Jesus: “What is truth?” (John 18 :38)

But if He had waited for the answer, it would have been the same reply as He gave to Thomas . . .

“I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.” (John 14 :6)

JESUS IS THE TRUTH THAT SETS PEOPLE FREE!

**So claim His promise,
and trust Him to bring it to pass.**

11. PROMISE OF PRESERVATION

Many believers have doubts about the ultimate end of their lives. They gave their lives to Jesus, and trusted in Him to be their Saviour. They knew the work of God in their lives, and experienced His Salvation. But they have a nagging fear that before their life on earth is over, they may “lose their grip upon God” and upon His Salvation.

The sad fact is that they have failed to realize that our Salvation does not depend on our ability to “hang on.” It is the all-powerful hands of Y’shua/Jesus who securely holds His people. **If we have been born again, we are kept by the power of the Saviour.**

The Lord Jesus promised:-

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow *Me*, and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand ... and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”

(John 10:27-28)

The Apostle Paul was “convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 8: 38-39)

He was absolutely convinced that the Lord Jesus, “is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.” (2 Timothy 1:12)

Now Paul assures us:

“You are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord. God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Master.” (I Corinthians. 1:7-9)

And in case these promises are not enough, dear reader, here is another “blessed assurance” from the Master, through the Apostle Peter:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (I Peter 1:3-5)

You will never get assurance by doubting. Simply trust God. He said it! You believe it!

12. PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Lord Jesus promised that His people would receive the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Helper, the Spirit of Christ, who would indwell their redeemed personalities forever.

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you **forever**; that is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him or

knows Him, but **you know Him** because He abides with you, and will be in you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” (John 14:16-17, 26)

At the time Jesus spoke, the Holy Spirit had not yet been given as the Indweller. The Holy Spirit was with the disciples, but was not yet dwelling in them. (John 14 :17)

The outpouring of the Spirit, that is, the promised coming of the Spirit to indwell the believers, took place at Pentecost.

Then other groups of believers received the Spirit and were added to the church. Thereafter, as people received Christ as Saviour, they immediately received the Holy Spirit. His indwelling Presence was evidenced by, **“There's been a wonderful change in me.”**

Indeed !

“If any man is in Christ he is a new creature.” (2 Corinthians 5 :17)

The Holy Spirit in the believer is the seal of ownership which shows we belong to God:

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were **sealed in Him** with the Holy Spirit of promise.” (Ephesians. 1:13)

“Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.” (2 Corinthians 5: 5)

“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Galatians 4:6)

“If any one does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.” (Rom. 8:9)

The Holy Spirit is the power of God, and He is the one who must fill our lives with God's dynamic life, love, wisdom and power. Here is a promise:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” (Acts 1: 8)

When we receive the Holy Spirit (and that's when we receive Jesus as our Saviour), we also receive His power. But in order to live in the power of the Spirit, we must both surrender our lives totally to Him, and walk **by faith** — trusting the Lord for the flow and fullness of His Spirit within us.

“If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water’.” (John 7:37-38)

And here's another promise to act upon:

“Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to **the power that works within us.**” (Ephesians 3:20)

13. Promises to Trust for Others

It is a mistake to think we must trust the Lord only for ourselves. We can and should trust the Lord for the needs of others.

Remember the four men who brought the crippled man on a stretcher, and let the stretcher down from the ceiling into the Presence of Jesus? It is recorded:

“And seeing **their** faith, He said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven you’.” (Luke 5:20)

Throughout Scripture we are exhorted to pray for others. And when we pray, we must do so with faith. There are a few specific promises which we may lay hold of, claim, and believe, on behalf of other people.

“Train up a child in the way he should go. Even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs. 22:6)

“I will save your sons.” (Isaiah 49:25)

“For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.” (I Corinthians 7:14)

“And the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” (James 5:15-16)

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3: 9)

Claim the promises for your loved ones now!
Time is running out!

14. Many Precious Promises

Promise when Faced with Danger

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. Look! All who are angered at you will be ashamed and dishonoured.

“Those who contend with you will be as nothing, and will perish. You will seek those who quarrel with you, but will not find them. Those who war with you will be as nothing, and non-existent. For I am the LORD your God, who upholds your right hand, who says to you, Do not fear, I will help you.” (Isaiah 41:10-13)

Promise for the Worn-out

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary, or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power.

“Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who

wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.” (Isaiah 40:28-31)

Promise for Times of Severe Trial

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you.”

(Isaiah 43:2)

Promise for the Unjustly Persecuted

“Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the **LORD is a God of justice.** How blessed are all those who long for Him.”

(Isaiah 30:18)

Promise when Forsaken

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but **I will not forget you.** Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands. Your walls are continually before Me.” (Isaiah 49:15-16).

Promise when in Need

“And my **God shall supply all your needs** according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians. 4:19)

Promise of Provision for Ministry

“Now this I say; he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as

he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; as it is written, HE SCATTERED ABROAD. HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ABIDES FOR EVER.”

“Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

“For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.” (2 Corinthians. 9:6-12)

Promise of God's Absolute Control

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

Promise to be with Y’shua the Messiah.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:3)

“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But I am hard pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better.” (Philippians 1:21-23)

Promises of Ultimate and Eternal Joy

“And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

(Revelation 2 :14)

“And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him; and they shall see His face, and **His name** shall be on their foreheads.” (Revelation 22 : 3-4)

“Surely goodness and lovingkindness with follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” (Psalms 23 :6)

Promise of Mighty Things

“Call to Me, and I will answer *you*, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

God will Bring You Through

“And after you have suffered for a little, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.” (1 Peter 5:10)

Promise of a Crown

“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.” (1 Peter 5:4)

“Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which Y’shua has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:12)

“In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Messiah, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:8)

In Times of Sorrow

“You will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.” (Isaiah 30:19)

God Gives More Grace

“But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says:
GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD. BUT
GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”

(James 4:6)

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

God will Not Leave You

“I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you, so that we confidently say, ‘THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT SHALL MAN DO TO ME?’ ” (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Brought Safely Home

“The LORD will deliver me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” (2 Timothy 4:18)

“For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”

(2 Timothy 1:12)

Protection

“But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.” (2 Thess. 3 : 3)

"The Angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them." (Psalms 34 :7)

Promise when Afflicted

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the LORD delivers him out of them all.” (Psalms 34:19)

Promise when on a Sickbed

“The LORD will sustain him upon his sickbed. In his illness, You restore him to health.” (Psalms 41:3)

When Falsely Accused

“No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; and every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their vindication is from Me, declares the LORD.” (Isaiah 54 :17)

For Times of Uncertainty

“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5)

“For such is God, our God forever and ever; He will guide us until death.” (Psalm 48:14)

Fruitfulness

“Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting. He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed, shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.” (Psalm 126: 5-6)

Promise for Your Journey

“The LORD is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun will not smite you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in **from this time forth and forever.**” (Psalm 121: 5-8) LORD = YAHWEH.

Promise for the Storm

“They ... were at their wits' end. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and He brought them out of their distresses. He caused the storm to be still, so that the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they were quiet; so He guided them to their desired haven.” (Psalm 107: 27-30)

SEARCH, FIND & CLAIM

Reader, the above are a few of God's magnificent promises. Now we come to the end of this booklet, but we do not come to the end of the promises, nor to the end of the grace of Y'shua the Messiah. I urge you therefore, to search and find the precious jewels in the Word of God. Mark them with a coloured pencil. (I use green for promises), and claim them. They are yours if you really want them, and if you will trust the Heavenly Father to fulfil them.

“For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are **yes**; wherefore also by Him is our Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

AMEN and AMEN!