

Appropriate Them by Faith

To experience God's promises, it will help you greatly if you understand what I call the three phases of faith -- **the Claiming Phase, the Waiting Phase, and the Receiving Phase . . .**

1. THE CLAIMING PHASE – this phase is when you consciously and actively take time to personalize God's promises. It's when you say within yourself – *“This promise belongs to ME and I choose to put my faith in what God has said regarding this situation.”* Here are three keys that will help make the Claiming Phase very practical: **SEE IT! SAY IT! DO IT!**

First of all, you need to start **“seeing”** the promise fulfilled with the eye of faith. “See” yourself with a positive outcome. If you are trusting God for a new home (for example) then start seeing yourself in a new home. Let God's promises paint a mental picture of the dream fulfilled. I used this key all over the world for crusades and leadership conferences. I would always see myself (in my heart and mind) conducting the crusade long before I ever arrived to the meeting. Second, begin **“saying”** it with your mouth. Start quoting the promises aloud. Pray them, whisper them, and thank God for them. The more you “say it” the more you will believe it. Third, find a way to **“do it.”** In other words, be creative and do some kind of action step. It's one thing to dream about a new home and another thing to get out there and start looking. **God will honor your steps of faith. It doesn't require any money to go looking. You can always do research, make notes, and explore the possibilities – all without money.** So start claiming God's promises by **SEEING, SAYING, and DOING!**

2. THE WAITING PHASE – this phase is the time delay that normally occurs between claiming and receiving. I've experienced a few quick miracles in my life, but normally the answers take time. There are many reasons why this is true. God may have to change the hearts of other people. He may need to orchestrate circumstances or lead you in some specific way. All of that takes time. Hebrews 6:12 is a verse that includes all three phases. See if you can identify them. It says, *“That you be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”* So hold on during the waiting phase! Don't give up! Keep reminding yourself of God's promises while you patiently wait for the answer.

3. THE RECEIVING PHASE - this is the fun phase! It's when you are in position to receive your answer. To help you understand how you can cooperate with this process, consider how a young child learns to catch a ball. They have to learn to keep their eyes on the ball, anticipate it, and then reach out and “catch” it. Miracles are a lot like that. In time, you can learn how to follow God's guidance, get in position, and “catch” your miracles from your Heavenly Father.



The Cheese Story

Let me close this study with a quick story that I call **“The Cheese Story.”** There once was a man whose greatest desire was to go to the land of opportunity. Day after day he worked hard and saved his money for the long voyage. Finally, the big day came! He purchased his ticket and boarded the ship with a big block of cheese. Each day the man passed by the beautiful Dining Hall. He would look in and see families enjoying the buffet line. But, alas, he had spent all his money for the boat ticket. Thus, he would return to his cabin and eat from his big block of cheese. Cheese, cheese, cheese! Every day cheese!

Finally, when the ship arrived at the land of opportunity, the Captain of the ship said, “Sir, I never saw you in the Dining Hall?” – to which the man replied, *“Captain, it's true. I am embarrassed to say that I had no money for the Dining Hall.”* In shock, the Captain said, *“But friend, didn't you realize that all your meals were included in the ticket? When the ticket was paid for, it included the meals! You only needed to enter the Dining Hall and enjoy the food that we prepared for you.”*

Dear friend, don't be like the man who settled for cheese! Go into God's dining hall by faith and enjoy what He paid for. Learn to put your faith in God's promises.

■ Jason Peebles

Key Memory Verse:

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

2 Corinthians 1:20

Prayer to Claim God's Promises

“Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I accept His sacrifice and commit my life to Him. I choose to say “Yes” to all your promises! Teach me to walk in my inheritance in Christ. Thank you for your great love. In Jesus Name – Amen.”

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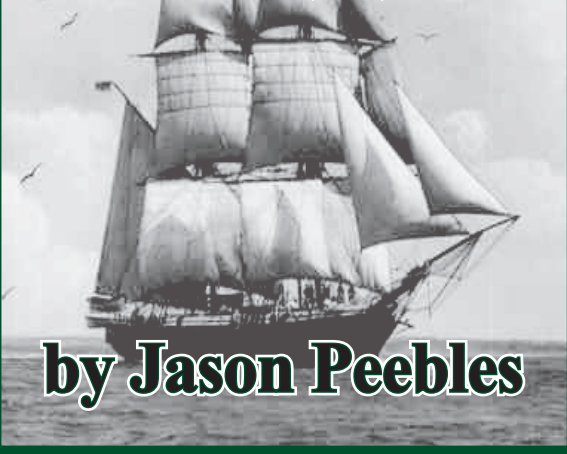
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Exceeding Great Promises!



by Jason Peebles

One of the greatest revelations that anyone can have is the fact that the Bible is filled with awesome promises from God. **It may come as a surprise to you, but there are fantastic promises in the Bible for everything you need.** Life can become an exciting adventure once you realize that God wants you to claim His promises as your own! You can enjoy the privilege of seeing God's provision and power flow in your life.

2 Peter 1:4 says, “Whereby are given unto us EXCEEDING GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature.” In other words, the way to partake of God's provision is through His promises. This Study Guide will help you learn how to experience more of God's promises.

Forget Not His Benefits

Psalm 103:2 says, *“Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits.”* Even in the Old Testament, God told His people to remember His benefits and promises. David said, *“FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS.”* **We all have a tendency to forget what God has promised and try to work things out on our own. Yet, God wants us to trust Him -- and the way to trust Him is to claim His promises.** When you don't trust in God's promises, it's like you are committing your situations to mere chance. But you don't have to live like that. God wants your life to be governed by His promises.

It is important to understand that God has “packaged” His blessings and provision in His promises. His promises are the means whereby you can draw on His supply. **Think of it this way. Just like capsules contain the medicine that you may need if you are sick, so the promises of God contain His supply. God’s promises are the “containers” of His benefits and provision.** So, when you face problems, your very first reaction should be to recall the promises that may apply to your situation. If you can’t remember specific promises that apply, then take a few minutes to search your Bible. When you find them, mark those promises and start committing them to memory. 2 Timothy 2:15 says, *“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”* Just like a parent takes joy in their children trusting them, so your heavenly Father takes joy in your dependence on Him.

There have been countless times in my life when I temporarily forgot about God’s promises. Have you ever been like that? When we get under pressure, it’s easy to forget about the resources that God has for us. I remember one situation in South America in 1978 when I was in an unusual situation to say the least. It’s a long story as to how all this came about, but there I was in a foreign country with absolutely nothing. **I didn’t know anyone; I had no contacts, no phone numbers, no names, nada! On top of that, I only had about \$50 to my name, no place to stay and only the clothes on my back. God is my witness that what I am sharing here is true.**

To be honest, for the first few hours I forgot about God’s promises. I felt absolutely desperate. Where would I live? What would I eat? How could I win anyone to Christ? Then I refocused and remembered the EXCEEDING GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES OF GOD. I began praying in faith instead of worrying. **How do you know when you are praying in faith? It’s easy – your prayers will be laced with God’s promises. Finally, I began reading and claiming scriptures like Psalm 46, Psalm 91, Matthew 6:33, and others.** I lifted my voice and told God that I wanted to trust Him and not give in to my fears. Before the day was over, the Lord did a HUGE miracle. He put me in touch (quite by “accident”) with an influential person who worked for the government. That very day I ended up with a two bedroom apartment at an upscale hotel. I stayed there for one month totally gratis -- including food, drink, and transportation! It’s a long story, but God absolutely intervened. **In some ways, that experience was the real beginning of this worldwide ministry. It was on that**



trip that God taught me the basics of raw faith and how to trust Him. It’s one thing to study about faith in a classroom and quite another thing when you go to a foreign country with literally nothing. I wouldn’t recommend going like I did. It’s like learning to swim by jumping off the high-dive. But, that’s what I did.

The second day that I was there, as I sat in my miracle hotel suite, God spoke to my heart and impressed me to go to a particular park and start witnessing one-on-one, which I did. I worked hard in the tropical sun, sweating, witnessing, and sharing. At first, no one really listened to me. Yet, after a few days, God opened a young man’s heart who accepted Christ right on the spot. His name was Mario Alfredo Rojas. With his help, I started several Bible studies in the area that quickly grew. For an entire month, I stayed in the high rise hotel that God provided. I didn’t have to pay one cent. **I spent all my days praying, discipling Mario, witnessing one-on-one in the park, and conducting Bible studies at night.** Before I left, the friends from my Bible studies had given me clothes (they finally realized that I only had one set of clothes!), money, a suit case, and sent me back to the good ‘ole USA with their blessings. Not once did I ever pass the plate or ask for an offering. I was a real novice in those days, and had zero experience on how to run a church meeting. As I flew home, I felt like I had been in the Book of Acts on that trip. Now, 35 years later as of this writing, I realize that none of it would have happened if I had not known how to claim God’s promises.

Dear friend, perhaps you are in a situation right now where you don’t know what to do or which way to go. It may be in your business, ministry, or personal life. Let me encourage you to resist fear and do what Psalm 103:2 says – **“FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS!”** Take time to look for God’s promises in your Bible and

start praying them out loud. Personalize them for your situation. Claim them as your own. Start thanking God that His promises are YOUR promises. Ask God to lead you and guide you. Start expecting His power to work on your behalf.

Jesus Paid for the Promises

For those who may be tempted to think that the idea of claiming God’s promises is a minor issue, let me remind you that Jesus died on the cross so that we could have God’s promises. **It is vital that you understand that when Jesus died, He died to forgive your sins AND qualify you for God’s blessings.** The problem with trying to live by the Law (as in the Old Testament) is that no one is perfect. You can’t perfectly keep God’s law nor can I. Romans 6:23 says, *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* Our righteousness (or lack of it) has a direct bearing on the extent to which we can experience God’s promises, because many of them are conditional. And, dear friend, this is exactly why Jesus died for our sins. Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection paid the price for our righteousness – something that we could never attain on our own. Romans 3:21,22 says, *“But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe.”* **The sacrifice of Christ qualifies you for the “exceeding great and precious promises” of God!**

2 Corinthians 1:20 is an awesome verse. It says, **“For all the promises of God in Him (Christ) are YES, and in Him AMEN, unto the glory of God.”** Only in Christ are the promises of God “YES” for us. Because of our right standing with God (due to the sacrifice of Christ) we now qualify for God’s provision. It’s as if God is saying a great big “YES!” -- and our responsibility is to reply with a hearty “AMEN!” (which means “so be it”). **In other words, God is saying “YES” in Christ and He is waiting for you to reply back “AMEN!”** He wants you to experience His promises. Therefore, you must refuse to let fear or condemnation hold you back from claiming God’s promises. Jesus shed His blood to give you the promises.

God’s Promises – Your Heritage !

The apostle Paul often prayed for the believers of His day to have a revelation of what belonged to them in Christ. He wanted them to understand their inheri-

tance. Ephesians 1:17-19 says, *“[I pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; that the eyes of your heart will be enlightened; that you may KNOW what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of HIS INHERITANCE in the saints. And what is the exceeding greatness of HIS POWER to us who believe.”*

Just like any inheritance, God’s inheritance can either be “claimed” or left “unclaimed.” **Your inheritance in Christ is something that you must: 1) first be aware of as Paul prayed above, and 2) learn to claim by faith.** If you don’t, then it’s like having a million dollars in the Bank that you never draw on or use. As we stated earlier, there are promises for literally every need that you will face. There are promises for food, clothing, health, protection, children, families, employment, forgiveness, relationships, and the list goes on and on! The Bible has over 3500 promises! Let’s take a quick look at a few:

1. Promises for Salvation – *“For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Rom 10:13*

2. Promises for guidance – *“Trust in the Lord and acknowledge Him ... and He will direct your path.” Prov 3:5,6*

3. Promises for food and clothing – *“Seek first the kingdom ... and all these things will be added unto you.” Mt 6:33*

4. Promises for favor – *“For you, Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor will you surround him as with a shield.” Ps 5:12*

5. Promises for answered prayer – *“If we ask according to His will – we have the petitions that we desire.” 1 Jn 5:14,15*

6. Promises for abundance – *“Wealth and riches shall be in his house.” Prov 11:2:3*

7. Promise for health and healing – *“I wish above all things that you prosper and be in health ...” 3 John 2*

8. Promises for Relationships -- *“When a man pleases the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him” Prov 16:7*

9. Promises for protection – *“He shall call upon Me and I will answer him. I will be with him ... I will deliver him.” Ps 91:15*

10. Promises for all things possible – *“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Mark 9:23*