

# Delightful Discoveries in Prayer

Prayer Lessons in Creation

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## Lesson 04: Gospel Promises

What we have learned is a most beautiful revelation of the gospel! It makes salvation and the new heart something logical! God can give a man a new heart because He is our Maker.

We have a right to ask Him to fulfill His promises to us. He is God, and His word contains the very gift He promises.

When we take the promise that proceeds “by the breath of his mouth;” then, whether we feel it or not, or know how it works, it does work because that promise contains the very thing that He promises—because He is Creator.

That God, who created the world by His own spoken word, was Jesus Christ, our Lord. Because Christ is Creator, He is our Redeemer. Because He is divine, He can create in us clean hearts. Because He is Creator, He can say, “we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.” We are saved by grace, but we are given strength, power, and new hearts by virtue of our Lord’s creative power.

Since God created “by the breath of his mouth,” whatever He promises, in something like 3,573 promises, exists already in the promises. It is there the very instant He gives the promise! So we can take Bible promises for any problem of life, whether spiritual, financial, physical, or whatever. If our motive is pure, and if we fulfill the simple conditions, we may ask, then we can actually believe that we receive.

Jesus himself said, “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” Matthew 21:22. He said, “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” Mark 11:24.

This is what one might term receptive prayer, because we receive the answer. And one might call it creative prayer, because the gift promised is created in the promise, just like a chicken can be in an egg. Jesus also said, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” John 15:7.

To abide in Christ means that Christ is permitted to have His way, and work out His own plans in our lives. Then our desires will be sanctified by His presence, and will then be requests to advance His kingdom. They will not be merely asking to find a convenient life, with no problems or annoying circumstances.

### BUILDING ON PROMISES

We can build our faith on God’s promises. Jesus told a parable in Matthew 7:24 to 27, of one man who built his house on a rock, and another on shifting sand. We need to determine to build our spiritual house on the sayings, promises, and commands of Christ.

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We can have a good foundation in Jesus, who has promised that when the tempests of life come, we can stand in Christ. If we build on the promises, we are building on Christ, the living Rock. Psalm 92:15, "He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him."

The way we know that God can keep us is found in two Bible promises. One is in Hebrews 1:1 to 3, part of which reads, "upholding all things by the word of his power." A God who can uphold this world by His word, can keep all who build on Him. The other promise is found in Acts 17:28, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being."

Romans 3:12. States that "there is none that doeth good, no, not one." But God declares, or speaks, His own righteousness into a believing sinner's heart, and that what God speaks, He creates.

So here is the text, referring to God speaking, through the sacrifice of Jesus, "to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness." Romans 3:26. And this same promise says God will give His righteousness "unto all and upon all them that believe." Verse 22. We claim His righteousness to cover us. That is the "upon" of the promise. And I claim His righteousness to fill me. This is the "unto", or "into" of the promise. [See Romans 3:21-26.] I know this righteousness covers my past, as Psalm 32:1 indicates, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." And I know this promise can fill my heart, through Christ; for the Apostle Paul says, "I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." Galatians 2:20.

In believing and receiving Christ's righteousness, we have peace. It says, "we have peace with God." The second promise says this peace is a gift, "My peace I give unto you." Romans 5:1 and John 14:27.

Through the gift of forgiveness we can claim instant peace. Sincerely say, "Lord, I believe," and, "Thank You that I have received." God's peace is in His promise. It is there just as much as His righteousness is in His promise. If you receive the promise, you have the gift. So ask, believe, and receive His forgiveness and peace.

Here is another promise of peace of mind. "I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people." Psalm 85:8.

When God speaks peace, the gift of peace is in that promise. If we will believe and receive, we may all be happy Christians.

It is a wonderful thing to know that the vilest, repentant sinner can confess his sins. Then he can hear our Creator and Redeemer say, "You are righteous!" The very word that speaks righteousness has righteousness in it. Since righteousness is now in his heart, and since out of the "heart" are "the issues of life," he begins a new life.

When the Bible said of Abraham, "And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness" [Genesis 15:6], that word "believed" came from the Hebrew word "amen"; the root idea of the word "amen" is firmness, or stability. The varying definitions carry the thought, "to build on." So Abraham built on God, just as we all should do.

Any word that can uphold a world, as Hebrews 1:3 states, can certainly uphold us. So we all can "amen" God; we can depend on Him because of who He is. A man's word is no better than the man himself; to build on God's word is to trust God Himself.

### LET'S PASS OVER

Think of the day Jesus said to the disciples, "Let us pass over unto the other side." That was the Sea of Galilee. Then came the dreadful tornado-like storm. The ship could not go under, for Jesus had said "pass over" (Mark 4:35). Peace and quiet were in that promise. They could not sink during the tempest, if they chose to believe, because Christ's word said, "pass over".

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So when the Bible says, "Faith is the substance" (Hebrews 11:1), it is because it is mixed with the "substance" of God's word. The word that upholds the worlds must have more substance than the thing it holds up. It was because Abraham built on God that he was counted righteous (Romans 4:3). The Bible says, "There is no unrighteousness in him." Psalm 92:15.

### **Man compared to God**

Man, in the Bible, is likened to grass: Isaiah 40:6-8 "The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

In 1 Peter, chapter 1, verses 23 to 25, we find, "For all flesh is as grass.... but the word of the Lord endureth for ever." The two texts--one in the Old Testament, and the other in the New, are almost identical. Evidently Isaiah and Peter are discussing the same thing.

In Isaiah 40:9 he speaks of bringing "good tidings", saying, "Behold your God!" Peter is discussing the "gospel", too. (See 1 Peter 1:25.) He says, "And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." So as Peter quoted Isaiah, he is giving the gospel, which is "good tidings". (See Luke 2:10.) Isaiah says it is to "behold your God!"

If you read a little farther in the same fortieth chapter of Isaiah, you will find who this God is. "To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things [the heavens and the earth, verses 21, 22], that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth." Verses 25 and 26.

So, the Creator is our God. That is why we can go to Him for a new heart. And Peter says of that powerful word of our Creator: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." Then after Peter quotes Isaiah, "For all flesh is as grass, . . . but the word of the Lord endureth for ever," he caps the whole story of God's creative word this way: "And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (1 Peter 1:23-25).

No wonder, that the gospel prophet, Isaiah, cried out, "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength." Isaiah 40: 28 and 29.

If any soul feels faint, we can remember our Creator is our Redeemer: "And because He has made all things, there is forgiveness in His blood (Colossians 1:14-16).

Any gospel which does not build on creation is not a Bible gospel at all. It is insufficient. The Bible is too plain on that topic. The gospel is simply the creative power of God applied to man's redemption. No wonder Peter could cry out, "And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (1 Peter 1:25). This is why a newborn Christian is not to look to self and worry about whether he can hold out in Christian living.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." Jude, verses 24 and 25

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Psalm 95:6.

## Review Questions

1. Jesus said, "The \_\_\_\_\_ is the word of God." Luke 8:11.
2. Every normal apple seed contains a miniature apple \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The three departments of the tree found in the seed, are: the \_\_\_\_\_, two \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Since every normal apple seed contains an apple tree, and every normal acorn contains an oak tree, God's Word being called seed signifies that every gift promised by God is contained in the \_\_\_\_\_ itself.
5. The "A" of claiming Bible promises is \_\_\_\_\_ Matt. 7:7.
6. The "B" of claiming Bible promises is \_\_\_\_\_ Mark 11:24.
7. The "C" of claiming Bible promises is to claim, or \_\_\_\_\_ . Matt. 21:22.
8. Jesus promised, "If ye abide in me, and my \_\_\_\_\_ abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7.
9. The way we know our God is the true God is that He \_\_\_\_\_ the earth, etc. Jer. 10:12.

Answers found on answer sheet.