

The Science of Prayer

Its ABC's

By Glenn and Ethel Coon

Name: _____

Date: _____

LESSON 4

How to Make Bible Promises Personal

Introduction

Years ago we taught a course on the technique of soul winning. As the students began practicing the seven secrets, excellent results followed.

Then we began to learn the science of the Prayer of Reception. We learned to combine the science of soul winning communication with the science of prayer. The rewards were fabulous.

We learned not to be centered on John Doe's bad habits, but to help him fix his gaze on the solution; Jesus Christ.

Bad habits cannot cure bad habits. Centering our speech on evil cannot produce good. Only good begets good. Only life begets life. Only Christ is the solution to evil problems. Let us share some of our discoveries with you.

1. Evil habits depart when we receive pardon and cleansing.

a. Let us accept complete pardon, then share pardon. "The good Lord pardon every one that prepareth his heart to seek God." 2 Chronicles 30:18, 19.

b. Let us accept complete cleansing from sin, too, then share it. ". . . I will pardon all their iniquities. ..." Jeremiah 33:8. ". . . though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18.

c. The same power that forgives and cleanses gives total deliverance from known sin. "Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth. . . and will build them, as at the first. And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity... and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me." Jeremiah 33:6-8.

Recently we received an urgent telephone call to visit two backsliders whom we shall call John and Jane Gray. Jane was pitifully crippled. Her Christian physician stated that she had more than 20 different poisons in her blood stream. Her condition seemed hopeless. Her husband, John, had slipped away from the Lord and had lost all assurance of salvation and eternal life. He was under personal condemnation, too, because of a bad habit which had completely overcome him. He sat there in their home downcast and full of heavy guilt.

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We read Jeremiah 33:6-8 (cited earlier in this lesson), and suggested that Jane insert her very own name. We then re-read the text of Scripture, placing her name in it repeatedly. It promised her health. It promised her cure. It promised her personal peace and truth. As we enthusiastically placed her name in the heart of the promises, Jane seemed to grasp that these were for her personally.

But John looked despondent. We turned to John and suggested that he immediately think no more on his sins. We were claiming cleansing as well as pardon. We were claiming health and cure, and a rebuilding of their lives. These promises were placed there for him personally, as well as for Jane. We enthusiastically called on them both to leave all their sins (including any unclean habit) at the foot of the cross. We encouraged them to ask, believe, and claim complete forgiveness, cleansing, and healing.

We laid our believing hands on Jane's sick body. We invited her to pray a prayer of faith. She cried pitifully for forgiveness, cleansing, and healing. John prayed briefly but emotionally. They were now looking away from their problems to Christ, the Solution for every ill. As we left the home, we suggested once again, very kindly, that they both continue looking toward the Solution; Jesus Christ. If symptoms returned, they should assert their freedom.

The lives of both Jane and John were miraculously changed. Jane and John arose the next morning and went shopping. When evening came, both were at our meeting in a nearby church. The change was dramatic! We who had prayed almost gasped in excitement.

At one of our meetings the following week their Christian physician attended them. Speaking of the change in their lives, he summed it up in one word: "Unbelievable!" Yet he did believe. He saw the proof. John also testified that evening. He said that from the hour we taught them how to make the promises personal, his vile habit departed. It had no more power over him. It was gone.

Need we repeat the important lesson? Let us not fix our minds upon our problems.

Rather, let us set our face in the direction of the Solution: Jesus Christ. Let us not go into orbit around the bad habits. Talk about Christ, our personal Saviour. There is no power in mulling over sin, evil, and unworthy habits. Sin has no power to cure itself. Rather, "Look unto me, and be ye saved" is God's command. Isaiah 45:22. By "beholding" we are changed "by the spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18.

2. Eternal life assured.

a. We receive it. "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." 1 John 2:25.

I remember the first time I placed my finger on this wonderful promise. I asked. I believed. I thanked God that I had received eternal life. I inserted my own name. It read like this: "And this is the promise that he hath promised Glenn Coon, even eternal life." 1 John 2:25. This promise brought me glorious assurance.

b. We share it. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life." 1 John 5:13.

Two men from what we call "Drug land America" were led to read our experience, recommending that others follow suit. These two young men did. With their fingers on the promise they asked. They believed. They claimed eternal life by placing their names in the promise. Then they wept for joy. Their joyful tears lasted for perhaps 30 minutes. Then they, too, began sharing with others.

3. This assurance brings hope.

"That we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4.

A drunkard staggered into one of our meetings. Forty five minutes later he came right up to the front. Probably he was about to ask for some money. Immediately, a young minister stepped up by his side. He himself had been a heroin addict for ten years. As he stood there by the side of the drunkard, hope sprang up. There the poor inebriated man sobbed out his repentance to God. And God forgave him.

4. A personal fellowship assured.

Like John and Jane, we are to accept perfect fellowship in Christ. Then share it. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit." Romans 8:1.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7.

"I believe the promises of God enough to venture an eternity on them." Watts.

"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:39.

"And ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof." Joshua 23:14.

"If you were to spend a month feeding on the precious promises of God, you would not be going about with your heads hanging down like bulrushes, complaining how poor you are; but you would lift up your heads with confidence and proclaim the riches of His grace because you could not help it." D. L. Moody

5. John Doe needs this hope.

This hope saves us. "For we are saved by hope." Romans 8:24.

We share this hope with John Doe. "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ." 1 John 1:3.

A 19-year-old drug addict was in deep agony. The young man asked his mother what he should do. As she was pondering on an answer, he spoke up. His words were, "If I knew there was even a single ray of hope ..." He never finished the sentence. What he needed was hope.

6. Our Lord is that hope.

"For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth." Psalm 71:5.

God's Word

The grass withereth, the flower Fadeth: but the word of our God Shall stand for ever. Isaiah 40:8

"He obtained the promise.... That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil." Hebrews 6:15, 18, 19.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE:

Dear Student:

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From the foregoing lesson it can be seen that our Lord promises us personal pardon. Then we are to immediately start sharing it with John Doe as God's providence opens the way.

As we were doing this very lesson we had opportunity to meet a young woman who had wandered very far from God. She was planning to divorce her husband and marry another man, who happened to be a leading officer in his church. He had asked her to marry him as soon as he got a divorce from his wife.

The Holy Spirit impressed us to use three specific laws of soul-winning communication with this young woman, whom we shall call Helena.

We talked faith; not merely faith in the promises of God; but faith in her future. God's Word declares, "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4. We wanted, and God wanted, Helena to overcome the world. But this could be done only by faith. So we were impressed by the Lord to express fabulous faith in Helena. Satan tempted us to believe we were overdoing it, but "whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Romans 14:23. Helena could scarcely comprehend that we would express such confidence and trust in victory in her life. To express simple, warm faith in a person without preaching at that one is important. It is a fellowshipping kind of faith, not a preaching kind.

We talked hope. "We are saved by hope." Romans 8:24. For Helena's marriage to be saved, we must let the Holy Spirit speak hope through us to her. We told her that we believed she was destined to bless hundreds of individuals who, like her, had doubted God's pardon, and who, like her, had felt they had sinned too grievously to be forgiven.

We talked love. "We love him, because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19. These three laws of soul-winning communication are brought to view in 1 Corinthians 13:13.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity [love]." "Charity [love] never faileth." 1 Corinthians 13:8.

As Helena chatted with us she stated that she really loved this married man. That he was a wonderful man. We did not tell her that it was merely an infatuation. Why should we, when we have the wonderful instruments of faith, hope and love?

Three days later we met Helena again. Her face was filled with sweet assurance in Christ. What had happened? Said she, "I never thought I could do it, but do you know I called my husband last night and confessed and apologized to him." Helena's husband was dumb with astonishment at the change in his formerly infatuated mate.

The secrets--faith, hope, and love--are not alone for the use of ministers. They are for everyone to use who will learn the science of soul-winning communication, and who will blend this science with the prayer of faith.

As the Holy Spirit used us, we were claiming several promises for Helena. We were asking, believing, and claiming the answers. Some of these promises you too may wish to learn and claim. Try such promises as 1 John 5:16 and Genesis 3:15 for God's power to turn a loved one from the infatuating power of Satan-Luke 11:13 and James 1:5 also. God answered fabulously for us. He is no respecter of persons. He will do the same for you. First, learn these precious secrets.

Cordially yours,

Glenn Coon, Sr.

Glenn Coon, Jr..

QUIZ ON LESSON 4:

1. The Lord wants to pardon _____ one 2 Chronicles 30:18, 19.
2. He promises to pardon _____ our iniquity Jeremiah 33:8.
3. He promises us _____ Jeremiah 33:6
4. By _____ we are changed by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18.
5. God promises us life. I John 2:25.
6. He wants us to _____ we have eternal life 1 John 5:13.
7. There is condemnation to us who are in Christ, walking not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Romans 8:1.

Correct Answers on Answer Sheet.