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PROMISES

March 1, 2012

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Sometimes, while going through a trial, a notion may creep into your mind and heart like a deadly virus. A voice from a dark place says, "You are all alone in this thing. You have no one to help and nothing solid to stand upon. You are helpless and hopeless, so you may as well just give in and give up." Well, that voice is from satan and that statement is a lie! Dear Christian, no matter what you are facing or how difficult it may appear, you have the same thing to stand upon that every Christian has in every situation in life – you have the unfailing, unchanging, Solid Rock promises of Almighty God.

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2 Corinthians 1:20 tells us, "For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen..." The word "Amen" in this verse is a title for Christ, thus the promises of God in His Word are established through Christ. The thing that makes a promise reliable and trustworthy is the character of the one who makes it and his power to carry it out.

The Word of God is filled with hundreds of promises to those who belong to Him and 2 Peter 3: 9 assures us that, "The Lord is not slack [late or slow] concerning His promises...but is longsuffering to us-ward.." Now, you may say, "Yes, there are many wonderful promises to God's children in the Bible, but which ones apply to me?" Dear friend, they ALL do. When you became a child of God you became a recipient of those promises. All that is necessary is for you to believe them and apply them. How do you apply them? By faith, by making the choice to believe the promises of God rather than your circumstances.

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In Romans 4:19-22 we read concerning Abraham, "And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered [wavered] not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform." The one thing that will keep you steady in the storm is to consider the reliability of God and embrace His promise as applied to you.

Shad Williams Evangelistic Association/
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Now, granted, the promise that Abraham was holding on to was one made specifically to him in his particular situation. And that brings me to this. There are two kinds of promises from God. There are those given in His general revelation to all Believers and there are those given by the Holy Spirit to individual children of God in specific circumstances. That means that, no matter what you are going through, no matter what challenge you are facing, there are two types of promises available to

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you. First there are those that may be embraced and applied by a hundred different Christians in a hundred different situations at the same time, such as Philippians 4:19, *"But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* But then there are those that the Holy Spirit reveals by enlightening a specific Scripture to your heart in a specific instance. Sometimes this occurs and sometimes not, but either way, all of God's promises are available to you at all times.

Therefore, when you are dealing with what appears to be an impossible situation, do not succumb to the subtle lies of the devil. Just because you do not see a solution, a way out, don't automatically conclude that there isn't one. Open your Bible and allow your thoughts to be turned to the "almightiness" of God. Think about His trustworthiness, His power and His faithfulness to make good on His Word, and His love for you. As you read, underline every good and wonderful thing He has promised do for His child – and remember, that's YOU! I assure you that as you search the Word of God, it will not take long for the Holy Spirit to focus your attention on one or more of His promises and apply it to this particular instance in your life. God knows better than you do what you need and you can be sure you will receive it when you go to His Word.

A word of caution – satan will do all in his power to keep you from the promises of God, but his power is easily overcome by your simple, child-like choice of faith to just believe what God says. When that voice of discouragement speaks from that dark place, remember this promise from James 4:7, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* Hebrews 11:33 tells us that the promises of God are obtained through faith. The challenge you are facing is real, yes – but the promises of God are more real and more reliable than what you see in front of you. To what will you give the final word, your circumstances or the promises of God?

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

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