

## ☞ Standing on the Promises

Faith requires confidence in your calling. You need to know what God has said and then be courageous in your conduct, obeying God no matter what. And always concentrate on Christ not allowing distractions to derail your faith. We walk by faith when we listen carefully to God and do what he says in spite of what we may see in the natural.

Faith can face the facts and even doubt, but still chooses to believe. Faith does not falter, always believing that God will somehow work things out. Faith is fully persuaded – God can and will do what he has promised.

Faith has a lot to do with believing what God says. So, today, let's simply get grounded and encouraged by the promises God has made to all believers in his word...

### ☞ God promises Peace

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Philippians 4:6-7

☞ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, **by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.** 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Psalms 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you ☞ are with me; **your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

*During times of struggle and danger, Jesus is there to comfort us. In the book of Proverbs, ☞ the rod is used for discipline (Proverbs 13:24). The staff has the idea of "something to lean on," "trust," "support." God's rod is used to help us stay on the path has for us. Sometimes, it is used to discipline us, and exhort us to move forward. On the other hand, it is also for our protection. God protects us from harmful things that attack us. Yet, his staff is also there for us to lean on, to rest, and to find peace. Together, the two words paint a picture of a strong, protective shepherd whom we can trust. One who not only cares for us but who will protect us.*

### ☞ God promises Provision

Philippians 4:19

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 18:19-20

☞ "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth **agree** about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Mark 11:24

☞ whatever you ask for in prayer, **believe** that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Matthew 7:7-8

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

☞ **Ask...** *This is the prayer part. It is taking our requests and needs to God. Just as we talk over the issues of our day with our spouse or friends, so also God wants us to **communicate with Him about the issues and needs** which are heavy on our hearts and minds. So, we ask Him about these things. This is the first step to prayer.*

☞ **Seek...** *But after we ask, we don't simply keep asking. We must begin to seek. Seeking is when we **look around for how God might answer our prayers**. After we ask God for something, the next thing we must do is start looking around with eyes of faith for how God might be providing answers to the issues we discussed with Him.*

☞ **Knock...** *After we ask God to help us with our needs, and as we seek for possible ways that God might answer our requests, we must then step out in faith and knock on the doors that present themselves. When we ask, we ask with faith. When we seek, we seek possible answers with eyes of faith. And when we knock, we step out and take risks with faith by **pursuing opportunities that were brought to our attention** during the seeking phase. Sometimes the first door we knock on is the one that opens, but this is usually not the case. Sometimes we have to knock on ten, fifty, even hundreds of doors.*

*Want to see more answers to prayer? Don't just ask God for things. Step out and seek ways that He might answer them, and then knock on the doors of opportunity that are presented. In this way, praying is more than just asking God for things and then sitting around, waiting for Him to respond.*

## ☞ God promises Power

Philippians 4:13

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Acts 1:8

☞ But you will receive power **when the Holy Spirit comes on you;**

Psalms 103:2-3

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits — 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

James 5:14-16

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and ☞ anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the **prayer offered in faith** will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. **16** Therefore **confess your sins to each other and pray for each other** so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Mark 16:17-18

And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; **18** they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

John 14:12-14

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do ☞ whatever you **ask in my name**, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

*Saying "in Jesus' name" at the end of a prayer is not a magic formula. Praying in Jesus' name means praying with His authority. Praying in Jesus' name means the same thing as ☞ praying **according to the will of God**. Praying in Jesus' name is praying for things that will honor and glorify Jesus. It is not the words in the prayer that matter, but the purpose behind the prayer. Praying for things that are in agreement with God's will is the essence of praying in Jesus' name.*

## ☞ God promises Plans

Psalms 32:8

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.

He doesn't usually give you a complete roadmap of his will for your life. Instead, he is more like a GPS giving "as needed" directions. He tends to lead one step at a time...

Psalms 37:23-24

☞ **If the Lord delights in a man's way**, he makes his steps firm; **24** though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

Isaiah 30:21

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

*Notice, the voice is "behind you." The image is perhaps of a parent guiding a child from behind. Or it could be an invitation to turn around; in other words a call to repentance. God has good plans for you and if you veer off, he promises to gently remind you to turn back onto his path.*

Jeremiah 29:11

☞ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to **prosper** you and not to harm you, plans to give you **hope** and a **future**...

### ☞ **God promises Prizes**

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. **17** Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we **share in his sufferings** in order that we may also share in his glory.

Cf. Philippians 3:10...I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death...

Sharing in his sufferings does not mean that we have to be crucified and literally die. But it does imply a kind of death. Jesus gave up everything in order to do God's will. Likewise, ☞ he calls us to follow him which may require us to **give some things up**. There is a **dying to self** when we truly follow Christ.

Cf. Philippians 3:8... everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

Now, listen to the end results of following Christ...

John 14:2-3

In my Father's house are many rooms (*mansions*); if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and take you to be with me** that you also may be where I am.

Daniel 7:27

☞ Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of **the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints**, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

☞ "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, **no mind has conceived what God has prepared** for those who love him"

He has given us glimpses into eternity, but it is still beyond our full understanding. It will be greater than we imagine.

God promises peace, provision, power, plans and prizes. We have a part to play in receiving his promises, but God always keeps his promises.

☞ **Video: Standing on the Promises**