

Principles of Prayer and Promises

Advanced Seminar

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1.

PPP: Lesson 03:

A New kind of Prayer

1. How are we saved, or Redeemed?

God created the world by His own spoken word. The One who spoke was Jesus Christ, our Lord. It is because Christ is Creator that He is our Redeemer. To ‘redeem’ means to buy back.

The Bible says: **“For thus saith the LORD, Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money.” Isaiah 52:3.**

Money could never pay the price for our sins.

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation [lifestyle] received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:” 1 Peter 1:18, 19.

2. Why is it important that it is actually our Creator that redeemed us?

For a fallen human being to be changed back into the image of God requires a process of re-creation. It is because Jesus is divine that He can create in us clean hearts.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10.

So the Bible says we are saved by grace, but we are given strength, power, and new hearts by virtue of our Lord's creative power.

3. How can we know that Jesus understand us, how we feel, and what our temptations are?

It is because He is also human and suffered the temptations we do that we know He understands and can help us to do right in a wicked world.

“Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor [help] them that are tempted.” Hebrews 2:17, 18.

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For

Prayer Lessons

both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren.” Hebrews 2:9-11.

So Jesus was both human and divine; we cannot explain this but accept it by faith. He is like our elder Brother, working to restore us to the family of God.

4. We see how the very power of the Creator exists in His word.

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

Jesus said: **“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” Matthew 21:22.**

“What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” Mark 11:24.

The gift promised is created in the promise, just like a chicken can be in an egg.

5. How can this truth give us a new life and a changed character?

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. We also learn about Him and what His will is for us from reading His Word in the Bible. Any of God's commandments is also a promise that He will help us to be able to keep it with His power.

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. “ John 17:3.

We know Jesus is divine, because He made the world just as Genesis 1:1 says. Because He is our Creator we know He can give us a new heart and change us into a child of God.

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5, 6.

6. Jesus told a story to illustrate how we need to take His Word as the foundation of our lives.

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” Matthew 7:24-27.

Prayer Lessons

We can choose to build our spiritual house on the sayings, the promises, and the commands of Christ. We need to avoid the sinking sands of doubt and uncertainty, so we can have a good foundation. If we build on the promises, we are building on Christ, the living Rock.

“. . .The LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.” Psalm 92:15,

We can know that God is dependable and can keep us as it says in these promises.

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Hebrews 1:1-3.

“For in him we live, and move, and have our being;” Acts 17:28.

“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: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” Romans 3:21-26.

7. Can we know Christ's righteousness covers our past sins? How can I be kept from sin and have a victorious Christian life?

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.” Psalm 32:1.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.

We see here that when we surrender all to Jesus and are born again, it is like an exchange; we accept the death of Jesus on the cross as our death, and we receive Christ into our hearts through the Holy Spirit to enable us to live His holy life. We choose to have self, our natural selfish nature, nailed to the cross while we choose the unselfish and obedient life of Christ to be in us.

8. This true born again experience in believing and receiving Christ's righteousness, brings a special peace into our hearts.

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:” Romans 5:1

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27.

“I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.” Psalm 85:8.

God's peace is in His promise. It is there just as much as His righteousness is in His promise. If you believe and receive the promise, you have the gift.

9. How dependable is the Word of God?

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.” 1 Peter 1:23-25.

“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.” Isaiah 40:6-8.

In this passage is some of the greatest assurance of the reliability of our God and our Saviour.

“Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.

“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, 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. Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God?

“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. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 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 40:21-31.

It is a wonderful thing to know that the vilest, repentant sinner can confess his sins, and by faith in the promise, he can hear our Creator and Redeemer say, “You are forgiven.”!

Remember that any gospel or religion 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. Amen!