

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 07:

The Growing Plants

1. In Creation Week, the Third Day, once the dry land and the water situation was organized God created living plants and trees. What lessons can we learn from this?

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so." Genesis 1:11.

The basis of claiming Bible promises is creation. The gift is in the promise. The word contains what it names. A thing that had no existence, exists when God speaks the word.

"He spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast." Psalm 33:9.

"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 1:24, 25.

"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 1:3.

2. Jesus also teaches us from the grass and plants, a lesson of His constant care for our needs.

"If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?" Luke 12:28.

The gospel is actually the power of God as witnessed in creation, and manifested in salvation.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16.

3. What happens to a plant if it does not stay connected to the earth, or a branch to the plant? It withers and dies.

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:4, 5.

"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. John 15:6.

A good plant needs to grow and also bear fruit.

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ". 2 Peter 3:18.

Jesus said: **"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."**
John 15:8.

4. Bearing fruit means for us that we show in our lives the principles Jesus taught to us.

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; ... to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.'" Isaiah 61:1-3.

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. Isaiah 61:10, 11.

"O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously."
Hosea 14:1, 2.

"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him. I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon. They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine." Hosea 14:4-7.

5. The Bible often compares Christians to plants and tells of the care the Lord gives us.

"In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine. I the LORD do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day. Fury is not in me: who would set the briers and thorns against me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together. Or let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me. He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit." Isaiah 27:2-6.

"God looks into the tiny seed that He Himself has formed, and sees wrapped within it the beautiful flower, the shrub, or the lofty, wide-spreading tree. So does He see the possibilities in every human being." Ministry of Healing, page 397.

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." 1 Peter 2:2, 3.

"But grow in grace, and in the Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18.

6. Here are some precious Promises that apply to our Salvation through Jesus.

"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." 1 Peter 3:15.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

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

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." John 1:12.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

"There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

7. We need to pray for the Lord to keep us from falling, and continue learning and claiming His promises and never think it is not possible for us to fall.

"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." 1 Corinthians 10:12.

"Satan is ready to steal away the blessed assurances of God. It is the privilege of all who comply with the conditions to know for themselves that pardon is freely extended for every sin. Put away the suspicion that God's promises are not meant for you. They are for every repentant transgressor." Steps to Christ, pages 52, 53.

"Every promise in the Word of God furnishes us with subject matter for prayer, presenting the pledged word of Jehovah as our assurance. Whatever spiritual blessing we need, it is our privilege to claim through Jesus." Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, page 133.

"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." 2 Timothy 1:12.

"I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning." 1 John 2:13.

"If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." 1 John 2:29.

"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins." 1 John 3:5.

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. 1 John 3:14, 15.

"Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit." 1 John 4:13.

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." 1 John 3:1-3.

8. Are you tempted to doubt God's willingness to save you? Are you tempted to think that salvation has too many conditions?

"The Bible does not teach that the sinner must repent before he can heed the invitation of Christ, **"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."** **Matthew 11:28.** It is the virtue that goes forth from Christ, that leads to genuine repentance. Peter made the matter clear in his statement to the Israelites, when he said, **"Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."** **Acts 5:31.** We can no more repent without the Spirit of Christ to awaken the conscience than we can be pardoned without Christ.

"Christ is the source of every right impulse. He is the only one that can implant in the heart enmity against sin. Every desire for truth and purity, every conviction of our own sinfulness, is an evidence that His Spirit is moving upon our hearts." Steps to Christ, page 26.

"The sinner may resist this love, may refuse to be drawn to Christ; but if he does not resist he will be drawn to Jesus; a knowledge of the plan of salvation will lead him to the foot of the cross in repentance for his sins, which have caused the sufferings of God's dear Son." Steps to Christ, page 27.

We can respond to the call of His Spirit by asking, believing, and claiming His wonderful promises. Then we can with sweetest assurance declare:

".. I am not ashamed for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." 2 Timothy 1:12.

We are engaged in a very real struggle, that will continue daily.

"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." **Ephesians 6:12.**

We also fight an unending battle with self. We fight against doubting God's precious promises; against questioning His love, His mercy and His forgiveness. It is a fight of faith.

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed." **James 1:13, 14.**

"O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:" **1 Timothy 6:20.**

So by Asking, Believing, and Claiming His promises, we may cry out,

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

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Romans 8:37-39.**