

# 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 14a:

The Holy Spirit and the Promises:

When I read the promises of the Bible and what God wants to do, how He is willing to take your poor life and mine and show His own divine nature and character in us and through us, I feel ashamed we have not shown more faith and trust in His Word.

These promises are absolutely wonderful in what they say to us. They are expressed in language that astonishes our mind. When we read them we have to blink our eyes and we think it cannot really mean what it seems to be saying; ‘God cannot really mean what this is saying, there must be some secret meaning, some condition that it doesn’t really apply to us.’

Have you read those expressions in the promises of God? They just seem so extreme and impossible really. You look at it and you see the words and you say, “No, no, that could not mean what it says. There must be something underneath there that I don’t understand. God would not really say that; I’ve never seen it happen.”

Think about it a moment; God does not say that He will make you just a conqueror, he says, “I will make you *more* than conqueror.” He doesn’t say “I will cause you to triumph,” He says “I’ll cause you *always* to triumph.” He doesn’t just say “I’ll save you,” He says, “I’ll save you *to the uttermost!*” I believe God means it when He says that; and yet why don’t we experience it that way?

The reason we have not seen this mighty power is because we’ve not been willing to receive it; we’ve not had the faith; we have limited the great God of heaven. Over in Psalm 78:41 it says, **“Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.”**

So how did they do that? They did it by their lack of faith. God can do anything—there’s no question about that! He’s the Creator God! He hung the worlds and planets and sun in space, there is nothing too great for God to do. But there is one thing that He can’t do—and that is He cannot save us against our will, and He cannot do things for us unless we have the faith to believe it.

Over and over again Jesus said, **“According to your faith, be it unto you.”** The Bible says in one place, **“And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.” Matthew 13:58.**

You can limit God in what He does in your life by saying ‘No’ to the Holy Spirit, by not allowing Him to come in and do it! You say, “How can I limit God? He’s all-powerful, He’s all-mighty, and He’s omnipotent.”

Of course He is; but you still can limit Him in what He does for you in your life, and you limit

Him by your lack of faith by not believing the promises. Now we have a lot of promises and they are absolutely unparalleled. Some are so incredible that we have a hard time when we read them actually believing that it is possible for it to happen. Let's study some of these wonderful promises.

**“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:” 2 Peter 1:3.**

When we read here in these texts about the power of God, we are really talking about the Holy Spirit. When you read about the power of God towards us in these promises you can be sure it is referring to the third Person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit and His operations upon human life. Notice the words: “According as his divine power *‘will give unto us’*. . .” No, it doesn't say “*will give unto us*”; it says “*hath given unto us*.” Listen, the power of God is available now! God has already made it possible for you and me to experience this mighty, unconquerable power of God—it is here and it is ours for the asking. It's a gift that we may have by simply coming in faith and asking the Father in the name of Jesus.

Continuing: “**According as his divine power hath given unto us** *Some things that pertain unto life and godliness.*” No, It doesn't say *‘some things’* it says *‘all things’* doesn't it? All things that pertain to what? “Life and godliness”.

This doesn't mean that you get anything you ask for. You may ask for physical things, material things, but God does not say He will provide all of that; but He says “anything that you need in the line of spiritual things; godliness—do you want victory over sin, holiness in your life, sanctification, purity of mind? He says, “It's yours! Just ask! I have already given it to you. I've made it available and all you need to do now is simply receive it.” Isn't that fabulous?

We ought to be very dissatisfied with what we are experiencing. No matter how happy we are in the Lord, we can be happier in the Lord. No matter how victorious you are, you can be more victorious; because God has unlimited power that is far beyond our imagination even, and He's willing to give it to us right now so we can live a life of victory for Jesus. If there is any limit or lack in our lives it is because of the limit we place upon ourselves by our failure to believe the promise and claim the power that God has made available.

Notice verse 4: **“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2 Peter 1:4.**

Is there anything more wonderful and exalted for us human beings to experience than to receive the very life and nature of Jesus Christ? Could anything be higher than that? And yet the Bible says we can do it. It promises that Jesus will live out in us His own glorious life of victory over sin. How do we get it? By the precious promises of the Bible; there is power packed in every single word of the Bible. In every promise there is self-contained fulfillment. The answer and provision of the promise is all there in the very words of the scripture; the Bible says:

**“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12.**

So if we come and believe the promise and ask for it in faith, God is obligated by His infallible Word to release the power that is in the promise, make it available to us, and to give out whatever the words say. In this case it is that we will actually be partakers of the divine nature of Jesus Christ escaping the corruption that is in the world through lust. You can have the victory over lust and corruption by receiving in your life the promise of the divine nature of Jesus.

Here is another favorite promise:

**“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

[He’s talking about the dwelling of the Holy Spirit in the life. Inside, in the heart, in the inner recesses of the soul—that’s where God wants to live.]

**“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”**

I have to stop there and look at those words—do they mean what they say? **“That we might be filled with ALL the fullness of God”?** You say “That is impossible? God would not give me all of His fullness! What would that mean?”

I don’t know what this means but I believe if it is all of His fullness it would have to mean His righteousness. It would have to be His victory over sin. It would have to be His purity, His holiness; “All of that,” He says, “is yours, I want it to be yours. I want to fill you with all that I am! My fullness!”

Oh, what a promise that is! Now let’s go on to the next verse:

**“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,” Ephesians 3:16-20.**

What is the power? The Holy Spirit; “According to the Holy Spirit that works in you I am willing to do all of these things!” Now, it would be quite enough if God promised to give me anything I ask Him. Wouldn’t that be an incredible promise if God said to you, “I’ll give you anything you ask Me for?” spiritually, not materially; if God said, “If you ask me anything in the lines of the Spirit, in the lines of godliness, in the lines of a holy character, I will give it to you! I will give you whatever you ask!”

But God doesn’t just say that, He says “I’ll give you ALL that you ask!” So if you want victory, if you want sanctification in your life, if you want to overcome all of your defects and all of your weaknesses, He says, “I’ll give you all that you ask for in that line.”

But He is not even satisfied with that, He says, “I’ll give you above all you can ask!” That would be more than necessary; He does not need to give me more, if He just gave me what I ask that would be enough! And yet He says, “No, no, I’ll give you even more than you ask!” but even that does not satisfy Him; He says, “I’ll give you *abundantly above all* that you ask Me!” But still He is not satisfied, He says, “I’ll give you *exceeding abundantly above all* that you ask!”

Why all those amazing words? He just keeps on saying it over and over, "I'll do it! I'll give you exceedingly abundantly above all that you ask!" I believe God is doing that because He knows how weak we are in faith! He knows how hard it is for us to really believe His Word and He is impressing upon us that He really means it, and if we'll just ask, the answer will be there immediately; the power will be there instantly. "I'll give you exceedingly abundantly above all that you ever ask for!" and then He adds two more little words in there that make it even more incredible—He says, "*or think!*"

Many folk have wild imaginations; they can conjure up things in their mind that have never been seen by any human being; things that are utterly fantastic and impossible, but God says, "Look, even though you are afraid to say it, even though you will not utter the words, deep down in your soul you have those longings, those great desires for victory, purity and holiness; you want to reflect the very mind of Jesus, the life of God. Even though you are afraid to say it because it will sound presumptuous, I know what you are thinking and I am willing to do exceedingly abundantly above all that you can even imagine in the deepest recesses of your heart!"

Tell me, should we be satisfied with what little we have and are? If we had allowed God to fulfill His promises in us, we'd be in heaven by now! The thing that is holding us back is reluctance to believe the promises and claim them and accept what really belongs to us. We need to possess our possessions. God says "I have given it to you. It is already done; it has been given to you already." It's ours. All we need to do is go and take what belongs to us and what has been provided through being an heir of God, a joint heir with Jesus. What a promise that is!

Now let's go on to **Ephesians 1:13: "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,**

Notice he is talking about us being sealed with, or filled with, the Holy Spirit that was promised by Jesus.

**"Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." Ephesians 1:13, 14.**

Now there is a strange word, 'earnest', the earnest of our inheritance—what is our inheritance? What are we going to receive when Jesus comes? Eternal life; immortality is our inheritance; to stand in the very presence of Jesus and look into His face, that is our inheritance. Oh what a day that will be, when our Saviour we see! When He leads us down the golden street and shows us our mansion in heaven.

The filling of the Holy Spirit is the 'earnest' of our inheritance. If our inheritance is heaven and eternal life, what does this word 'earnest' mean? What is an 'earnest' payment? That's a little pre-payment, a little down-payment as a guarantee that the full amount will be paid when the job is done. The Bible says that being filled with the Holy Spirit is a little down-payment on heaven itself; that is what it means. To be continued: