

A Promise for Every Problem

Even if God's ways are hard to fathom, get a grip on His promises and hold on.

Are you having a hard day? A hard week? A hard life? Are you facing difficult circumstances that seem to have no solution?

If
so, I have good news for you: God is thinking about you right now as
you read this article. He knows what kind of day you are having. He
knows your greatest burdens and your deepest dreams. He cares.

And
He provided a solution for your problems before they ever existed
through the promises in His Word. All 7,487 of these promises were given
to guarantee your victory. All you have to do is lay hold of them, as
the Bible encourages us to do:

“Let's keep a firm grip on the
promises that keep us going. He always keeps His Word” (Heb. 10:23, The
Message). We know we will not be disappointed, for “all the promises of
God in [Christ] are Yes, and in [Christ] Amen” (2 Cor. 1:20, NKJV).

It's
wonderful to know there are promises for every circumstance of life.
Salvation promises. Hope and healing promises. Promises for finances,
friends and family. Whatever your problem is, there is a

promise for
you. Whatever your dream is, there is a promise for you.

TICKET TO RIDE

A
ticket to a movie costs about \$. A season ticket to the
symphony
costs around \$650. Super Bowl tickets can go as high as
\$3,000! When you
have a ticket to an event, it means you have a right to attend
or
participate in the event. Those with no tickets will be turned
away at
the door.

God's promises are like tickets, as this verse from The
Message states: "We were also given absolutely terrific
promises to
pass on to you—your tickets to participation in the life of
God" (2 Pet.
1:3-4). These tickets didn't come cheap, but it costs you
nothing to
redeem them; Jesus already paid the price with His blood.

I heard
of a woman who attended a Mercedes-Benz car show with her
husband.
While he was drooling over the features of a top-of-the-line
Mercedes,
she halfheartedly scribbled her name on a "Win This Car"
contest card.

To
her utter shock, six weeks later, the Mercedes dealership
called to
congratulate her on winning the car. "All you need to do to
receive this
Mercedes is bring us your winning ticket within 48 hours,"

they told
her.

To her dismay, she didn't have a clue where she had put that insignificant piece of paper. Who would have thought she'd really win?

The
hunt began. She dug through all her purses and pockets but found
nothing. She went through all her drawers and even the community
dumpster.

Her time was almost up, but she needed to pick up her son from school, so she stopped looking long enough to make a quick dash
to the nearby junior high. In fact, too quick.

When she noticed
the red lights of a police car flashing behind her, she groaned, pulled
over and reached into the glove box for her registration and insurance
card. To her surprise, she saw her winning ticket lying there, just
waiting to be redeemed.

Jumping out of the car, she shouted at
the police officer, "I found my ticket! I found my ticket!"
She told him
her dilemma and explained that she had only 20 minutes left to redeem
it for a new Mercedes. The officer smiled and said, "Jump in!"

Sirens
screaming, the policeman broke every rule to get her to the Mercedes
dealership. They pulled onto the lot and saw the sales manager

preparing
to take the contest car off the display rack.

The policeman
handed his radio to her. Across the car lot, her voice
thundered: "Get
your hands off of my car! I found my ticket!" The number on
her ticket
matched the winning number perfectly, and she was awarded the
car.

God's
promises are like that winning ticket. They are hiding in the
Word just
waiting to be redeemed, and God will break every natural law
to fulfill
them. If you're willing to search them out in the Scriptures,
they will
become tickets for you to participate in God's abundant life.

As
you purpose in your heart to stand on the promises of God, a
"higher
authority" steps in. Just like the policeman who handed the
woman his
radio to claim her car, Jesus, your High Priest, has handed
you His
authority to thunder through the heavenlies: "Satan, get your
hands off
my family and finances! I found my ticket!"

GET A GRIP ON THE PROMISES

My
husband, Tommy, and I have stood on God's promises for more
than 30
years and rescued hundreds of thousands of young people out of
Satan's
clutches. Based on personal experience, I can say

unequivocally that if
you refuse to give up, Satan will have to, just as the apostle
James
assured us: "Resist the devil and he will flee" (James 4:7,
NKJV).

You
might be thinking, If these promises are for me, why am I
still
troubled, and how do I get them from the pages of my Bible
into my life?
Most Christians know about the promises of God, but they
haven't
seriously claimed them. Here are four simple ways to get a
grip
(G-R-I-P) on the promises of God.

Trust God. The moment you read a
promise from the Word of God, God's character goes on trial.
Does He
really mean it? Can He be trusted to fulfill it?

The fulfillment
of any promise is directly dependent on the character of the
one making
the promise. If you had to choose to do business with either a
pastor or
a criminal, you would probably choose the pastor because you
could
better trust his character.

The promises of God are not a list of wonderful wishes. They
are guarantees from your Father, and He can be trusted.

Your
checking account might be unsettled. Your weight might be
unsettled.
But God's Word is forever "settled in heaven" (Ps. 119:89).

You

can't always trust people, but you can always trust God. To believe His

promise is to take Him at His Word. "'God is not a man, that He should

He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?'" (Num. 23:19.)

I heard a funny story about a

man who was hiking up a steep mountain when his foot slipped on some

loose gravel. He began falling 200 feet through the air but was able to

grab a branch that was jutting out of the side of the mountain. The

force of the fall caused him to bounce a few times, but he was relieved

to realize he was still alive and the tree held.

"Hellooooo, is anyone up there?" he yelled.

"Yes, I hear you!" came an instant reply.

"Can you help me?" asked the exhausted hiker.

"Yes, I can," responded the deep voice.

"OK, who are you and what should I do?" the hiker asked.

"I am God. All you need to do is trust Me and let go."

The hiker pondered a moment and yelled back a little louder,

"Is anyone else up there?"

If

God's plan isn't easy, many of us are tempted, like the desperate

hiker, to look for a Plan B. But God can be trusted, even when His ways

don't make sense to us.

Rehearse your rhemas.

The word logos refers to God's written Word (the Bible). Rhema is illuminated logos—a personalized, jump-off-the-page-and-slap-you-on-the-face promise from the Bible. You know when God gives you a rhema word because faith and peace explode inside you.

Here's an example that will help explain the distinction between logos and rhema. Logos is like a patriotic letter from the president of the United States that is addressed to all U.S. citizens. Rhema is like a personal telephone call from him. The letter would be inspiring, but the phone call would be life-changing.

Of course, this is a very loose analogy. But it points out that logos is general, and rhema is personalized. Both are God's Word, but simply put, one is written and one is spoken in your spirit. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3:16).

What should you do when God entrusts you with a rhema word? Write it down and mark the date and location. Rejoice over it and rehearse that personal, just-for-you promise over and over in your mind.

Several young ballerinas were about to perform Hansel and Gretel. An "X" on the floor made of masking

tape helped them remember where to stand. The curtain worker was told,
"When Sarah stands on her 'X,' open the curtain."

Sarah forgot
where to stand, so nothing happened. A loudmouthed friend shouted,
"Sarah, go stand on your 'X' so the performance can begin!"

Ladies,
your "X" is your rhema promise from God, and I am your loudmouthed
friend, screaming, "Go stand on your 'X' [rhema word] so His performance
can begin!" God is "'watching over [His] word to perform it'" (Jer.
1:12, NASB) and as you once again rehearse your rhema promise,
you'll
enjoy a grand performance of His Word.

Inspect Your Heart. Many of God's promises are conditional. If
you don't fulfill your part, God cannot fulfill His.

The
Bible speaks of unforgiveness, fear and secret sin harboring
in your
heart. A harbor is an area of water where boats park. If the fulfillment
of God's promise seems slow in coming, perhaps there's
something
harboring or parking in your heart. Inspect your heart and
don't allow
anything ungodly to harbor there. No parking allowed!

Sherry was a
vivacious girl who genuinely loved the Lord. She was strong in
God's
Word and never wavered when diagnosed with severe ulcerative

colitis.

But

seven months passed, and Sherry's symptoms had grown worse instead of

better. When she questioned God about this dilemma, He said nothing.

Instead, He began to deal with her about an unforgiving attitude toward

her mother-in-law.

She told me: "The more I talked to God about

my sickness, the more He talked to me about my unforgiveness.

Finally, I

released my bad attitude, and within 10 days, I was completely healed."

Sometimes God promises are postponed or completely aborted

because of sin. David said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord

will not hear" (, NKJV). I am not saying that sickness is always

because of sin, but if your victory is not forthcoming, take some time

to inspect your heart.

Be Patient. Have you

noticed that God's promises aren't always manifested instantaneously? So

what are you supposed to do between the "Amen" and "There it is"?

You'll find the answer in Hebrews 6:12: "Do not be sluggish [lazy], but

imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises"

(emphasis added).

Just whom should we imitate? Abraham is a good

start. He gripped God's promise about his inheritance and held onto it for 25 years before his promised son, Isaac, was born. Joseph walked through 13 years of nightmares before his dream from God about ruling over his family was fulfilled.

Ask anyone whose walk with God you admire, and she will tell you that patience has been an important factor. What a key for possessing the promises of God!

Patience and faith go together, yet they function differently. Faith aggressively stands on God's Word, while patience says, "I don't care how long it takes; I will continue to trust God." Faith believes and patience waits, but if you develop both, victory is guaranteed.

When I was young, I spent time each summer in Minnesota with my grandparents. A neighbor of theirs had a long rope that swung over the lake. In a fit of mischief, two neighborhood kids and I taught the neighbor's bulldog, Oscar, to grip the rope, and we swung him back and forth over the water.

One sunny afternoon, we were on the patio when I noticed Oscar dangling motionless on the rope. I realized that we had taught him how to grip the rope but not how to let go! (Eventually, he learned.)

Reminding

me of this incident one day, the Spirit of God said, "I'm training you to grip My promises like that dog and never let go." I have often said that the only difference between a bulldog and a woman of God is lipstick!

If your life seems to be falling apart, get a grip! Grip the promises of God and don't let go until you experience God's best.

Read a companion devotional.

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