

## Taking Hold of God's Promises

Key Verse: "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why we utter the Amen through him, to the glory of God." 2 Corinthians 1.20

This verse is included in Paul's answer to the Corinthian Christians' complaint that he had not kept his stated intention (See 1 Corinthians 16.5-9) to visit them. For Paul the way had not opened up to do this and the proposed visit did not occur. Some of those who opposed him took advantage to charge him with being two faced. His refutation of this charge has left us with some important teaching on living by the power of God, through His promises.

### 1. See the Promises.

Look up 2 Peter 1.2-4. Notice those words, *His exceeding great and precious promises*. They are great in number, someone has estimated that there are 30,000 of them hidden in the pages of your Bible waiting for you to dig them out and make them your own!

They are great in their extent. What is your need? Consider this selection by F W Dixon:

- For food - Psalm 34.10
- For clothing - Matthew 6.25-34
- For daily need - Matthew 6.33
- For guidance - Psalm 37.24
- For wisdom - James 1.5
- For rest - Matthew 11.28&29
- For forgiveness - Isaiah 55.7
- For salvation - Romans 10.9-13
- For security - John 10.27-29
- For sleep - Proverbs 3.21-26
- In trouble - Psalm 50.15
- In old age - Isaiah 46.4

They are great in their purpose and result. The promises and the faithfulness of God are to encourage us to trust Him in all things and in all outcomes, whereby we 'become

partakers of the divine nature.' Thus there is a temporal provision and an eternal perfecting.

### 2. Learn the Secret.

Read 2 Corinthians 1.15-22 and notice: God is Faithful. v18. As Paul had often proved and he was fond of saying so. This was one of his often used statements. See 1 Corinthians 1.9, 10.13, & 2 Thessalonians 3.3. God's promises stand on God's faithfulness. The Statements of Jesus were 'true'. v20. The word in your Bible text is probably translated by 'yes' as in most later versions. It corresponds to the use of the KJV word 'verily' which Jesus consistently used to emphasise important truths, 31 times in Matthew, 14 in Mark, 7 in Luke and in the double form 'verily, verily' 25 times in John.

The other significant word He used was 'amen' Anote in the Online Bible note explains; 'The word "amen" is a most remarkable word. It was transliterated directly from the Hebrew into the Greek of the New Testament, then into Latin and on into English and many

other languages, so that it is practically a universal word. It has been called the best known word in human speech. The word is directly related -- in fact, almost identical -- to the Hebrew word for 'believe'(amam), or faithful. Thus, it came to mean 'sure' or 'truly', an expression of absolute trust and confidence.' The word was His avowal that the precept being taught is true as it is in accord with the holy nature of God.

Paul tells us that all God's promises carry this avowal of truth, for they are 'yes' in Jesus Christ, to which we must add our 'amen'. Taking hold of God's promises then consists of our holding our need against His promises to us, and adding our amen in faith, in trust, in what He says.

How do we know what it is that He promises? In our personal relationship with Him we bring our needs to Him, talk them over with Him in prayer gently listening to His voice, through His word. It is a communication of Spirit to spirit. In His way He gives us His word. We believe that what He says He will do because He is faithful, even though the outcome may at that moment of time seem unlikely.

A dear Christian lady many years ago had the letters T and P written into the margins of her Bible where the promises of God were found. She made the note wherever she had tried them and proved them. Christian friend, know this, God will always do what He says. Look up Malachi 3.10, Isaiah 55.11 and 1 Kings 8.56 and take heart.

### 3. Examine the Examples.

We may ask, 'What if God does not speak to me?' If you are His child and you are walking with Him and you wait upon Him, seeking His face, He will speak to your heart, for He is your heavenly Father. Read Luke 11.1-13 and be encouraged. He may do this in different ways, but you will know that it is He. The deeper your relationship the more clearly you will recognise His voice. Here are some examples:

Read Luke 5.12&13. Read Matthew 14.22-33. Read Romans 4.20&21 where Paul speaks of Abraham, Then read Genesis 18 and note verse 19. Can you identify the things we emphasised above.

### 4. Practise living in the presence of the Lord.

Remember this is a relationship of two, you and your Lord. See John 15.1-8. This relationship has all the characteristics of any other intimate relationship. It needs to be maintained. The emotions and needs and strengths of one party must be recognised by the other. There is confession and forgiveness, and there is giving and receiving and forbearing.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

These notes may be reproduced in part or in full when distributed without cost, if the words 'Used by Permission, Glen Park Gospel Church.' is included

Visit us at [glenparkgospel.org.au](http://glenparkgospel.org.au)