

## Appropriating God's Promises: Seven Steps

### **I. Foundation:**

#### **1. God has obligated Himself to His Promises - Heb. 6:17, 18**

*Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

*God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. (New Living Translation)*

*God made a promise to people. He wanted to show them that he would surely do as he said. So he promised to himself to keep the promise. (Worldwide English New Testament)*

*... guaranteed [it] by an oath (Analytical-Literal Translation)*

*... he made it more certain with an oath (The Bible in Basic English)*

#### **2. Oath Defined:**

The whole nature of God is involved in his promises. When the promise is reinforced by an oath, we can rely on these two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false. It is as though God himself were to say, "If I should break my pledged word, I should cease to be God; my very nature would dissolve." Biblical faith is always trust in the nature of God, his fidelity, his justice, his mercy. (The Interpreter's Bible Commentary – Vol. XI)

Oath, a statement by which people give assurance that they have spoken the truth or by which they obligate themselves to perform certain actions. God is usually invoked as a guarantor of the oath, with the expectation that a broken or false oath will be punished. (Harper's Bible Dictionary)

A sacred promise to keep one's word (Num. 30:2) and to honor one's covenant and agreements (Gen. 26:28; 2 Kgs 11:4). As such, oaths are solemn declarations, which invoke God (Gen. 24:2; 47:29; cf. Matt. 5:33-37; 23:16-22) in order to guarantee the truth is declared. The power of the promise itself is binding in biblical oaths and is premised on the understanding that an oath confirms the obligation of the spoken word (Judg. 11:35; 1 Sam. 14:24-27; Jdt. 8:30; cf. Matt. 14:9). (Eerdmans' Dictionary of the Bible)

## II. Steps to take for appropriating God's Promises:

### Step One: Search the Scriptures and find the promises that you need.

Acts 17:11-12; Matt. 21:22

**Fact:** On Dec. 4 1956, Time Magazine wrote an article concerning a schoolteacher named Everet R. Storms of Kitchener, Canada. During his 27<sup>th</sup> reading of the Bible Storms came up with 7, 487 promises by God to man. (*All The Promises in the Bible* by Herbert Lockyer)

### Step Two: Make the promise personal

2 Pet. 1:3-4 Example: Luke 10:17-20

### Step Three: Take Time to meditate on the promise and get it in you

*"My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises." (Psalm 119:148; NIV).*

*"Finally, brethren, whatever things are TRUE, whatever things are noble, whatever things are JUST, whatever things are PURE, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of a good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things." (Phil. 4:8;NKJV).*

### Step Four: Bring the promise before God in prayer believing that you will receive the thing that you asked for

2 Cor. 1:20; 2 Sam. 7:25

Genesis 32:12 – Notice the word "**surely**" in this passage. It means "*without a doubt, a firmly established fact; something that has definitely been accomplished.*" God has placed this word here so that we would recognize this as something that is guaranteed for us.

Effective prayer is confession of God's Word. It is being in agreement with God's Word and declaring it before Him and others. Just as one would "confess their sins" to God in prayer (1 John 1:9), we confess God's Word to Him in prayer. Confession of sin is agreeing with God that what we did is wrong. Confession of God's Word is agreeing with Him that His promises are true and reliable.

Pray according to the Word of God. God always honours His Word; He cannot break it. The whole universe would collapse if God went back on his Word; for He not only created by speaking His Word, He sustains His creation by His Word. When you pray according to God's Word, you can be sure you are praying according to His will and purpose. (*Explaining Faith* by Colin Urquhart, p. 70)

## Step Five: Fulfill the conditions of each promise

Heb. 10:36 Example: Eph 6:1-3

### IF - A possibility, condition, or stipulation

***If** my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (2 Chron. 17:4)*

*Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. **If you are willing and obedient**, you will eat the best from the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (Isa. 1:18-20; NIV)*

***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)*

*And the Lord said, **If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed**, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. (Luke 17:6)*

*Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, **If ye have faith, and doubt not**, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. (Matthew 21:21)*

### SERVICE

*And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil. (Exodus 23:25)*

*No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD. (Isa. 54:17)*

## Step Six: Give God praise BEFORE you see the answer manifested

Phil. 4:6; Rom. 4:18-21; 2 Cor. 1:20

2 Chron. 20:20-22

### **Step Seven: Stand your ground and do not give up**

*“Also [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up).” (Luke 18:1; The Amplified Bible)*

*“Don’t drag your feet. Be like those who stay the course with committed faith and then get everything promised to them. “When God made his promise to Abraham, he backed it to the hilt, putting his own reputation on the line. He said, ‘I promise that I’ll bless you with everything I have--bless and bless and bless!’ Abraham stuck it out and got everything that had been promised to him.” (Heb. 6:13-15: The Message by Eugene Peterson)*

God has declared many promises to you through His Word. You can pray, fully expecting these promises to be fulfilled. He will not fail to honour His Word to you; even though sometimes you will have to persist and persevere in faith until you see the answer. He cannot fail to honour His Word to you! (*Explaining Faith* by Colin Urquhart, p. 70)