

STANDING ON THE PROMISES OF GOD

1Th. 5:16 Be joyful always;

1Th. 5:17 pray continually;

1Th. 5:18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

How could one always be joyful in this hard world?

It must be by taking the above three verses of the Bible together. By this I mean that being joyful always can only be possible if the mind is always connected to God in an attitude of prayer and the prayer is full of thanksgiving and praise to God.

What if the person is passing through tribulations?

2Pe. 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2Pe. 1:4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Ro. 4:17 As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." [Gen. 17:5] He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed — the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

God's divine power is able to carry us through tribulations in such a way that the tribulations contribute positively to our lives, instead of negatively. In order for the divine power to work for us, in order for God to give life to the dead, we must be able to call things that are not as though they were.

The Promises of God

Ex. 15:26 He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

Jo. 1:7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

Jo. 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

One thing I have noticed is that there is actually one basic promise of God and one basic condition attached. The basic promise is that God will provide everything a human being needs (but not wants)—safety, freedom from diseases, prosperity and success. The one basic condition that must be fulfilled in order for a person to enjoy the basic promise of God is righteousness. This then brings up the issue of how to grow in righteousness.

Seeking righteousness

Mt. 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Ro. 4:3 What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Ro. 4:13 It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

Ro. 4:16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring — not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

Ro. 9:30 What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith;

Ro. 9:31 but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it.

There are two ways human beings seek to attain righteousness. One way is to work hard to keep a law of righteousness. The other way is to trust God for His divine power to move you to be righteous. When God's power moves a person to live righteously, that is the grace of God in action. Unfortunately, today you hear so many people talking about the grace of God, but who do not live righteously. Grace is in operation only where there is righteousness. Seeking for righteousness by working hard to keep a law of righteousness does not work; that is why the Jews are yet to become the holy nation that God said they should be.

Righteousness by Faith

Ro. 10:5 Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." [Lev. 18:5]

Ro. 10:6 But the righteousness that is by faith says:

Ro. 10:8 "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," [Deut. 30:14] that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming.

God gives His grace to those who trust in Him. How is this trusting in God practiced? Ro. 10:8 says that it is through the word of faith. Word of faith is basically showing by our words that we believe God's word; that is, speaking words that agree with the word of God and in the process calling things that are not as though they were. God gives His grace to those who demonstrate through their actions and words that they have faith in Him.

You must be baptized into Christ

Ez. 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

Ez. 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Ez. 36:27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

God gives grace through the Holy Spirit. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of God cannot receive the grace of God. In order to receive the Holy Spirit of God, you must be baptized into the name of Jesus Christ. It is only through Jesus Christ that a human being could draw near to God. It is only in Christ Jesus that a person could effectively practice the word of faith.

Examples of word of Faith

"Praise be to you the Most High God, as you cleanse me from all impurities and idols by your Holy Spirit (living water)."
Ez. 36:25.

Ph. 2:13 For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

"I thank you everlasting Father God for you enable me to will and to act according to your good purpose by your divine power through the Holy Spirit."

Ex. 15:26 He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

"By your grace, the Most High God, I shall obey all your commandments and you will not allow any of the diseases of this world to afflict me. You O God are my Jehovah rapha—the God who heals me."

"By your grace, O God, I shall be careful to obey all that you have commanded us through Jesus Christ. Then you will prosper me and make me successful." Jo. 1:8

Re. 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Jesus is knocking at the door by the promises of God. If we open the door through the word of faith, He will come in and be with us through the Holy Spirit.

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