

2 Peter 1:1-4

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Precious Promises

No merchant or company clerk would file checks paid for their products in a drawer marked "promises", with no intention of cashing these checks. The value of payment in the completion of a transaction is the cashing of the check. The world is full of people who know their earthly wealth by claiming the value of payment checks, yet never consider heavenly riches. Nevertheless, scripture contains a vast storehouse of "exceedingly great and precious promises" (2 Peter 1:4).

In Bunyan's great allegory, Pilgrim's Progress, the incident is related of how Christian decides to leave the Main Highway and follow another Path which seemed easier. But this Path leads him into the territory of Giant Despair who owns Doubting Castle. Eventually he is captured by Giant Despair and kept in a dungeon. He is advised to kill himself. The Giant said there was no use trying to keep on with his journey. For the time, it seemed as if Despair had really conquered Christian. But then Hope, Christian's companion, reminds him of previous victories. So it came about that on Saturday about midnight they began to pray, and continued in prayer until almost morning.

Now a little before it was day, good Christian, as one half amazed, broke out in passionate speech, "What a fool am I thus to lie in a stinking Dungeon, when I may as well be at liberty. I have a Key in my bosom called Promise that will, I am persuaded, open any lock in Doubting Castle." Then said Hopeful, "That's good news. Good Brother, pluck it out of thy bosom and try." And the prison gates flew open.

God's promises are not in His Word for the sake of good reading, nor are they there as a point of encouragement to stimulate positive thinking, God's promises are the real avenue to spiritual life, sustenance and hope. Without the promises of God, "living by faith" has no solid ground to tread upon.

And what is the focus of these promises? They point to, and stand upon, the promise made in God's own blood: "For this is my blood of the new testament (promise), which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:28). The promise of forgiveness and eternal life in Christ are received by faith, entering the believer into a new and meaningful relationship that unfolds all other promises of God.

Charles Spurgeon once wrote: "When father Adam was in business, he became bankrupt and left us nothing but a sea of debt. But then we (Christians) are married to King Jesus, who is heir of all things, and He puts the check book of promises into our hands, that we may draw from the riches of divine grace."

Don't ignore the greatest source of wealth available to humanity - the exceedingly great and precious promises of God.

What is my response:
