

## OPERATING THE PROMISES OF GOD (PART 3).

*(If you would like the PROMISE GUIDE BOOK please call the numbers on your screen and give your information to our care team).*

I continue with the series of messages on operating the promises of God.

Pastor Kathy and I have put together a Promises Guide Book that I would strongly recommend that you have in your library.

Let me begin by quoting a very important scripture that is in **Hoses 4:6 (a) which states, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge”.**

God says that the reason why His people are destroyed is because of lack of knowledge.

Ignorance is very expensive – infact it is utterly destructive.

Knowledge is the key that unlocks a lifestyle of peace and sets the platform for an overcoming lifestyle.

There is nothing that has the capacity to take you out if you know what God has already said about it.

I truly believe that many people are struggling in life because they have not come into contact with the knowledge they need to turn around their mess.

Today I want to teach you how you can unlock the power available in the promises of God but before I get to that allow me to lay a quick foundation.

There are over 8,000 promises in the word of God – and God has committed to be faithful to all of them.

He says that He has exalted His word above all His names – that is to say that He will always uphold the integrity of His word by ensuring that He does what He has said.

In **Genesis 12** we find God calling Abraham out of the UR of the Chaldees into the land of Canaan – all these He gives to Abraham in a promise.

**Genesis 12:2-3**

“<sup>2</sup>And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

<sup>3</sup>And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

That is the modus operandi of God right there – He first gives the promise, He first gives the word.

God will always call those things that be not as though they were and then makes what He has called to become what He called it.

You see a promise is of no value if the one making the promise has no ability to fulfill it.

It is like an MP who promises that once elected he will build 3 airports in his constituency – construction of airports is not determined by an MP – so even though he may be willing, realistically he has no ability.

But our God – there is nothing that he promises to do that He is not able to do.

The Bible says in **Romans 4:21** that Abraham was fully persuaded that what God had promised he was able to perform.

## **Romans 4:21:**

<sup>21</sup>And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Ladies and gentlemen you can bank on the promises of God – they are more sure than a bankers cheque.

The Bible says that the promises of God are thoroughly tested.

Every car manufacturer before they release a car they will ensure that the car is thoroughly tested so as to be sure that their product will be safe, reliable and capable to perform.

The promises of God have been thoroughly tested over centuries of years and have been found to be true.

There is no broken promise with God – if He has spoken, He will do it.

Please understand that it was the grace of God that prompted God to give the promises and by His faithfulness God will fulfill them.

So please don't think that the manifestation of the promises is dependant on your strength or ability but on God's ever abounding grace and mercy towards His children.

God's unfailing and unlimited power will deliver the promise to you.

When we say that you must stand on the promises of God we are not just teaching you to simply quote them but it is deeper.

It means to stand on them by the way you live with such confidence in the promises that your present choices are determined by the certainty of the coming promise.

Refuse to give up hope and be fully persuaded that what God has promised He is able to perform.

**Now let me give you quickly seven (7) things that you must do so as to unlock the power of the promise.**

**Walking in the promises of God**

**1. Know the Promisor**

Any promise is only as good as the one who promises. Knowing God will give us a basis for our faith. Knowing God has to do with knowing;

- His Character
- His Power or His ability
- His purpose or plan.

**2 Tim 1:12 “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day”. NKJV**

**2 Peter 1:2-4 “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 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”, NKJV**

You must know God for yourself – not what someone told you – you must make your own discovery.

Know Him as ELOHIM - the God of strength and power.

Know Him as Jehovah Jireh – the God who provides.

Know Him as Jehovah Nissi – The Lord your Banner (who fights for you).

Know Him as Jehovah Shalom – the Lord who is your peace.

Know Him as Jehovah Tsikenu – the Lord your righteousness.

Know Him as the Alpha and Omega – the beginning and the end in every situation in your life.

Know Him as El shaddai – the God who is more than enough.

Know Him as Jehovah Rapha – the Lord your healer.

Know Him as Jehovah Rohi – the Lord your shepherd.

Know Him as Jehovah Shammah – the Lord is ever present.

Know Him as Jehovah Sabaoth – the Lord of hosts.

Know the promisor for yourself through a detailed study of His word.

Know Him because He is your shield, your deliverer, your salvation, your strength, your rock, your judge, your defense – know the promisor.

## **2. Know the promises**

Ignorance of the promises of God is a major hinderance to receiving them. **Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, NKJV**

This is because you cannot believe God for something you do not know exists.

**Eph 1:18-19 “the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”, NKJV**

The Ephesian had faith without knowledge so Apostle Paul prayed for knowledge. Knowledge is the basis of faith otherwise faith becomes presumption.

The promises of God are a revelation of His will and purpose in our lives.

The promises of God also tell us what God can be able to do. If God says it, it is because He knows what He can do. A person promises within the limits of his resources God promises what is within His ability to do.

**Num 23:19 “... Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” NKJV**

**1 Kings 8:24-25 “You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day”. NKJV**

There is a promise for every condition or situation you may be in.

So please wipe out ignorance and begin to get some knowledge – that is why you need the book.

### **3. Faith**

The knowledge of God and His word must lead to faith. Faith is strongest when based on these two. We access the promises of God by faith: Here is a simple question - yet it is one of the most misunderstood principles of the Christian life: We are saved

after we believe the promise of salvation thru Christ not before. Salvation was available the whole time; right there waiting for us to *access* it.

Faith not only accesses but also activates the promises of God. When you believe God for a certain promise, the power thereof is activated towards you and you begin to experience the blessing of it through its manifestation.

The promises are made available to us by the grace of God - but they can only be accessed by us by faith. This is what **Rom. 5:2** means when it states: "**...we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand.**"

4. Work it by obeying the word. Many of the promises of God have and instruction or responsibility attached to it.

**Job 36:11 "If they obey and serve Him, They shall spend their days in prosperity, And their years in pleasures". NKJV**

**Deut 28:1-2 "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:" NKJV**

## 5. Contend for the promise

Through prayer, pursuit, confession and spiritual warfare. **Jude 3**  
**“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints”. NKJV**

**Matt 11:12-13 “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force”. NKJV**

The promise itself is a weapon and advantage in spiritual conflict for it gives you the right and advantage over the enemy.

**1 Tim 1:18-19 “This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare”, NKJV**

## 6. Wait for the promise

**Heb 6:12 “... that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” NKJV**

Patience is faith in delay. It is good-natured tolerance of delay or incompetence. The important thing is the time that passes as you wait but your attitude as you wait.

7. Always have an attitude of gratitude.

The Bible says in everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Wait for the promise with an attitude of thanks giving.

**Hebrews 10:38**

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

According to **1 Thessalonians 5:18** the will of God is that you give thanks.

**<sup>18</sup>In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**

So you are not entitled to the promise of God until you have an attitude of gratitude.

If you have lost something, God is the reason you have not lost everything.