

God's Promises:
Your Provision

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>INTRODUCTION</i>	5
---------------------------	---

<i>Chapter 1</i>	7
------------------------	---

THE PREMINENCE OF THE WORD OF GOD

<i>Chapter 2</i>	11
------------------------	----

PICKING UP PROMISES, ENTERING INTO REST

<i>Chapter 3</i>	16
------------------------	----

*EQUIPPED TO FACE ADVERSITY:
FROM PROVISION TO SOLUTION*

<i>CONCLUSION</i>	22
-------------------------	----

INTRODUCTION

If someone were to ask me, “How do you know that the Word of God is the Word of God?” I would answer, “Because I know absolutely that it is not the word of man.” It cannot be the word of man. The Word of God is an indisputable provision for spiritual warfare, as it reveals the overwhelming authority of God.

Can you imagine any nation going to war without the proper artillery? So many Christians do just that every day. They attempt to face the world’s system in the strength of their flesh with carnal weapons (2 Corinthians 10:4). This kind of warfare often results in emotional reactions to justify the flesh.

Thank God that He has given us His promises in the Word as our provision for victory. We do not have to live in the blame game under a policy of evil. We can take up spiritual weapons and initiate to others creatively in the government of God’s grace.

In this booklet, we will see that God's promises provide us with all that we need to be complete, thoroughly furnished within. When the Word and the Spirit instruct us, we will develop new thought processes as we become living epistles, "known and read of all men," who manifest God's life wherever we go (2 Corinthians 3:2).

Chapter One

THE PREEMINENCE OF THE WORD OF GOD

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).

All Scripture—in its entirety—is given by inspiration of God; that is the basis for its authority. It is not words of a man. The Word of God is profitable, practical, and productive. It is the way of obedience, the way of fellowship, the way of victory, the way of rewards, the way of fruitfulness. The Word is profitable for doctrine, which is the highway of truth. When we are on the highway of truth, we are thinking with God. Also, the Word is also profitable for reproof, correction, and instruction, helping us to confront the evil attacks that come against us.

The “instruction” of the Word speaks of continually going forward with divine illumination,

divine guidance, divine liberation, divine inspiration, divine authority, and divine resources. Beyond that, we can have the fruit of the Holy Spirit within us.

How God Backs His Authority

To be able to boast such authority, the Word of God must possess certain qualities. The first quality is its *excellence*. The Bible is the most excellent Book ever written, surpassing every book known to man. It is also *transcendent*, which means it is above all else, taking us to a level of understanding that no natural mind can comprehend. Also, it is *relevant*.

There is no book as relevant to every aspect of life as the Bible. It is relevant to salvation; without it, we would never have known how to be saved. It is relevant to our eternal security; without it, we would not know how to be secure in Christ. It is relevant to the Rapture; otherwise, we would not know that we will be meeting Him in the air one day. It is relevant to forgiveness; without the instruction of the Word, we would not know we are forgiven (or, what's more, that there are no longer any sins on our record). By the relevant and transcendent authority of the Word of God, we can have good

marriages, strong families, proper friendships, healthy church life, and real vision. Yes, the Bible is extremely relevant, as no other book can be.

After relevance, the Word of God is *permanent*. “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89). No other book has been as historically accurate, especially as it concerns Israel. Then, the Word is *didactic*—intended to instruct men in divine ethics regarding every aspect of life.

The Word of God is *prophetically correct*. It is perfect in its prophecy. The Bible accurately forecast the coming of automobiles (see Nahum 2:4) and submarines (see Amos 9:3) to name two. Many Old Testament prophecies alone were fulfilled during the twenty-four hours leading up to the Cross. From human viewpoint, Bible commentators tell us that the chance of one man fulfilling all of those prophecies is one in 35 trillion.

The Bible is a “more sure word of prophecy” (2 Peter 1:19), more than any given to mankind in history. It is an amazing manifestation of truth. The organic union of the Bible is *indisputable*. Three self-proclaimed unbelievers working for a major publishing firm were editing a book that described mathematical probabilities and the Bible. The manuscript was so thor-

oughly documented and well-organized by a brilliant man of God, these men could neither refute nor repudiate the material they were editing. As a result, they were gloriously saved.

The Word of God is also structurally beautiful. The Old Testament describes the preparation for Jesus' coming in the first advent. The Gospels describe His manifestation, detailing the life of Jesus as "Emmanuel," God with us. Then, the epistles give the explanation of what His life in us means, with the Holy Spirit teaching us the mind of Christ. Finally, the book of Revelation relates the great consummation of God's plan.

As we think of this indisputable Book, we realize that it is a precious thing to hide in our hearts. Did men write this Book? Yes, godly men of old did write the Bible, but they wrote only what God put within them to write. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the writer of Psalm 19:7 says that the Word of God is *perfect*. During the course of 1,400 years, forty men who hardly knew each other penned the words that are in our Bibles. Though written by men, the Bible is perfect in its organic unity. The Spirit of God made it so.

Chapter Two
**PICKING UP PROMISES,
ENTERING INTO REST**

“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

“For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world” (Hebrews 4:1-3).

Every person who is positive toward the Word of God is taught by the Spirit of God. It is important that when we receive the Word, we allow it to be transferred into the five parts of our soul. Otherwise, it will never become a means of self-governing under the providence

of God's will. The whole purpose of the Scriptures is to teach us how to be governed by the Holy Spirit from within, so that the outward adversities do not turn us to stress. As we mature in our walk with God, the Word counsels us daily and brings amazing provisions in every detail of life, controlling our emotions, our volition, our conscience, every part of our soul.

We have an eternal destiny, an eternal portion with Christ forever. When we hear the Word of God, we have to make a decision to listen the way God tells us to listen—in meekness (Psalm 25:9; James 1:21) and in humility (Psalm 34:2), mixing faith with what we hear. Mixing faith with what we hear is a part of the process that brings faith-rest. But there is more.

Psalm 18:44 says that the people of God will obey as soon as they hear. Every time I hear or read the Word of God, I am presented with a divine challenge from divine viewpoint. The minute I perceive it, I must make a decision to receive it and obey; that is my part. If I don't do this, then my unconscious and subconscious mind will bring up the wounds and bruises I have hid in Adam so that my central nervous system feels stress when adversity comes.

Adversity relates to circumstances that I can-

not control. I can, however, control stress, which is an internal reaction to external adverse circumstances. Stress within comes because of decisions against entering into faith-rest.

The key to entering into faith-rest is that we simply claim a promise. Many people do not have faith-rest because they do not have a promise to rest in. Therefore, we need to learn how to receive from God by learning how to think with God.

Developing Proper Thinking Skills

God desires to develop skills for right thinking in the minds of Christians. Perspicacity is the skill or capacity to think in grace. Another skill is the ability to be motivated by love as we rest in faith. Next is the ability to have an attitude of mercy that rejoices against judgment. Then, we learn to forgive as God has forgiven in the power of the Holy Spirit. Another skill is to give subjective love to those who do not deserve it, with the love of God that is shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit.

Finally, God desires to develop in us a skill that summarizes all of the others. It is to have wisdom from above for applying the other skills by the leading of the Holy Spirit and the agree-

ment of the human spirit. This means we view everything from the standpoint of grace in the assimilation of truth and the circulation of divine reality because we have “eaten” the Word—we have masticated God’s thoughts (Hebrews 5:14).

The Word and the Spirit: Our Necessary Provisions

In addition to these thinking skills, we have two indescribable provisions from God that are absolutely necessary for the believer to prosper. First, there is the filling of the Holy Spirit. When a man is filled with the Holy Spirit, he is not the same man.

Every morning before doing anything else, I go to God alone in prayer. I make sure I am confessed up-to-date, not living in any known sin, and I ask Him to fill me with His Holy Spirit. If I were to neglect being filled, I would not have the provision of divine power to walk in the Spirit that keeps me from fulfilling the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16). Then, I pray with my wife for family members, for Christians here and on the foreign field, for local pastors and leaders of different denominations, for the needs of the ministry, for our government, and for the unsaved.

After the filling of the Holy Spirit, God's other amazing provision is the Word of God, which was given to us directly by Him. When the Word is dwelling richly in our souls (Colossians 3:16), the continual entrance of that Word brings in the Kingdom of light—God's Kingdom operating in us.

It is absolutely necessary for the believer to be filled with the Spirit and the Word. Complete sincerity and absolute desire are not enough. If he neglects either of God's provisions, a Christian cannot live a spiritual life.

Chapter Three

EQUIPPED TO FACE ADVERSITY: FROM PROVISION TO SOLUTION

The Bible is so cohesive; its books correlate so perfectly. In any situation I can apply its precepts when they are accompanied by the power of the Holy Spirit. By these two provisions, we can enter into the great solutions of the Kingdom of God.

The first solution is God's provision for *rebound*. If we were to fail miserably, we can rebound instantly: We get up and go on as we receive divine adequacy, continuing to live in God's nature, in spite of the failure.

Another solution from the Kingdom is to *claim promises* from the Word. In whatever I am doing, I can claim Philippians 4:19: "...My God shall supply *all* your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Many quote that verse casually, without the dynamics of the power of the Word and the Spirit operating in the human

soul. But when we claim a promise in the power of the Holy Spirit, we enter into the six skills of divine thinking.

So many people get upset at little things or big things in life because they leave the promises of God unclaimed. For this reason, the Christian life has no value to them, practically speaking. But 1 Kings 8:56 says that not one word of His promise has failed; not one of His promises will fall to the ground (1 Samuel 3:19). All of God's promises are "Yea, and in him, Amen" (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Christians who will not pick up the promises of God cannot enter into faith-rest. Instead, they enter into stress, which can only come from our inward reaction to outward adverse circumstances. Remember, adversity is beyond our control. Stress, on the other hand, is related to our decisions, and those who confess stress are really saying that they are not right within their souls. A man can face all the adversity that comes against him if he meets it with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in his heart (Colossians 3:16). If we meet adversity with that kind of response, God then shares His joy with us. There is a celebration of the Word of God, and we are not "stressed-

out” by circumstances.

Adversity is not optional, but stress is optional. We do not need to have stress. So when adversity comes, we can choose stress or we can choose the filling of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. If we choose God’s provisions, we can enter a divine thought process and begin to receive divine solutions.

God provides what we need through the integrity and veracity of His promises. It is important that we pick up the promises of God, personally applying them, and do not just leave them on the pages of the Bible (Hebrews 4:1). Just reading the Word of God doesn’t help if we leave behind what we read. Chapter and verse cannot benefit us unless we indeed pick up the promises and have God’s powerful provisions functioning in our lives.

Glorify God by Giving Grace for Grace

Another beautiful solution comes as we pick up the promises, and they are placed in categorical order for divine living in the five parts of the human soul: mind, emotions, volition, conscience, and self-consciousness. That provision is the ability to *give grace for grace* (John 1:16). We have received so much grace from God, now we

can give grace to those who need it. We can give grace for grace because God has enabled us by the indwelling Christ.

Satan has specialized demons that promote maligning, malice, and gossip. Our natural thought processes are inadequate to deal with these attacks in the light. When we allow those demons to influence us, instead of picking up a promise, we do not let the past die. But, instead of reacting and gossiping, we can enter into this “grace for grace” solution. With divine thinking, we can give grace for grace.

Many marriages experience serious problems. But if these same people would believe and take up the promises of God, they could have something from God and glorify Jesus Christ by giving grace where it is undeserved.

Now, it is one thing for a wife to give mercy, which means she doesn't say something to her husband that he deserves to have said to him. But giving grace means that she goes beyond mercy to give him what he does *not* deserve. And because of rebound, a husband should freely give grace to his wife, without question, without reservation, and without hesitation. When a couple understands how this works, then the marriage has solutions that go beyond

any human agency. We have grace for grace with wisdom from above (James 3:17).

New Creation Self-Esteem

Another solution that is ours as we apply the promises is the ability to *go from faith to faith*. We believe the best about people and the plan of God, no matter what kind of damaging trial may come into our lives. When we trust God in the trial, we please Him with our faith that goes against sight as He works everything together for good.

God has also given us a provision through His divine solution of *absolute joy*. We are entitled to share the joy of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God dwelling richly within us. Often people will say that the joy of the Lord is their strength, quoting Nehemiah 8:10 and John 15:11, but these verses are about God sharing His absolute joy inside the believer no matter what kind of adversity comes on the outside. The Lord shares His joy with us intimately by imparting Himself to us.

God says very clearly in 1 Peter 5:7 that if we cast our cares upon Him, we will experience His care for us. If we trust Him with all of our hearts and lean not on our own understanding, He will

lead us perfectly with His divine understanding. We must understand that God has given us these absolute principles of divine provision, and they can be applied in every realm of life.

When we enter into the practice of making good decisions, allowing the Word and the love of God through the Holy Spirit to enter and fill our souls, we can have a “new creation” self-esteem. We will see that every old thing has passed away. Within, we can be governed by God and free from stress because we keep getting refreshed by the Word.

No adversity nor any person, place, or thing can affect the joy we have in Him. We have counsel from the Word, and we don’t have to lean on people, though we recognize the importance of being knit with every member of the Body of Christ. We do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25), because that is where God imparts precious promises. Instead of trusting in the arm of the flesh (Jeremiah 17:5), we take every promise of God as our provision.

CONCLUSION

Stress contradicts the Christian's life and destroys his capacity to apply divine truth and live in spirituality. Understanding this, we must realize our need to take up the amazing shield of faith that quenches the fiery darts of the devil as we put on the whole armor of God (see Ephesians 6).

For faith to be produced, we must hear the Word of God as we bring everything we know into an experience with Jesus Christ. Faith-rest starts with hearing the Word of God and being filled with His Spirit. Then comes godly contentment, and we begin to live godly lives, revenging disobedience with obedience, moment by moment.

When we operate in God's solutions, we are able to rebound, claim God's promises, and go from faith to faith, giving grace for grace, with absolute joy. This is a life that Satan cannot stop or change because of the unchangeable provi-

sions within.

As we develop in our priesthood, God makes us stand. We know with boldness and confidence who we are and why we are here, and we live in the provision of His promises.