

Promises for a Great Future

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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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INTRODUCTION

Few Christians really understand who they are in Christ. Many times we fail to recognize all that is available to us as His children. We read in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." But when we are faced with overwhelming opposition, do we really believe that?

God has given all things for our sakes. We belong to Him. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere present. And with all that He knows about us, we are still His special treasure. But, how can we possibly have a personal relationship with One who is so great?

The way we get to know God intimately is by letting Him reveal who He is through His Word. The Bible is filled with promises for us to hide in our hearts. When we allow the Holy Spirit to illuminate the truth we receive, each word becomes precious and imparts life.

This booklet should encourage all of us to

recognize the reality of what God can do in us and through us. Let us take Him at His Word. Our potential in Christ is as great as we allow Him to be in us. He does all things well.

Chapter One

OUR CHAMPION: THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my Father” (John 14:12).

“He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head” (Psalm 110:7).

Some people have contemplated suicide because they have failed and they think that life doesn’t offer them what they need. For those people, we can be a “brook in the way.” We can offer love and edification to those with great needs. We can give the Word of God to those who are thirsty, those who are under tremendous pressure.

We cannot always recognize the needs people have. But I want to say that if you are someone who is under pressure and longs for relief, *keep going on*. Keep going to church; draw near

to God and His Word. Contact a pastor, a family member, or a friend and receive love from those who want to help you.

In 1 Samuel 17:40, David was on his way to fight Goliath. He stopped to take five stones out of the brook. Those five stones speak of the grace of God. David, however, only needed one of them. With skillful hands, David took his slingshot and fired that stone at the giant, Goliath.

By divine guidance, the stone went right into the forehead of that mocking man who stood nine feet and six inches tall. Goliath had mocked Israel, then he mocked David. But after that shot, he wasn't mocking anymore. David declared, "the battle is the Lord's" (1 Samuel 17:47), and the Lord brought the victory.

Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone, according to 1 Peter 2:6. It only takes the Chief Cornerstone to bring down the devil. David performed a great exploit with one smooth stone, and we do great exploits through Jesus Christ, the Chief Cornerstone.

As just one church, one body of believers, consider all that has been done through Christ. I am broken when I think of the many outreaches, the Christian schools, the Bible college, and all

the things that individuals do in their daily walk with God. I think of the many missionaries we have sent to other lands and the fruit we have seen. This is how a ministry is to operate and expand—each one doing great exploits for God through the Chief Cornerstone.

Exploits of Those Who Stand Firm

“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits” (Daniel 11:32).

Israel did wickedly against the covenant of God and were corrupted by “flatteries.” The Gentiles said of the nation of Israel, “You are a magnificent people; you are superior to us.” Yet, the Jewish people began to worship idols because they listened to flatteries. These people did not know God.

Those who know the Lord in their experience will be strong—firm—and do “exploits”—great things. A study of the Hebrew text in Daniel 11:32 reveals that God has and will continually cause those people to go right on doing great exploits.

My adventure with God began in a little town in Maine. What days those were! They

were the beginning of our exploits. I am so thankful for where God has taken us from that little place. People who are strong and stand firm in the Lord will do great exploits.

Chapter Two

REALIZE YOUR GOD-POWERED POTENTIAL

If you are a Christian, there is enough power inside of you to venture in God's work and to venture in your business. I thank God for all the business men and women in our church. There is power enough inside of you to do things that you never dreamed of doing. Christ in you is the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27b).

God empowers us, strengthens us, and gives us grace. There are things we can do in the business world and in every possible realm of life—things that others would not even consider doing. Why? Because the people who know their God shall stand firm, be strong, and do great exploits.

Our ministry is doing great exploits. This is not boasting, because we give all the glory to God. We are affecting lives everywhere through men and women of God who have given their

lives to glorify Christ.

A Great God, Great Exploits

Surely, some of you have heard the story of R.J. LeTourneau, a successful industrialist. After he nearly died in a car accident, he began to consider the purpose of his life. Eventually, that led him to receive Christ as his Savior. He established a company that manufactured special earth-moving equipment and construction vehicles. Seventy percent of the earth-moving equipment used in World War II came from his company.

As the company began to make money, Mr. LeTourneau started giving 10 percent of the profits to his church. Later, God impressed him to give 20 percent, then 30 percent, then 40 percent. Eventually, he was giving away 90 percent of his income and living off a tenth. His donations were used to start missions in Africa and South America. He said that the 10 percent he kept was more than he needed. He still had millions of dollars, even with giving 90 percent to God.

R.J. LeTourneau did great exploits, and a town and a college were named in his honor. But the greatest honor will come when he stands be-

fore God face to face.

Ideas from God, prayers, thought provoking things—*think big*. Think big. Pray big. In humility, act big. In every realm, continue on with God and do big things for God through Jesus Christ empowering you. Great things will happen when God is in it.

After his conversion, C.T. Studd inherited a great sum of money. Newly married, he and his bride prayed, asking God for direction in what to do with the money. Both of them believed that God answered saying, “Give it all away.” That was before they went to the mission field.

Led by God, they gave the money to various missions organizations and to individual servants of God. These included China Inland Missions as well as the orphanages run by George Mueller.

In the years after, as they served God in remote places, Mr. Studd and his wife received much more in financial support than they had given. Without asking for it, people gave them money by the grace of God.

God did it.

Faith in Spite of Circumstances

Noah had neither previous experience nor

help from anyone outside his immediate family in building the ark. Still, he set about building it because of His faith in God's Word to Him. Abraham practiced faith without any encouragement from those around him (Romans 4:19-20). The Syrophenician woman displayed great faith for her daughter's healing, though she was getting no encouragement from Jesus Himself (see Matthew 15:22-28). The nobleman, in John 4:47-53, simply believed the words Jesus spoke to him. When he went home, his son was healed and his household believed on Jesus Christ.

There is not a reason under God's heaven that we cannot realize our potential. Since I started out in the ministry, I have been determined to love God, to obey God, to walk with God, and to rebound when I fail.

Chapter Three

LIMITLESS VISION THROUGH A LIVING FAITH

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

The Lord Jesus Christ honors our faith in the substance of His character and the evidence He gives us through His Holy Spirit. He honors those who walk in that faith.

Consider the following three principles that are evident in the life of a faithful servant of God:

First: Your success depends upon your character and hard work.

Second: Who you are is more important than what you do, because if you are right with God you will do great things.

Third: God is always ready to bless and use mightily a prepared man or woman.

Adoniram Judson, the first documented

American overseas missionary, was in a jail in Burma, shackled with thirty-seven pounds of weight on his ankles. Another prisoner started to mock him, saying, "You are going to win souls? What is the prospect of winning souls *now*, Mr. Judson?!"

He said, "The prospect is just as great as the promises of God."

Our future is just as great as the promises of God. Our power is just as great as the promises of God. The chance of seeing our vision fulfilled is just as great as the promises of God (Proverbs 29:18). There is no way we can limit God if we go forward with a vision, with faith, grace, power, love, mercy, and joy. Everything we want to do by faith can be done—because of the promises of God.

Our future is just as great as how much we claim the promises of God. Our families are going to be just as great as we claim the promises of God for them. Perhaps someone is discouraged. He is going to come out of that discouragement just by believing and marrying the promises of Almighty God.

Heaven Within

Anyone who has ever done anything worth-

while started out with a vision. Little faith may get me to heaven, but great faith will move heaven for me. Great faith will help me share my faith in God with thousands and thousands, so they can share heaven with me. A little seed is multiplied a hundredfold (Matthew 13:23).

No one can limit Omnipotence. No one can limit Omnipresence. No one can limit Omniscience. Our God has all power, He is everywhere present, and He possesses all knowledge. No one can limit His life in us when we walk by faith and not by sight—if we do not limit the Holy One of Israel with our unbelief (Psalm 78:41).

As individuals, we need to have a vision in our walk with God, in our vocation, and in our occupation. We need a vision to do greater things than we have ever done before. We need to have a great vision for souls and for making disciples. There isn't any reason why we can't do even greater exploits than we have already done. We know God in our experience, and we stand firm.

What Is a Real Man of God?

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians

16:13. This means we are to become mature and stay mature, showing ourselves as men of strength. The Word of God makes this crystal clear.

It is yet to be seen what faith can do when it is great faith that is based upon the Word of God. Often, great faith operates without any encouragement from God, from others, or from previous experience.

A woman treated her unsaved husband so beautifully. She loved him and did everything she could for him, even though he was unkind to her and rude to her Christian friends.

He was in his eighties and not feeling well when he asked her very seriously, "Why are you so good to me?"

She told him, "Because, honey, you have refused to accept Christ. Soon, if you die without Him as your Savior, you will find yourself in hell where nobody will be kind to you. It seems that you are only going to have this life, and I am determined to treat you well throughout the last years that you have."

You know, that man got saved just after that encounter. That woman operated in the power of God when by sight there was no way her husband would come to Jesus. A door opened, and

the man became a believer. She was a brook in the way for him.

Have a Vision for Great Things

When we have a living faith through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, we become brooks in the way, sources of life that people can drink from when they come under pressure and heat. We become individuals who have a vision and who love the Word of God.

Have a vision for your marriage. Have a vision for your family. If you are single, have a vision for your life. Have a vision of your potential through the power of God. Grab hold of the vision for something great happening in your life, something big with God.

Long ago, at a place called Worthly Pond, God gave me a vision of what our ministry would become. That vision included radio programs, TV programs, Christian schools all over the world, churches that would be packed three times a week, missionaries going into all the world.

I had a vision of these things and the power of God honored a simple seed of faith at a time when I was just starting out.

Today, nearly fifty years later, each day with

Jesus is as fresh and exciting as it was back then. But we don't stop there. We keep on going, because God has given the vision. It is filled with promises for a great future.

CONCLUSION

Picture what God did with Abraham. Remember what God did with Jacob, with Gideon, with Samson. Think of what God did with David and with Solomon. Think of what He did with Peter and Paul. Then, think of what God is doing for you.

We are part of a great, big, amazing work of God right now. Let's get a vision of victory, of expanding our coasts, for doing more and more things in God, and for our own lives. Let's go forward in the power of the omnipotent God, in the mind of His omniscience, in the reality of His omnipresence. Let's just have a ball and celebrate our victory in Christ.

We have the love of God that passes all knowledge. We can be filled with all the fullness of God. When we are filled with His Spirit, God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we could ask or think. Let's respond to Him, grab hold of the promises, and enjoy the great

exploits of our great future.