

Living God's Promises In God's Spirit

The Foundation and Fountainhead of God's Promises – Lesson 2

The Foundation of the Divine Promises

- The covenant of grace is the foundation of all Christian hope. This covenant is made up of all the promises made to believers in Scripture, it is nothing less than an explanation and application of the foundational promise of the covenant of grace.
- Let us examine some Old Testament covenant promises.
 - Jer. 31:33 – This promise was given from the time when God chose Abraham as head of the nation through which Christ was to come.
 - Gen. 15:1; 14-15 – promise to Abram
 - Gen. 17:7; 20:3; 28:13-15; 35:11-12; Ps. 105:8-10 – promises extended to Abraham's offspring, Isaac, and Jacob.
 - Ex. 2 23-25 – shows us just how foundational this covenant relationship was to the reason why God delivered Israelites from Egypt.
 - Ps. 105:43-45 – reveals God's plan was not just to merely deliver His people, but also to be their God and for them to be His people.
 - Ex. 33:15-16 – God's covenant promise to Abraham in Genesis 15 secured a relationship with the people of Israel, according to which He now distinguished them from all other nations and peoples. See Rm. 9:4-5.
- This relationship grounded for them then and still grounds for us today all of God's promise, because the core of a

divine promise is not so much the thing promised but God Himself.

- All of God's promises depend on the truth that God is our God, for only this relationship can secure those things that the promises hold out to us. *Quote Leigh: "He that is in special covenant with Good, all that is in God is for him:*
 - *His truth for his security, His love for his comfort, His power for his protection, His wisdom for his direction. All that is in Christ is his, his love, his graces, his merits. Christ is his savior and Redeemer; the Holy Spirit is his Comforter and dwells in him, to teach him and guide him into all truth and to seal up the promises to his heart."*
- Every Scriptural promise is sealed with the assurance that God is our God. Thus, if we steadfastly believe and rest on the foundational promise that God is our God, we will find more comfort than we could find in all the world (Ps. 56:8-11).
- God promises that we are:
 - His own possession (Ps. 135:4)
 - His portion and allotted heritage (Deut. 32:9)
 - Ps 83:3 _____
 - Zech. 2:8 _____
 - Ps 108:6; 127:2 _____
 - Isa. 49:16 _____
 - Jn. 14:23 _____
 - Ps. 109:31; 73:223 _____
 - Ps. 27:5 _____
 - 1 Sam. 2:9; Ps. 34:20 _____
 - Mt. 10:30; Ps. 56:8-11 _____
 - Ps. 71:5; Joel 3:16; Ps. 62:2; Ps 25:12; Heb. 13:21; Ps. 33:18.

- Our hope and belief in the promises of God are built on the inviolable and unshakable relationship that God has established with us through Christ in the covenant of grace. We must view the promises of God on this ground and plead what we will on the basis that God has committed Himself to us as our Father (Mt. 6:9; Gal. 4:5-6).

The Fountainhead and Spring of the Divine Promises

Since the foundation of the promises of God is His covenant promise to be our God, then the fountainhead from which they flow to us is Christ. Our covenant relationship with God is effected in us and for us through Christ's mediation and saving work. Without the saving work of Christ, we remain enemies of God (Rm. 5:10) and stand outside the reach of God's promises (Jn. 3:36).

- We must keep two points in mind:
 1. Christ is the head of the Church who receives the promises. Christ is the Alpha and Omega of all the promises, the only Original from whence they spring, and the centre in which they meet. To Him the promises were made and in him they are all fulfilled and accomplished unto us.
 2. Christ is the savior of sinners who apportions the promises to those He saves. Christ is the fountainhead of the promises of God because:
 - a. He purchased the promises by His own blood (Eph. 2:12-13). See also Eph. 2:16; 3:6; 1 Pt. 1:19.
 - b. The promise of our redemption is secured by the price of Christ's blood (Ezek. 6:6; Lk. 2:38; Rm. 3:24)
 - c. Gal. 3:16 tells us that the promises of the covenant of grace made to Abraham and his

offspring were made to Christ, so that any benefits that the Israelites enjoyed from the promises were due to their belonging to Christ, to whom the promises rightfully belong.

- d. In Christ we have a right to all the promises (1 Cor. 3:22-23)
- e. Christ makes us rest on the promises and believe in them (Mt. 11:28; Mk. 9:24; Rev. 3:18, Ps. 119:49. Quote: *"I had never believed a promise, except thou hadst caused me.*
- f. Christ qualifies us for the accomplishment of the promises and infuses habitual grace in us by which we may exercise faith upon them. If Christ did not help us, we would never believe a single promise offered in Scripture, and not a single promise would be accomplished for us (Jn. 5:25---Acts 16:14; Phil. 1:29).
- g. All the promises of the covenant are accomplished through Christ (2 Cor. 1:20).

The promises of God are grounded on the foundational covenant promise that God is our God, which entitles us to all that God is, since in His promises he gives us Himself. These promises have Christ for their fountainhead since they are rightly His as the head of the church. All promises flow from Him and lead to Him.