Claiming the promises of God

General thoughts about promises in scripture:

- Promises are only as good as we believe the promise maker to be.
- The promises of God are realities, not possibilities; they don't become true in our lives, they are true.
- The blessings and promises of God, do not just happen by chance.
- God's promises not only give us blessings, but they reveal to us His nature and character.
- Receiving God's promises are greatly dependent on us, we must get to where we can be blessed...

For all the promises of God are yea, and Amen, unto the glory of God by us, 2nd Corinthians 1:20.

There are several lists and books of scriptural promises that people claim and speak over themselves, rather this teaching addresses understanding the purposes of God's promises, who can receive them and how to achieve them. God's kingdom operates in an orderly fashion and nothing happens by random chance, thus every promised gift has a purpose and a reason for being given.

Rather than putting our focus on the promises, thinking of them as "special treats," for those who deserve them, being good enough or holy enough. God is no respecter of persons, what enables one person to receive is the same as what will enable the other person to receive. Simply through knowing God's goodness and being humble and willing to receive a free gift.

Therefore, I encourage getting to know the Promise-Keeper, rather than focusing only on certain promises. A good place to start is to know God's names, they tell of He nature and His character and what He will do for us, He is our Healer, our Banner, our Provider, our Shepherd, etc. To learn more of the names of God <u>click here</u>.

Therefore, if ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth *is* Mine: Exodus 19:5.

God's greatest promise, (aside from salvation), that He gave to us is the promise of the Holy Spirit. We tend at times to ignore this, gloss over this fact or put this in its own separate category. Perhaps because we don't fully understand God's Holy Spirit, but the truth of the matter is that most of the gifts and promises won't work or manifest without the Holy Spirit moving in our lives.

And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high, Luke 24:49.

Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He has shed forth this, which ye now see and hear, Acts 2:33.

Receiving God's promises generally come to us as we desire a closer walk and are willing to grow and mature in Christ. Thus resulting in valuing the gift giver, rather than the gift itself.

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust, 2nd Peter 1:4.

Most of the promises have conditions placed on them, this is not to make it hard on us, rather it is to show us how to properly access them and hold on to them. An example of this is;

You will seek Me and find Me, *(conditional)* when you seek Me with your whole heart, Jeremiah 29:13.

Promises to all people, (believer and unbeliever alike):

- When you seek Me with your whole heart, you shall find Me, Jeremiah 29:13.
- Whoever shall call on the name of *the* Lord will be saved, Romans 10:13.
- Whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die, John 11:26.
- Whoever believes on Me should not remain in darkness, John 12:46.
- Whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life, John 3:16.
- The *one* who comes to Me I will in no way cast out, John 6:37.
- Whoever desires to lose his life for My sake shall find it, Matthew 16:25.
- Whoever drinks of this water shall thirst again, but of My water shall never thirst, John 4:13-14.
- Give, and it shall be given to you, Luke 6:38.

Promises to the redeemed, believers & covenant keepers:

- If you keep My commandments, I will keep My covenant, love and bless you and multiply you, above all people. And will take away all sickness from you, Deuteronomy 7:11-15.
- Keep the words of this covenant, that you may prosper in all that ye do, Deuteronomy 29:9.
- to those who keep His covenant His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, Psalms 103:17-18.
- If your sons will keep My covenant, their sons shall also sit on your throne forever, Psalm 132:12.

Promises to the faithful

• Oh, love the LORD, for He perverse the faithful, Psalm 31:23.

Promises to the overcome

- That in Me you may have peace, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world, John 16:33.
- To overcome all the power of the enemy, and nothing will by any means hurt you, Luke 10:19.

Promises to the obedient:

- A blessing if you obey the Lord, but a curse if you go after other God, Deuteronomy 11:27-28.
- Jehovah your God will set you on high above all nations of the earth, Deuteronomy 28:1.
- If you obey My voice, you shall be a peculiar treasure to Me above all the nations, Exodus 19:5.
- If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land, Isaiah 1:19.
- Holy Spirit is witness of things that God has given to those who obey Him, Acts 5:32.
- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, that you may live long on the earth, Ephesians 6:1-3.

Promises to the humble:

- You will save the afflicted people, but You bring low the proud, 2nd Samuel 22:28.
- if My people humble themselves, then I will forgive their sin and heal their land, 2nd Chro 7:14.
- I will look to the contrite spirit and the one who trembles at My Word, Isaiah 66:2.
- God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble, James 4:6.
- Be humbled before the Lord, and He will lift you up, James 4:10.

<u>Closing comments</u>:

As we grow in Christ and His Word becomes our new lifestyle, we will began to see His promises unfold in our life. If we are living by God's Word and the principles of His kingdom, the promises will overtake us; "And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God," Deuteronomy 28:2. Therefore, if you are growing in Christ, expect His promises to work in your life and they will.

Lastly, know that we are worthy of receiving His promises, for we are sons and daughters of God.

Content taken from: tape series, "promises of God", by Dale Everett, www.daleeverett.org.