

Title: Praying The Promises Of God

Series: Covid-19...11

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:20 – 22 and 1 John 5:13 - 15

Introduction:

Here we are on our 10th Sunday under the guidelines for Covid-19. We will endeavor to keep you informed on the changes to the government policies regarding faith gatherings. We are currently permitted to have 10 individuals in the building at a time. We continue to utilize Zoom for interactive Sunday morning coffee time following the morning devotional and Thursday night Bible study is on Zoom allowing us to have interactive fellowship.

The audio continues to be posted to the website and we are working to have the Sunday devotional on YouTube.

Review of the last several weeks:

March 22 – Fear, Presumption and Faith

April 5 – Where Is God In This?

April 12 – Jesus, I Am The Resurrection

April 26 – Anxious About Nothing

May 10 - Mother's Day with the Blenkins

March 29 – Prayer Summit

April 10, Good Friday – Victory Through A Lamb

April 19 – Burdens

May 3 – In The Father's Hand

May 17 – Prayer Keeps Me On Target

With the ever increasing interest and participation in prayer during the global Covid-19 situation it is worth our effort and attention to consider what the Holy Spirit has to say on this important subject of PRAYER.

Last Sunday we considered James 4:1 – 7 and noted how an honest appraisal of my personal prayer life assists me in STAYING ON TARGET!

James 4:1 – 7

“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealousy over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Just a quick review of last week's devotional:

1. Prayer Reveals My Heart:

1.1) Am I asking wrongly? James 4:3

1.2) Am I asking with thanksgiving (Am I even thinking, “Please”)? 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

1.3) Am I asking from a grateful heart or a heart of greed? 1 Timothy 6:6

2. Prayer Reveals Father's Heart:

2.1) Do I understand that God loves me and is jealous for me? James 4:5

2.2) Do I understand that He desires to give me more grace? James 4:6

3. Prayer Builds Trust:

3.1) Prayer teaches me to submit to God! Proverbs 14:12

3.2) Prayer teaches me to cry, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” (Luke 22:42)

4. Prayer Is A Call To Action:

- 4.1) Consider the words of the Holy Spirit through James in chapter 2:17 – 19
- 4.2) Two men of faith and prayer that have moved my soul:
George Muller, The Christian History Devotional by J. Stephen Lang, page 73
William Booth, The Christian Devotional by J Stephen Lang, page 105

Scripture Readings:

2 Corinthians 1:19 – 22, “For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaim among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

1 John 5:13 – 15, “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the request that we have asked of him.”

Perhaps the most powerful thing I can do in my prayer life is to study the Word of God and develop the habit of praying HIS PROMISES! God always honors His Word and in Jesus Christ the promises of God are “Yes!”

1. Promise of the Holy Spirit:

Luke 11:1 – 13

- 1.1) The Holy Spirit is our ever present Helper or Comforter:
John 14:15 & 16, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Counselor), to be with you forever,”
- 1.2) The Holy Spirit is our teacher:
John 14:26, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”
- 1.3) The Holy Spirit is our Convictor:
John 16:7 – 11, “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. (8) And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; (10) concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; (11) concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

2. Promise of Wisdom:

James 1:2 – 8, “Count it all joy, my brothers, **when** you meet trials of various kinds, (3) for you **know** that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. (4) And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (5) If any of you **lacks wisdom**, let him **ask God**, who gives generously to all without reproach, and **it will be given him**. (6) But let him **ask in faith**, not doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (7) For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord, (8) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

Honest self-examination of myself.

3. Promise of Holy Spirit Gifts:

1 Corinthians 12:1 – 11

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uniformed.”

vs. 8 gifts of wisdom and knowledge

vs. 9 gifts of faith and gifts of healing

vs. 10 working of miracles, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, tongues and interpretation of tongues

4. Promise of Holy Spirit Strength:

Romans 8:11, “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through the Spirit who dwells in you.”

Pastor Amos A. Dodge wrote:

Where you are, *God has placed you.*

What you have, *God has given you.*

What you are to do, *God will show you.*

All you need, *God will provide.*

Conclusion:

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring.
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing.
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior,
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I now can see
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fail,
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

By David Allen Clark, Bill Joseph Baumgart