

A Vision for Disciplemaking
Key Men's Conference

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Claiming the Promises of God
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Claiming the Promises of God

I. Introduction

A. Definition - Daniel Webster defines a promise as “a declaration that gives the person to whom it is made a right to expect or claim the performance or forbearance of a specified act”.

B. Two Types of Promises

1. **General** - These are given to many people for all time. (p. 15) Examples include: John 3:16, John 14:21,

a) Gal. 5:16 -“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

b) Phil. 4:19 -“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

c) Deut. 5:16 -“Honor thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee”(from the Ten Commandments, Deut. 5:7-21).

d) Eph. 6:2-3 -“Honor thy father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise); That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

2. **Specific** - These are sometimes given to individuals. They relate to their own unique situations at a certain time in their life. These special passages of scripture are impressed upon our hearts by the Holy Spirit and we have an inner assurance that this is part of His special leading in our lives. (p.16)

II. When Do We Begin Claiming the Promises of God?

A. **Salvation** - We begin here when we claim a verse like John 5:24”Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”.

B. **Assurance** - Next, we progress to assurance with I John 5:11-13 - "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These

things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that ye may know that ye have eternal life.”

III. Some of the Men Who Have Claimed God’s Promises

A. In his book, "Praying over God's Promises", Thomas R. Yeakley lists the names of eleven Christian Leaders who have claimed the promises of God. Martin Luther, Hudson Taylor, George Mueller, Dawson Trotman, Lorne Sanny, R. A. Torrey, J. O. Fraser, Robert A. Jaffray, Charles H. Spurgeon, D. L. Moody, and LeRoy Eims are mentioned specifically with one or more paragraphs on each, (p. 35-45)

B. Three Men and Some of The Promises They Claimed:

I have chosen only two of his eleven and added a third who is not on his list. I have also included a few personal examples.

1. **Dawson Trotman** encouraged Christians to claim the promise of peace in Isa. 26:3, the forgiveness of sin in Isa. 1:18, and guidance from Isa. 58:11 And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

a) Isa 58:12 became the foundation of the Navigator work, "and they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."

b) When chided about claiming promises from the book of Isaiah which was written to the Jewish people, he replied: "Well it's full of promises, and as I looked around, I didn't see the Jews claiming them---some body should be using them!". (p. 39)

2. **Lorne Sanny**, at age 40, felt that he needed a fresh word from God He had been president of the Navigators for five years, when he turned his responsibilities over to Rod Sargent, and waited before the Lord for direction. It took two and one half months before the Lord led him to Isaiah 54:1-4.

"Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing... Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thy habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; for thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. Fear not for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt

not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.”

3. **Roy Robertson** left his father's post WW 11 Auto Dealership to go to China. Dawson's invitation to go came one day, and the next day's devotions included a passage from II Chron. 25:9”...The lord is able to give thee much more than this.”

a) With only three days time between Dawson's phone call and Roy's departure from Dallas, Roy had no visa. Daws' instructions were to go to Shanghai, Canton or Hong Kong and apply for a visa. Then see what God opened up! The verse God gave Roy for this time of uncertainty was Heb. 11: 8”Abraham when he was called... obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”

b) The promise God gave for his time in China was Isa. 43:4”Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honorable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.”

4. **Personal**

a) **Sovereignty** - After claiming the promises of God for salvation and assurance, the next promise I remember claiming was Psalm 115:3 “But our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased”. (My car was hit from the rear by a guy who was watching some girls on the sidewalk. I had stopped because the cars in front of me has stopped for a red light.)

b) **Singleness** - Then came the issue of singleness - God gave Col. 2:9-10 - "For in Him (Jesus) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power.”(I don't need a car, a job, a wife, a house, a boat and motor)

c) **Marriage**

(1) Jerry - After the singleness issue was settled, God gave me a promise regarding marriage. Eph. 6:6”Not with eye service, as men pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.”(Because of Preacher Hallock at First Baptist, Norman, Oklahoma and the BSU at OU, Marchetta thought that we needed a promise vs. my list of pros and cons)

(2) Marchetta - The promise God gave Marchetta was Romans 15: 5-7 “Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward one another according to Christ Jesus: that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ 7Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.”

d) **Children** - After two years of marriage we were trying to start our family. I was classified 4-F from 1952 to 1954. In 1955 I was reclassified 1-A and told that I had 30 days to get my business in order. I took 8 Weeks of Basic Training at Fort Ord, CA (near Salinas with Bing Crosby's Pebble Beach Golf Course and 17 Mile Drive)

The second 8 weeks of Basic Training were completed at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. (on Route 66, near Rolla, MO. the home of Missouri School of Mines). Following the completion of Clerk Typist School, I was assigned to duty as Company Clerk for an EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Squad.

Elective surgery while in the army revealed that any children for Jerry and Marchetta would have to be adopted. This was when the Lord gave us the promise of Isaiah 58:10-12 - “And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul, then shall thy light rise in obscurity and thy darkness shall be as the noon day.” And the Lord shall guide the continually and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: thou shalt be like a watered garden and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not, 12And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places; thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in.”

e) **Leave business and go with the Navigators** - Exodus 23:20”Behold I shall send an angel before thee to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee unto the place which I have prepared.”

f) **Go to Fresno with the Navigators** - Deut. 1: 6-8 “The Lord our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying: Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount Turn you and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites, and to all the places nigh thereunto, in the plain, in the hills, and in the vale, and in the south by the sea side, to the land of the Canaanites, ... Behold I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them.”

g) *Adoption of our son Greg* - Leviticus 19:34 -“But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God”

h) *Diagnosis of Hodgkin's Disease for Marchetta* (1963) - (Hodgkin's is malignancy of the lymph gland system) God gave the promise of Psalm 63: 1-3”1O God thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirtieth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; 27b see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. 3Because thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.”

i) *Leave the Navigators for College Teaching* - Prov. 19:20 -“Hear counsel and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.”

IV. Recent Promises

A. When Marchetta's heart stopped in the hospital requiring code blue and resuscitation for recovery prior to transport to ICU - Psalm 33: 18-19 But the Lord watches over those who fear Him, those who rely on His unfailing love.”He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine.

B. The verse that characterized Marchetta's life during the last few years, months, and weeks of her life.- Habakkuk 3: 17-19 17 Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. (NIV)” The Sovereign Lord is my strength; my personal bravery and my invincible army. He makes my feet like the hind's feet of a deer and will make me to walk, not stand still in terror, but to walk and make spiritual progress upon the high places of trouble, suffering or responsibility. (AMP)

C. Jerry's promise regarding Marchetta's death: Isaiah 43:2 -“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee. When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

V. Bibliography

Praying Over God's Promises, by Thomas R. Yeakley: The Navigators, Singapore, 117 Lorong K, Telok Kurau, Singapore 425758.

Faith and God's Promises

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off . . . were persuaded of them."- Hebrews 11:13

The promises of God determine the difference between walking by faith and presumption. You and fly over your city on a clear, beautiful day. At five thousand meters I lookout the window and ask, 'Do you think God could catch me if I jump without a parachute?' You express apprehension, and, after responding with 'Oh ye of little faith' I jump out. On my way down I realize that although the statement is true, 'God can catch me, ' He never promised He would. What I anticipated to be a step of faith, I found to be presumption.

You cannot hope to leverage God into doing your bidding by an act of faith. By faith you respond to what God wants, never vice versa. God gives you promises to encourage you to do His will, not so you can talk Him into doing your bidding.

Although the promises of God can never eliminate risk, they do give your faith direction. His promises come from His revelation; Scripture forms the source of ascertaining His will. Because God's promises originate in Revelation, they tend to provoke the animosity of the world. The wisdom of God appears foolish to the world. (I Corinthians 1:18) Since God's promises come from His wisdom, they can never find the affirmation of the world.

“He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. “ (Hebrews 11:6) You must believe that God is who He says He is and that He will do what He promises. There will be times when it will appear as though His promises fail you; they don't seem to be answered in accordance with your expectation. During these times of testing, your faith must rest in who He says He is rather than your understanding of what He has promised. You are best served trusting His character.

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