

The Promises of God

Sunday, June 2nd, 1985

Psalm 91

Why don't you take your Bible and open it to the Book of Psalms. I am going to be speaking from Psalm 91. The title of the message today is: "THE PROMISES OF GOD."

The apostle Peter called the promises of God "*Exceeding, great, and precious promises.*"

Then, the apostle Paul, writing about the promises of God said; "*All the promises of God in Christ are yes and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God.*"

It says in Romans 4, "*Abraham believed the promises of God.*" That is what it says indirectly. It says that Abraham believed what God promised God was able to perform. So, he believed the promises of God.

"It was imputed to him for righteousness." This was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him, but for our sake also, to whom this righteousness will be imputed if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead" (the promises of God).

The Bible is full of exceeding, great, and precious promises. In the 91st Psalm, there are seven promises of God that I believe sort of sum up all that we need and all that we desire and all that we must have in Christ Jesus. There are 7 promises in this 91st Psalm that sort of sum up all that I need. "*These are exceeding great and precious promises.*"

Let me read them. In Psalm 91, look at verses 14, 15, and 16.

First of all: "*Because He has set His love on me, therefore, I will deliver him.*"

Secondly: "*I will set Him on high.*"

Thirdly: This is God's promise and it says; "*He shall call upon me and I shall answer Him.*"

Fourthly: "*I will be with Him in trouble.*"

Fifthly: "*I will deliver him and honor him.*" He said before, "*I will deliver him,*" but now He says; "*I will honor him.*"

Sixthly: *“With long life will I satisfy him.”*

Seventhly: *“I will show him my salvation.”*

These are the seven-fold (or seven) promises of God. I am going to speak for a little while on the promises themselves (the promises of God). Then, I am going to close by addressing the people to whom these promises are made or given.

First, the promises of God from Psalm 91, verses 14 through 16.

These promises are not for everyone. They are for a certain people and I am going to talk about those to whom these promises are made. Here is the first:

The first promise: God says, *“I will deliver him.”* Do you know what the word *“deliver”* means? It means to save or set free. In Christ, God has delivered us and set us free from the curse of the Law.

You might say that you are not under the curse of the Law. Oh yes; every fallen son of Adam is under the curse of the Law. *“What the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law that every mouth may be stopped and all the world become guilty before God.”*

Listen to Galatians 3:10; *“Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”* That is the curse of the Law and it is upon everyone.

Verse 13 says, *“Christ hath redeemed us, (hath delivered us, hath saved us, hath set us free) from the curse of the Law being made a curse for us.”* That is God’s promise in Christ.

God didn’t just erase the Law. He didn’t just improve our standing. Almighty God fulfilled the law for us in His Son. That is how He redeemed us from the curse of the Law. *“There is therefore, now, no condemnation who are in Christ.”* *“I will deliver him,”* God said; *“I will set him free. I will save him from the curse of the Law.”*

He will not only be saved from the curse of the law, but in Christ we are delivered from the curse of God’s justice. It is written; *“The soul that sinneth shall surely die.”* That is written in the law.

Have you ever sinned? Well of course we have; everyone has sinned. *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* Then, *“the soul that sinneth shall die.”* This is

what the Word of God says. *“Sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death. It is appointed unto men once to die and after that the judgment.”*

There is a promise in God’s word; *“He that believeth on the Son shall never die. He that believeth on the Son shall never come into condemnation. He that believeth on the Son is passed from death unto life.”*

Paul boldly challenged heaven, earth and hell in Romans 8:33 by saying; *“Who can lay anything to the charge of God’s elect; it is God that justifieth? Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, is risen again who is even at the right hand of God who ever liveth to make intercession for us.”*

So, Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law, from the curse of judgment and has set us free from all condemnation. That is a promise. God said, “I will set him free; I will deliver him. I will save him.”

The second promise: Is there more? Oh yes, there is more. Our Lord says, *“I will set him on high.”*

God is not talking here about the high seats of government or the high seats of religion or the high seats of business. These will all pass away with the rest of the world. Men have occupied these high seats to their own unhappiness, misfortune, and destruction.

Listen to me; when God says that *“I will deliver him and set him on high;”* He is talking about heavenly places. He is talking about *“being seated with Christ in the heavenlies.”* That is the high place.

That is where we need to be and where we want to be seated. We must be seated. We are seated with Christ in the heavenlies. *“He hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies.”*

Our great forerunner has already entered in for us within the veil and has occupied our place. We are crucified with Christ, risen with Christ and are seated with Christ on the right hand of God. That is what He is talking about. *“I will seat him on high,”* I will give him a seat in the highest places in the heavenlies.

Where Christ is, we are and what Christ has we have. Do you see that? What Christ is we are. Where He is we are; what He has we have, and what He is we are. *“We are accepted in the beloved.”* That is what the song writer said:

“In the beloved
Accepted am I,
Risen, ascended
And seated on high.

Saved from all harm
By His infinite grace,
With my Redeemer
Afforded a place.”

We (every believer) are seated on high and already glorified in Christ.

In the third promise of Psalm 91:14: He said, *“He will call upon me; (watch this) I will answer Him.”*

Do you and I really comprehend the greatness of that promise? God says, *“I will answer him.”* I will answer His call for mercy; *“Lord, be merciful to me the sinner. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* I will answer His call for mercy.

I will answer His call for daily bread; *“Give us this day our daily bread.”* David said, *“I’m young, I’ve been old, but I have never seen God’s seed begging bread.”*

I will answer His call for strength. Paul prayed, *“Lord, remove this thorn.”* The Lord won’t remove it but He will give you strength and grace that is sufficient.

I will answer His call for dying grace. Stephen cried; *“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”*

The Lord answers His people when He will and as He will but He does answer His people. We are not going to put God in a box or make God follow our blueprints, plans, or our will. We will pray, *“Thy will be done;”* not my will be done. God says, *“I will answer it. He will call on me and I will answer him.”*

The fourth promise: God says, *“I will be with him in trouble.”* The apostle Paul said, *“We are troubled on every side.”* Every believer has trouble. He has either had trouble or he is having trouble or he will have trouble for our Lord said, *“In this world you shall have trouble,”* you shall have tribulation.

In 1 Corinthians 7: 27 and 28, the Scripture talks about trouble in the flesh. We are not alone. God says, *“I will be with you in trouble,”* (in trial, tribulation, and affliction).

When the believer goes through the valley of trouble and trial he is conscience of several things.

First of all: He is conscience of this (and I want you to listen carefully), when a believer goes through trouble (he will either have trouble, is having trouble, or he will have trouble) it will be because our Lord promises he will. The Scripture says; *“They that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer. It is given unto us not only to believe on Him but to suffer for His sake.”* Now, that is true!

There are three things of which we are conscience in time of trouble and trial, great trial and great trouble:

First of all: We are conscience of His purpose in this trial and in this trouble. It is according to the will of our Father for *“All things work together for good to them who love God who are the called according to His purpose.”*

Our Lord, in James and also in 1 Peter tells us that we are going to have trials, fiery trials that will try our faith. *“This tribulation worketh patience.”* This tribulation accomplishes the will of God on our behalf and for His glory. So; whatever the trouble or whatever the trial, we are certain of this: God our Father has a purpose in it.

We have fathers in the flesh. When we were growing up our fathers punished us for reasons known to them. They deprived us of certain things that we thought we wanted and needed. They withheld them from us or gave us certain things.

They gave us medicine that was bitter or gave us a shot of antibiotics that we needed. They put us in hospitals to remove our appendix or tonsils. We had pain that we had to endure. There were trials and trouble, but our fathers, mothers, and doctors felt it was best for us.

When a child of God goes through trial, burden, and trouble, he knows his Father is the first cause of all this and has a purpose in it for our good and his glory. We know that.

Secondly: We are not only conscience of His purpose in the trial but we are conscience of His presence in the trial. We are not alone. He said; *“I will never leave you; I will never forsake you.”* The Lord says, “I will be with you. I will be with you in joy and sorrow; I will be with you in trouble. I will be with you in success; I will be with you and I will never forsake you.”

We are not only conscience of His purpose in a trial and His presence but we are conscience of His power in that trial. His is the greater power to either deliver us or to enable us to endure. Will you remember that?

We are conscience of our God's power. He is able to deliver us. He is able to lift the load, lift the burden, heal the sickness, remove the distress, and end the sorrow. He is able to remove it or He is able to give you the grace to endure it for His glory and it is for your good. So; He said, *"I will be with him in trouble."*

The fifth promise: God says; *"I will deliver him and honor him."* The best way that I know to explain this is to read a Scripture in 1 Samuel Chapter 2:8. This is Hannah's prayer. It says, *"I will deliver him and honor him."*

We talked about delivering awhile ago. He delivered us from the curse of the law and from the curse of justice and judgment. He said, *"I will deliver him and honor him."* Listen to 1 Samuel 2:8; *"The Lord lifteth up the poor out of the dust and lifted up the beggar from the dunghill."*

This is not the end of that phrase; *"He raiseth the poor out of the dust."* Where does he find us? He finds us in the dust; *"He remembereth our frame; He knoweth that we are dust."* Where did He find us? He found us on the dunghill. Beggars are found on the dunghill.

What does He do for us? He said, *"I will set them among princes, among kings. I will make them inherit the throne of glory."* Think about that! God not only says, *"I will not only deliver him but I will honor him."*

If a man serves time in the penitentiary, here in America, we may pardon him, parole him, or set him free when he serves his time. I will guarantee you, he will have a hard time living down that experience.

People won't let him; they won't honor him. They will never let him forget that he was a former criminal or former convict. This is not right but nevertheless, they will never let him forget it.

They will never let him have a place of honor. They will never elect him to a representative seat in their government. They will never honor him or make him the President; no sir, no way.

God does; He said, *"I found the poor in the dust and the beggar on the dunghill and I will exalt him and honor him and make him a king, even to inherit the throne of glory."* That is what He is saying, *"I am going to honor you."*

You that were so low are going to be raised so high and be sons of God; *"Beloved; now are we the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be but we know that when He shall appear we are going to be like Him."* You talk about a promise; He says, *"I will honor him."*

The sixth promise: Our Lord says, *"I will satisfy him with long life."* Everyone thinks that when I read that Scripture, *"I will satisfy him with long life;"* they think of long life on this earth. They think that God is going to satisfy us with 80, 90, or 100 years on this earth.

This is not what He is talking about; not at all. The longest life on this earth is but a moment. If you lived a hundred years it would just be a vapor, a shadow, just a fleeting moment like a weaver's shuttle.

This is not what He is talking about; God is talking about a long life. God is talking about satisfying us with a long life, an eternal life, a never ending life. He said, *"This is the record; God hath given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son of God hath life."*

There's a song:

*"When we've been there ten million years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Then when we first begun."*

It doesn't matter if we are talking about 90 years or a hundred years; I am talking about ions, time after time, when there is no time. Now, you're talking about long life; they will never die, never get sick and there will be no parting there.

The seventh promise: God said, *"I will with long life satisfy him and I will show him my salvation;"* I am going to show him My salvation. What a promise!

Who is God's salvation when He says, *"I am going to show him my salvation?"* What is our Lord talking about? He is talking about a person; He is talking about Jesus Christ. He is God's salvation. God's salvation is Christ Jesus.

I've been saying that for so many years in my messages; salvation is not a profession; salvation is not a reformation; salvation is not responding to an invitation; salvation is in a person.

When our Lord Jesus Christ was brought by Mary and Joseph to the temple to fulfill for Him after the law, there was an old man in that temple named Simeon. God had promised Simeon that He would never die until he had seen the Messiah, the Christ.

That old man waited and served about the temple for a long time until he had a long white beard and long white gray hair and was old. They brought that young child into the temple. He took Him up into his arms. The Spirit of God spoke to him and he said; *"Lord, let thy servant depart in peace; mine eyes have seen thy salvation."*

Salvation is in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. *"He that seeth the Son and believeth on Him hath everlasting life."* You see; salvation is by representation; *"In Adam we die and in Christ we are made alive. By man came death; by man came the resurrection. The first Adam of the earth, earthy, the second Adam is the Lord from heaven."*

Jesus Christ the Lord is God's salvation. Without Him there is no salvation. He performed it and He perfected it. He provided it and He worked it out. He, Himself, is the Lamb; He is the Lord God to whom the Lamb is provided and for whom the Lamb is provided.

He is the altar on which the Lamb was slain. His is the blood that is shed. He is everything in redemption. He is God's salvation, Jesus Christ. *"You take my yoke upon you and learn of me."* When you learn of Christ you are learning of God's salvation. The more you learn of Christ the more you know of God's salvation. It is all in Him.

Now, here are the promises:

I will deliver and set him free.

I will set him on high in heavenly places.

I will answer him when he calls.

I will be with him in all trouble.

I will honor him, the sons of God

I will satisfy him with eternal life, a long life

I will show him my salvation

Now then; consider the people to whom these promises of God are given; they are given to a certain people. I will show you that in Psalm 91. They are described by three statements:

First of all: In verse 9 it says; *“Because thou hast made the Lord thy refuge and thy habitation I will deliver him.”*

Secondly: In verse 14, it says; *“Because thou hast set thy love upon Him I will deliver him.”*

Thirdly: In verse 14, *“Because thou hast known my name I will deliver him.”*

These promises are made to those who have made the Lord their refuge and habitation. These promises are made to those who have set their love and their affection on Jesus Christ. These promises are made to those who know His name, who know the power of it and the glory of His name.

Let me deal with those one at a time in the brief time that we have left.

First of all: Is the Lord God your refuge, your habitation, your hiding place? It is called in verse 1 *“dwelling in the secret place.”* *“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high”* he is dwelling in that Covenant of Grace. That is dwelling in the Shepherd’s fold. There is one sheep, one Shepherd and one fold.

That is dwelling within the veil. I am not talking about dwelling in religion. Some of you may think that you are a member of the church. I am talking about dwelling in the secret place where the Lord God is your refuge. I am not talking about dwelling in the church, religion, or your experience, but dwelling in Him. Is He your refuge and your hiding place?

Secondly: Have you set your love upon Him? He sat Peter down one day and talked to him. Our Lord said, *“Peter; do you love me?”* Peter said, *“You know I love you.”* Christ said, *“Feed my lambs.”*

Again, He said; *“Peter, do you love me?”* He said, *“Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee.”* Christ said; *“Feed my lambs.”*

He asked him the third time, *“Peter; do you love me?”* He said, *“Lord; you know everything; you know I love you.”*

This is the issue my friend; it is love for Christ. The Scripture says, *“If any man love not our Lord Jesus Christ let him be accursed.”*

It is just not in accepting Jesus as your personal Saviour or a fire escape from hell. It is not an insurance policy in case you need it; it is in loving Christ. It is an approval of His person and His work. It is an agreement with His person and work.

Let me show you something; love to Christ is the mark of the new birth. *“Everyone that loveth is born of God.”* This is what the Bible says. Love to Christ is the mark of knowing God. *“He that loveth not knoweth not God.”*

Love to Christ is the root of love to others. *“He that loveth God loveth those that are begotten of God.”*

Love to Christ is the means of peace. *“Perfect love casteth out fear.”*

Love to Christ is motivation for holiness. *“The love of Christ constraineth me.”*

Do you see what I am talking about? These promises of *“I will deliver him, I will honor him, I will set him on high, I will answer him, I will be with him in trouble and I will show him my salvation”* are made to people who have made the Lord their refuge and their habitation. They dwell in the secret place. They live in fellowship with the King. They dwell in the Lord.

Secondly: They flat love Him! They love Him more than father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife; yes, more than their own life also.

They love Him more than their ambitions. They love Him more than anything on this earth; they love Christ. I will tell you this; this is the mark of the new birth. This is the mark of knowing God, to love Christ Jesus.

Last of all: He says *“These promises are made to those who know my name.”*

One of these days I am going to bring a message on “The Name of the Lord.” His name is more than just knowing that His name is Jesus. It is in knowing what the name of Jesus means.

Jesus is His name of humiliation. Jesus is (Joshua) God my Saviour, God incarnate, God became a man, Jesus Christ. The Christ is the Messiah. The Christ is that Prophet,

Priest, and King. Christ is an office which is given to Christ by decree, design, and death. He purchased that right; He is the Christ.

He is Jesus Christ the Lord. He is God in human flesh. His name contains all of His glory, His attributes and His character. That is what we mean when we say; "*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*"

The believer knows His name. "*I know whom I have believed.*" These promises are not just to anyone; they are to those who have made the Lord their refuge, to those who love Him and to those who know His pain and the glory of His sufferings and what He accomplished at Calvary.