



Sermon:

Standing on His Promises

“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

2 Cor. 1:20

The Bible is filled with promises from God. Some say there are about 3,000; others say up to 7,000. But it is clear that God wants us to live in His promises daily. He wants us to benefit from them. They are all part of living the abundant life.

To my amazement, there are promises in the bible associated with giving to the poor. The Scriptures teach that we are to give to the poor. Paul, himself, was eager to do it. (Galatians 2:10.) Throughout the Word, we see God’s heart when it comes to those who are in need. We are exhorted to help the needy.

My husband and I receive so much joy when we give to the poor, but joy is just one of the many blessings we receive when we give. We will be looking at two different passages of Scripture; one from Psalm 41 and the other from Isaiah 58, both carrying awesome promises. Let’s look at them.

Psalm 41:1-3 - *“Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.”*

The Hebrew meaning of “consider” means to look at, ponder, have insight, or give attention to. We are not to look down upon or disregard the poor. On the contrary we are to pay attention to them; paying attention by examining their needs and becoming the answer to their problem.

Once we consider the poor and then meet their need, here come the promises. He will deliver us in times of trouble. He will provide the great escape; almost like He kidnaps us to safety!

He will also protect us from all harm, guard us, watch over us and keep us alive, which means to live a long, prosperous and healthy life. He promises that we will be happy on this earth and He will NOT hand us over to our enemies, meaning other people in his life or the devil himself.

He promises to sustain, support and uphold us when we are sick. The last part of this promise says that *“He will*

make all his bed in his sickness.” The meaning of the word “make” is very interesting. It means to overturn, overthrow, turn back, reverse, transform, turned against. WOW! He will reverse the sickness to the point that there will be no side effects of it whatsoever; as if it never happened in the first place!

My husband shattered his pelvis a few years ago and what could have been almost a year of healing turned out to be just a couple of months and with no surgery! Amazing story, but we stood on Psalm 41 the entire time. In fact, from his hospital bed we gave money to someone who was in need at the time. We knew enough by doing this that we were making a statement to the devil that we trusted God with our money no matter what. The bible teaches that if we can't trust God with our money, which is the least (Luke 16:10) then we won't be able to trust Him with the bigger things such as healing. We were not trying to get something from God by doing this, like a quick healing, but we were following the principles in His Word, and when we do that, His promises come to pass!

We knew we could stand on this Scripture because we were in obedience to it. Please understand...I am not preaching law; I am preaching God's heart. Giving to the poor as a law would be wrong; it would be like saying that if we don't give to the poor, then God would judge us for the sin of not giving. There are two reasons He wants us to give to those in need: His heart of compassion for them and His desire to pour out these promises onto us. We should always be looking for ways to help the poor. It's God's heart and should be ours too.

Isaiah 58 is yet another scripture with awesome promises. In this passage, God is rebuking the Israelites for seeking Him daily, but only for outward appearance. They fasted for all the wrong reasons: as a religious routine, for strife and debate with others as in competing with one another. He continues in Verses 6 & 7:

“Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?”

God is sharing His heart. He tells them to feed them, clothe them, give them shelter, and not to forget their own families. This is interesting because there are times we treat others better than our own families. At times, we may not even notice a family member in need because we are so busy meeting the needs of others outside our family. Also, because we know the family member, we tend to judge them more than those we don't know as well. I believe this is why the Lord included this last part.

The promises: *“Then shall thy light break forth as the morning...”* The Hebrew meaning for the word “light” is happiness and prosperity. Have you ever seen a sunrise? The sun rises quickly. You can almost see it move second by second, and as it rises, it becomes more and more bright and beautiful. And in an instant, it's there in its fullness and beauty. God promises that we will have joy and prosperity as quickly and as beautiful as the sunrise.

“...and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee: the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward.”

If we are sick, we will recover quickly; our right standing with God will be visible to others as we enjoy our salvation, walking in victory, prosperity, justice and vindication in controversy. We are rewarded even more with God's glory, which is His abundance in riches, splendor, honor, dignity, reputation and reverence!

According to Verses 10 & 11, if we feed the hungry, our darkness will be as the noon and we will be satisfied with all necessities of life!

We can count of His promises to us. Some may say although they give to the poor, they don't see these promises in their life. Why? Because we receive them by faith. We must believe them to be true. It's like any other promise in the bible ... they don't automatically come to pass ... they are there for us, but our faith must be involved. We must stand on every promise, knowing that they will come to pass even though we don't see it right away. To stand means to have or maintain a position on an issue or to hold one's ground. This is what we did when Al was healing. Those five weeks were dismal and painful, moment by moment. But we stood on these promises no matter what we felt or what it looked like. We have a right to these promises because He says so in His Word.

Let's expect them to come to pass in our lives; just like when we expect a package in the mail. We are looking out for it and we even alert others in our family to do the same; we eagerly await the package. We should eagerly await the manifestation of His promises.

Our motives for giving to those in need should not be just to get His promises to work in our lives, but we should give because we share the heart of God. It was so important to Jesus that we take care of others that He said when we feed and clothe the poor or when we visit the sick or those in prison, we are doing it unto Him! (Matthew 25:40) He is touched that much by people's infirmities. We are His hands and His feet. Let's use them and then see His awesome promises work in our lives. Amen!