

In SPIRIT and TRUTH

God Has Not Forgotten His Promises

HOLD ON UNTIL THE APPOINTED TIME



In 1980 the Lord spoke to me; He said that He blesses the obedient. It is now 40 years later, and I know that His word remains the same. As I continue to walk in obedience to Him, He continues to bless me, over and over again. I sometimes marvel at the fact that the God of this great universe, who knows all, sees all, and is able to do all things, is actually concerned about the little things that concern you and me! I feel so blessed and honored to know that He takes the time to speak to me, and He does not forget His promises.

During my early years of marriage and ministry, after the birth of our fourth child, I asked the Lord to bless us with a house. We had already outgrown our apartment, and with four small children, a house seemed to be a necessity. We began to look for a place in Maryland (where we were living at the time) but could not find even a small house to rent. Finally, one day the Lord placed it upon our hearts to move back to Florida, specifically “Miami”, my hometown. We had already settled in Maryland and started a ministry which was doing very well, so Miami was not a place that either I or my husband desired to return to. However, God clearly said

“Miami”, so in obedience, we packed our things and the children and went back to Miami. Surprisingly, within a few weeks of our return, we were able to rent a four-bedroom house for the same price that we had paid for a two-bedroom apartment in Maryland! And in less than a year, we bought our first house! From this I learned a most valuable lesson... God desires to bless His children, but we must be willing to trust and (most importantly) obey Him. He had provisions for us, but to receive them, we had to move when He said to move, “at the appointed time”. Has the Lord spoken a promise to you that is yet to be fulfilled?

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Have you ever wondered why God answers some prayers right away, but at other times He makes us wait and wait and wait? Well, the Lord blessed me with more revelation in this area one day when I went to Him in prayer.

While praying, I received an interesting word of prophecy in response to my question; the Lord gave me a better understanding of what our attitudes should be while waiting on Him. As I thought about Noah, Abraham, and other great people of faith who waited patiently on God, I began to apply the things that the Lord had shown me to situations in my own life.

PATIENCE... Noah received a word from the Lord, began to build a boat, and continued the work for 120 years, even though it had never rained upon the earth before! Finally, after receiving instructions from God to enter into the ark, there was yet “an appointed time”, seven later, before the rain actually began!

Can you imagine that after 120 years of building, with only his family’s support, Noah had to go inside and wait yet, seven more days?! What do you think went through the minds of the mockers outside of the ark who probably already thought he was crazy? I am sure the ridicule and persecution from without (and possibly within) began to increase. But Genesis 7:5 states that “Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him”; and his obedience resulted in salvation for he and his family.

Noah’s faith and his works continued until the appointed time for the fulfillment of God’s promise.



ENDURANCE... Quite often, as our time of deliverance draws near, there also may be intense “labor pains” of tribulation, as with the natural birth process. It is usually a sign that the promise is soon to be fulfilled. But why do we sometimes suffer while waiting on God?

Hebrews 5:8 explains, though we (like Christ) are “sons”, *we learn greater obedience by the things we suffer*. In Romans 5:3 we are told that tribulation teaches us patience; and in Hebrews 6:15 we are reminded of how Abraham “patiently endured, (then) obtained the promise”. Therefore, it is at these times of increased suffering that we must pray for strength to endure, and not doubt.

“And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.”

In Deuteronomy 8:2 and 8:16, we see that the Lord had the children of Israel wait on Him while they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Why? The Word of God says that it was “to humble them and prove (try, test) them, to do good (bless them), at the latter end”, which was *the appointed time*. God often deals with us in very similar fashion today, yet under different circumstances.

We often experience trials while waiting on the promises of God.

Sometimes we get “small blessings” while waiting on complete deliverance; then, just as we think the time of testing is over, another situation may occur, *even more trying* than the first! However, we must continue to patiently wait on God. This process may continue for months, or sometimes even many long years, as with the children of Israel.

FAITH... Do you remember what hindered the Israelites most, while wandering in the wilderness? Hebrews chapters 3 and 4 clearly emphasizes that it was because they did not know the ways of the Lord, and they walked in UNBELIEF. During our times of waiting, it is vitally important that we strive to know God more intimately, and that we ask Him to reveal our hearts. We need to know whether there is anything in us (like unbelief or doubt) that would prevent us from moving on.

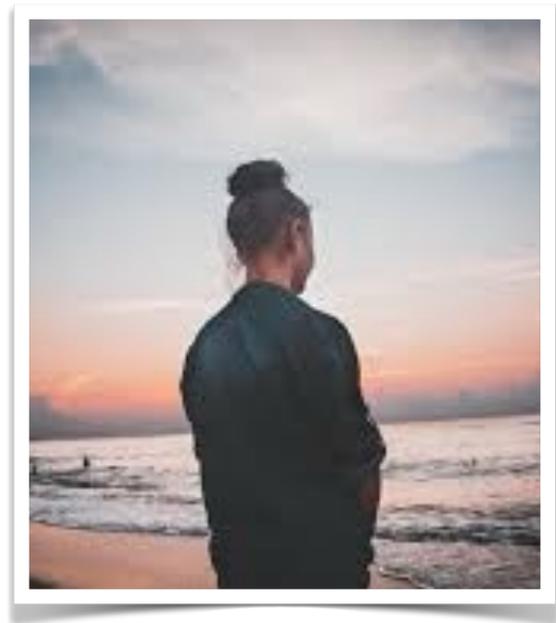
I am also reminded of Joshua and Caleb, as they scouted out the promised land in Numbers 13 and 14. The men who went out with them saw giants in the land and became overcome by fear. Yes, fear is one of the Enemy’s greatest weapons to cause us to doubt God’s promises. If we walk in fear, we cannot stand in faith. However, like Joshua and Caleb, we must learn how to focus on the promises of God (the fruitful promised land), not the giants.

MATURITY... Now some may say, “Well, I have faith, yet I continue to wait”. Galatians chapter 4 gives further insight which involves *spiritual growth and preparation*. The heirs of Abraham are compared to a natural heir awaiting an

inheritance. The word of God explains that “the heir, as long as he is a child, differs nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all” (Galatians 4:12). Likewise, even though we are Abraham’s seed, and as heirs, have certain rights to special blessings, some promises may still be delayed until the appointed time of the Father; for He knows that we need time to mature and prepare to receive His blessings.

If the preparation of the heart is not complete, we may not be able to handle the promise.

Finally, in the book of Joshua, we are told, “at the appointed time” that Joshua was to pass over the Jordan, he received instruction from God concerning *how* it should be accomplished.



When God reveals to us that “now is the time” that He desires to bless, we may need to go one step farther to inquire of the Lord regarding *how* we are to receive His promise. And once clearly instructed on how to move, we move.

We must remember to “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7); for He who has promised us is faithful to perform it!