

Trusting During the Storm - Part 4

THE PROMISES OF GOD Selected Scriptures

STIMULATE

** Last time, it was our joy to watch the apostle Paul display what it means to be "**Trusting with all my Heart**". You may recall his bold statement made to the 275 other men on board his typhoon tossed ship.

Paul said, "I believe God"!

** At the conclusion of that study we looked at two of King David's psalms, let me remind you of what they said:

Psalm 56:4 - In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid

Psalm 119:42 - So I shall have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in Thy word.

MOTIVATE

** Today in part four of our series entitled "**Trusting During the Storm**", we are going to see how the promises given to us in the word of God are designed to equip us, so we will stand firm in our trust, no matter how severely the storm rages.

When we are born-again, does the Lord promise that our life will become a piece-of-cake? How should we view tomorrow, in light of His promises today? To begin learning the answers, please join me in Acts, chapter 23 and verse 11.

Read verse -

Opening Prayer

The Promises of God

INVESTIGATE

** Let's begin with the promise made by Jesus Christ Himself to the apostle Paul while he was still in custody in Jerusalem. In your own words, what was Jesus promising Paul?

"You are going to Rome!"

** Would you agree that it was the will of God, that Paul would travel to Rome and witness for the sake of the gospel there?

Absolutely, "so you must witness at Rome also".

** As you recall our study last time, what were some of the elements of God's will for Paul, in getting him to Rome?

1) He was imprisoned for two years in Caesarea and witnessed the whole time to Felix.

- 2) He appeared before Festus and King Agrippa.
- 3) He sailed during the most dangerous time of year for that region of the world.
- 4) He spent two weeks being tossed like a cork by a violent typhoon.
- 5) He survived a shipwreck and the threat of being killed by the guards.
- 6) When he finally got safely on shore, he was bitten by a poisonous snake. (Acts 28:3)

** Did any of these things prevent Paul from receiving the promise of God?

No! They actually were all used to accomplish the very thing that God had promised. Paul's ministry was enhanced by the two years he would then spend under Roman guard.
cf. Acts 28:30-31

** How do the lessons learned from Paul's experience help us to be equipped for what God has for us to do?

If our only desire is to do the "will of Him who sent me" (John 4:34), we will trust the Lord no matter what elements of life we encounter in the fulfilling of His promises to us.

The promises of God are broad in scope and touch every area of our life as Christians; they include, but are not limited to, promises made to the **Afflicted**, to **Backsliders**, **Children**, **Orphans**, **Widows**, the **Penitent**, the **Righteous** and **Seekers**. They encompass the spiritual blessings from God, the goodness of God as well as the love and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the remainder of today's study, we are going to be learning some of the wonderful promises of God. While it would be impossible to learn them all in a single setting, it is my hope that we will gain a profound confidence in living in the very center of God's will, because of all that He has promised!

TO THE AFFLICTED

2Timothy 3:1-5 The promise of sin's influence in the last days.

3:12 The promise of persecution for the godly.

Matthew 5:10-12 The promise of our reward.

2Corinthians 4:7-18 The promise of eternal life (V.14) and the eternal weight of glory (V.17), which go way beyond comparison with our sufferings.

TO THE BACKSLIDERS

Psalms 32:5 The promise of forgiveness.

Proverbs 28:13 The promise of compassion.

TO THE CHILDREN

Matthew 18:4 The promise of greatness [for God's glory].

Matthew 19:13-14 The promise of the Kingdom of God.

TO THE ORPHAN

Psalms 27:10 The promise of protection and care.

Psalms 68:5 The promise of holy comfort.

TO THE WIDOW

Psalms 146:9 The promise of relief.

Proverbs 15:25 The promise of provision.

TO THE PENITENT

John 6:37 The promise of acceptance.

1John 1:9 The promise of forgiveness and cleansing.

TO THE RIGHTEOUS

1Timothy 4:7-8 The promise of "profit" in this life and the next.

2Timothy 4:7-8 The promise of a crown "which is" righteousness. cf. Matthew 5:6

TO THE SEEKERS

Matthew 6:33 The promise of provision.

Hebrews 11:6 The promise of reward.

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

Ephesians 1:3 The promise of limitless blessing.

Jude 1:24 The promise of eternal joy.

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Luke 6:35-36 The promise of kindness and mercy.

Psalms 100:4-5 The promise of everlasting lovingkindness.

THE COMPASSION AND LOVE OF JESUS

COMPASSION

Mark 6:34 The promise of teaching. cf. John 14:26

LOVE

Romans 8:35-39 The promise of eternal security!

EXTRICATE

** We have not even scratched the surface of the promises of God recorded in Scripture and yet what have we learned about **Trusting During the Storm**?

No matter how violent the typhoon, our God is bigger and has made promises designed to strengthen us during our storms.

DELINEATE

** Of the promises that we saw today, did you notice any that might be considered by some to be negative?

2Timothy 3:1-5 The promise of sin's influence in the last days.

3:12 The promise of persecution for the godly.

2Corinthians 4:7-18 The promise of momentary, light affliction that is producing for us eternal life (V.14) and the eternal weight of glory (V.17), which go way beyond comparison with our sufferings.

** How do we take these "negative" promises and use them for our good and the glory of God?

By being prepared before hand by the promises of God, we are not taken by surprise. We should always be ready for the battle, being equipped with the word of God having put on His full armor! cf. Ephesians 6:10-17

EVALUATE

** The question becomes, "Am I willing to view my storms through the lens of the promises of God?" Paul said, "for I believe God, that it will turn out exactly as I have been told" (Acts 27:25).

What has God said regarding our lives? We have seen some of what He has said in the promises that we read today, but we will only be able to live each day **Trusting During the Storm** if we develop the pattern of dwelling in the word of Christ richly.

ACTIVATE

** Let's conclude this study by making a commitment based on yet another promise of God. Please turn to 1Peter 2:1-3. In this small passage we are given the basis of God's promise for our spiritual growth.

Read passage

** How do we "grow in respect to salvation" according to what Peter has just said?

By longing for the pure milk of the word of God!

** Will you now ask the Lord to increase your appetite for His word and enable you to set aside all of the fleshly desires which distract you from it?

As we enjoy learning His word daily, we are fully equipped to live daily as we are "**Trusting During the Storm**".

Closing prayer