

20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning
Week 2 (January 6-13) 2013

We will spend one more week studying promises from His Word. My purpose is to emphasize another feature of our website (Praying God's Promises). Some more of my personal favorites will be included in the following studies.

Sunday -- January 6 (Philippians 4:10-13)

Paul begins by complimenting the congregation in Philippi for sharing their offering with him (v. 10). Next, he shares his knowledge of a secret that few people trust God enough to experience (v. 11). Paul has experienced **poverty** and **plenty** (v. 12), but he remains content because of the wonderful promise of our Father that follows: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (v. 13). Can you trust God to fulfill His purpose for you? He will never call you to do anything for which He will not also supply the strength to accomplish it. Many Christians "burn out" doing what they **think** they should instead of **being energized** by those tasks He has **called** and **equipped** them to do. Claim this promise today and begin to **enjoy** carrying out the will of God in your life.

Monday -- January 7 (Philippians 4:14-19)

Paul continues to comment on the love offering from the church in Philippi as he sets the stage for another of God's marvelous promises. He reminds them how the Lord has used them in the past to bless his ministry (v. 14-16). The main reason for his joy is the **spiritual** benefit the church will receive as a result of their generous gift (v. 17). How is it that Paul can focus on the blessings to the **church** instead of the blessings to **him**? Because he knows the truth that follows: "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (v. 19). I have never known of a church or of an individual that had financial difficulties as a result of trusting Jesus to meet all their **needs** (not **wants**). Churches and families get in trouble by following worldly methods instead of accepting His wonderful promise. Begin today to claim this truth! Trust Him to meet the needs of your church and your family!

Tuesday -- January 8 (Romans 8:28)

This powerful promise entered my life on the day I buried my second son, Michael Todd. Several years later, it became the theme of my Arkansas ministry. The verse does not say that only **good** things will enter your life; instead, it promises to transform each event so that it will bring glory to God and goodness to you. You may not live long enough to be able to articulate the good that comes from each event, but you can trust the One who made the promise. If you are a Christian, you have stated your love for God publicly because you accepted His call to salvation. This qualifies you to claim the wonderful promise even though you may still be "rough around the edges." Thank Him today for His continuing work in your life.

Wednesday -- January 9 (Romans 8:26-27)

As beautiful as Romans 8:28 is (see yesterday's devotion), that verse is not complete without understanding today's passage that will help you fully appreciate His promise. I have always had a difficult time keeping my concentration during prayer. That's why today's text is special to me. In my flesh, I always pray for what I perceive as "good" things for my family and friends. The Holy Spirit takes all of my requests to God, but He transforms them into what I **need**, not what I **want** (v. 26). This is a powerful promise because, even if I pray selfishly, the Spirit intercedes so that God's will can be accomplished. The Holy Spirit hears my requests and intercedes with the Heavenly Father to give me what I need to accomplish **His** will. Understanding this promise makes v. 28 come alive!

Thursday -- January 10 (Romans 8:35-39)

It would be hard to find greater promises than the ones given in today's text. God's love does not guarantee an absence of trials and tribulations; in fact, His Word warns us that they are coming (v. 35-36). The promise is that "**in** these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (v. 37). I hope that you are convinced that nothing (nor no one) can ever separate you from the **love of God** (v. 38-39). Your willful sins can keep you from fully **enjoying** His love (see Isaiah 59:2), but they will not stop Him from loving you. Claim the promises in v. 37 and v. 39 and you will have peace in the midst of your storms. Jesus taught that the world could never **give** you this peace; therefore, it certainly cannot **take it away** (John 14:27)!

Friday -- January 11 (1 Thessalonians 5:23-25)

I used to think that I would be so holy in my old age that I would have very little need for His grace. Boy, was I wrong! In fact, I now can see myself more clearly as **He** sees me (my motives, my attitudes, my thoughts). Outward sins may not be as obvious, but God looks on the heart (see 1 Samuel 16:7). What a joy it is to know that He is the **God of peace** who sanctifies me "through and through" (v. 23). What I could never accomplish because of my sinful nature, He provides in my spirit, soul and body (v. 24). He is the One who called me into His kingdom many years ago, and He is the One who will keep me safe until the final call comes. Glory to His Name!

Saturday -- January 12 (1 Thessalonians 5:8-11)

Paul reveals the armor that will protect all Christians until the Day of our Lord's return (v. 8): faith and love is the breastplate that protects our **hearts**, and the hope (assurance) of salvation is the helmet that protects our **heads**. God will call us home in the "**rapture**" before the seven-year tribulation strikes the earth. That's how we know that he "did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 9). What a promise! We will be with Him forever, whether by death or by rapture (v. 10). I hope you are **encouraged** by this truth (v. 11)!