

June 2020 Newsletter

From Heaven's Heart

"God's Promises Are Intended for You"

...but...there's always a but, or an if...but what if?

I am absolutely sure that there is one thing we can agree on. You and I want God's promises of blessings. We want them...period. End of discussion. No but or if about that.

And the good news is God tells us over and over again in the bible how we can receive His promises. My hope, my desire, my prayer for you and for me is that we will begin receiving His promises for the blessings we desire by doing what God asks us to do. There is something we must do to receive His promises for blessings. Yes, our Heavenly Father, out of His love and goodness and plan for us to live the abundant life, asks that we do something that causes Him to open His hands, releasing upon us all that He promises.

Everyday that we live, we live with conditions. Here's a personal example. It's never been difficult for me to lose weight. You may be saying, "Aren't you the lucky one". I'm not finished. It's always been difficult for me to keep the weight off. Now you understand the truth. I could go on thirty day crash diets and exercise and the weight would fall off quickly. But I would soon crash and be right back to my bad eating habits. After my health scare, Andrea began helping me with eating the right way. I began weighing every morning. I noticed I'd lose a pound or three each week and the pounds would stay off. It took a few weeks, maybe a month to get used to eating a little less and less of the things I knew I should not eat. The pounds stayed off. I reached the weight I felt good about.

It's been a few years now and I feel like I can stay with the new lifestyle of eating better. Andrea's been a big help as has regular doctor's visits and weighing every morning. I wanted to lose weight. But there was the if. If I would do some things I had been unwilling to do, but knew I should do and could do. This is God's promise. Do what you know you should do most days and you will be blessed. I say most days for a simple reason. I am not perfect but I am trying my best to do what God wants me to do. But I still mess up. But weighing each morning is my measuring device.

But losing weight is only one thing. There are other things, aren't there. I want to be a better saver. I want my health to improve. I want to have a closer relationship with my spouse, with friends, with God. I want to stop buying things I can't afford right now and don't need. I want a better job that is more satisfying. I want to live a long life. I want to stop worrying. You can add to the list.

As best I can tell from God's word, all of these things are also on His list. And according to His word, what I have listed below is God's plan for how you can receive His promises. I can sum it

all up in one sentence. Obedience is the key that unlocks God's promises. I don't have enough room to list everything God says about His promises and obedience but here's a few things.

God gives us what we ask for because we obey God's commands. 1 John 3:22

Always obey the Lord and you will be happy. Proverbs 28:14

God blesses those who obey Him. Proverbs 16:20

He saves those who obey Him. Psalm 7:10

The Lord watches over those who obey Him. Psalm 33:18

The Lord takes care of those who obey Him. Psalm 37:18

Keep God's laws and you will live longer. Proverbs 19:16

Those who obey Him have all they need. Those who obey the Lord lack for nothing good.

Psalm 34:9-10

If we follow God's directions, we'll be blessed, saved, watched over, taken care of, given what we ask for, and happy...we'll live longer and lack nothing that He calls good. What more could we want than all God promises...But...only if we practice obedience.

Obedience is the premise behind all of the promises. God gives you His promises by grace. But you get to enjoy His promises when you follow His instructions.

Sometimes, you understand God's instructions. But sometimes you don't. And you need to obey whether or not you understand.

Some of God's commands might sound confusing. Some may seem unfair. For example, the Bible says to take the first 10 percent of your income and give it back to Him. It says that when people do evil to you, you are to do good back to them. These things don't always make sense to us but they are the things God asks us to do by faith. He wants us to trust Him and obey Him anyway.

I want you to enjoy all of God's promises. Obedience is the key that unlocks them. Choose to follow His directions today in faith. He promises to reward you for your obedience.

This is from God. I am simply His messenger who cares about you because He cares about you and me. He loves you so much that He promises we can have everything we need...but...for our best...we must listen to Him and obey Him.

With the deepest love for you,

Pastor Steve

PS Try obedience and experience Heaven's blessings as they flow into your life. God never disappoints.