

## RECEIVING FROM GOD MARCH 6, 2022

### 2 PETER 1:4

God's method of operation involves Him making promises that someone believes and acts upon, then He makes the promise good. God makes a promise that we partake of by faith. It's like playing checkers or chess. God moves, we move, then God moves again.

- Great and precious promises (**HEBREWS 6:17**). We are heirs of promise. An heir is a person legally entitled to something.
- By these promises we partake of the divine nature. Partake means to take part in or experience.
- Promise – humanly speaking, promises have limited value. Humans have good intentions, but don't always produce.
- **JOSHUA 21:45 (NLT)** God's promises are always made good.
- **HEBREWS 6:18-20** The soul needs an anchor. Before the promise materializes, it will be tempted to doubt. The anchor is God's faithfulness to His promises (**HEBREWS 10:23**).

### ROMANS 4:17-21

God made a promise to Abram that according to nature, experience and common sense, was hopelessly impossible. The oldest woman to give birth was Maria del Carmen Bousado de Lara, at 66.

- Faith deals with God's promises, not human impossibilities. In themselves, the bodies of Abraham and Sarah were dead to life giving seeds, but God who brings life out of death said "I have made thee a father of many nations".
- **ROMANS 4:18** What was promised? "**GENESIS 13:16** (as the dust); **GENESIS 15:5** (as the stars); **GENESIS 22:17** (as the sand). The promise is staggering and goes beyond all reason and hope. Every reasonable argument opposed it.
- **ROMANS 4:19** "Considered not" doesn't mean he denied the physical realities. It means he looked beyond them. He refused to allow them to take precedence over the promise of God.
- **ROMANS 4:20** Stagger means to reason or argue over. Reason, experience and common sense will argue against God's promises (**LUKE 1:18-20, 34-38**). Zacharias exalted reason above God's promise, but Mary exalted God's Word above reason.
- **HEBREWS 3:19** When the problem appears bigger than the promise, it causes the mind to stagger. Abraham "gave glory to God" meaning he fully acknowledged God's person and power. This took time, trial and error. He first tried to help God by having a child with Hagar.
- **ROMANS 4:21** Abraham was fully convinced that "what God promised, He was able also to perform". Faith has to do with the promise of God, not the magnitude of the problem. Faith transforms promises into realities. All faith needs is to know God has spoken.

### ACTS 19:2

The question is "have you received", not "has God given"? **GALATIANS 3:13-14** tell us the promise of the Spirit is received by faith. Neither Jesus nor the Spirit have to be given again. All one has to do is receive them by faith.

**CONCLUSION:** As heirs of promise, God has given us exceeding great and precious promises that He wants us to partake of. The way we partake of them is by faith. It's faith that transforms promises into realities.