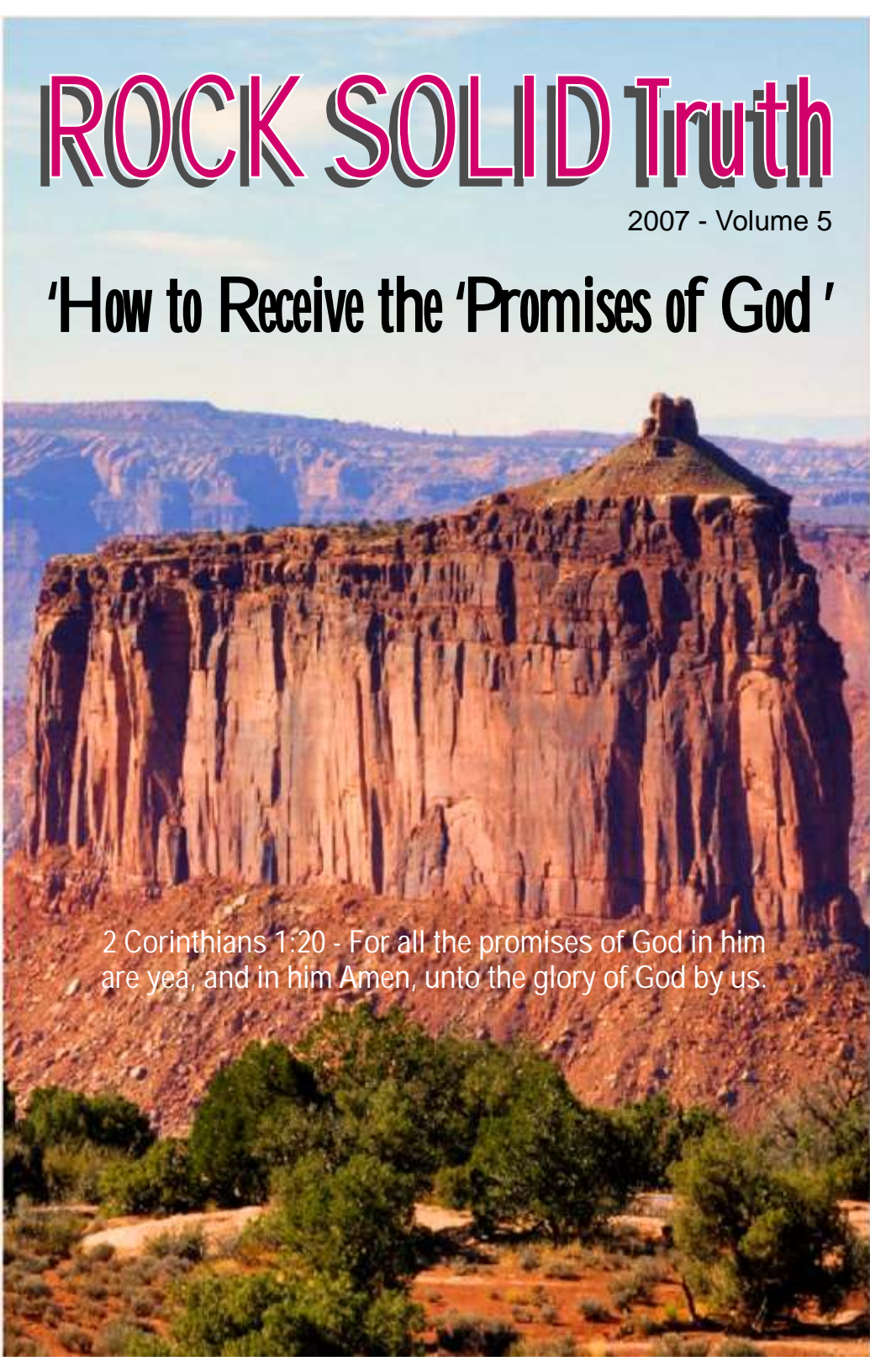


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ROCK SOLID Truth

2007 - Volume 5

'How to Receive the 'Promises of God'



2 Corinthians 1:20 - For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

How to Receive the 'Promises of God'

Part 5 in the Series

Romans 14:23 KJV

And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

A) More Revelation Knowledge

For the past 4 months in the Rock Solid Truth newsletters we have been dealing with a subject that the Lord has imparted to me as a tremendous teaching for his children. These truths have been revealed to me through much study and meditation. Just as excited as I am to receive the awesome revelations, I hope that it will thrill your hearts to receive it as well. I glory in God's desire to see his children freed from the bondage of false teachings concerning his word. Revelation of this truth brings this freedom and it reminds me of the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago, IL. They have a wonderful broadcast that's entitled 'Unshackled'. That is what I want for you dear friends, to be unshackled. Truth always unshackles.

I have always believed that the Lord desires to prosper every single one of his children who walk according to faith and believe in the provisions that he has made available. Not only are they provided for us, but they are complete in Christ. If Christ said that he would never leave us, nor forsake us, then it is impossible for his promises and provisions to be anything less. When a person learns a truth, freedom results. You become totally free where nothing hinders, or restricts us in any way. To have the fullness of Christ manifested in our natural life is the greatest thing that could ever happen to a child of God. Don't you think that would please and honor God more than anything? I tell you it would. Here is a scripture that proves it.

Luke 12:32 KJV

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

I have always believed that God wants us to be all and to have all he has given to us through the atonement of his son Jesus Christ, which are, "all things pertaining to life and godliness." By truly loving Christ, we know these things through the knowledge of his

word. He enlightens and gives us a "lamp unto our feet" to illuminate our understanding.

Psalms 119:105 KJV

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

B) To Know Truth

My greatest struggle over the years has been with the extreme abuse that takes place within the body of Christ concerning prosperity. Many ministries and numerous ministry leaders have become rich at the expense of their congregations and audiences. Hoarding and accumulation of wealth seems to be the only reason many stay involved in ministry. It's a cash cow that never dries up, so why leave. Through deception many prey on people like con men prey on the elderly. They don't care who gets hurt or suffers as long as they keep the cash coming in. We all have seen the abuse and the lies concerning this principal over and over again. In the meanwhile, honest God fearing men & women, ministries, many outreaches suffer and are branded as 'money hungry' charlatans. If they only knew the truth.

Here is the reality of God's truth:

No matter what man does, what man teaches or proclaims, or how much man abuses that which has been given to him by God, the truth is that the principal of Godly provision, or the abundance of "all things pertaining to life and godliness, has been given through the knowledge of God and of His son the Lord Jesus Christ."

How is it that you receive the promises of God? You receive them by believing.

It is not a casual or passive believing, or believing through an intellectual understanding, but it is believing to the place where it pushes you into action - faith action.

Giving is the action of faith. Your giving will demonstrate what you really believe. It releases your faith to receive from God.

2 Corinthians 8:1-3 KJV

Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy

and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

Here is the same scripture in another version so that it can offer clarification and understanding of the text.

2 Corinthians 8:1-3 NIV

And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own,

Here is the testimony of these saints. They not only wanted to give what they could afford, but they wanted and desired to give beyond their ability. They gave far more than their resources allowed.

Their liberality was expressed in their faith that the promises of God were true to them. Paul had taught them well and they exercised their faith in this liberal giving so that the promises of God would be made manifest to them by faith. They didn't give to get. They gave with full understanding that it was impossible for God not to give greater measure back to them. Why did this excite them?

Because when God did bless them, it would be in such bounty that they too could give in greater measure to the ministry of Paul, for the furthering of the Gospel throughout the world. It became exponential to them.

- They gave beyond what was practical.
- They gave beyond the first fruits and well past what was left over.
- They gave and gave until it became excess to them.

They gave beyond their ability and because of it entered into faith. They believed God. They came out of the natural circumstances and into the supernatural laws of abundance.

This is the same concept of the widow woman who was giving out of her substance into the treasury. The Lord looked at her and said, "she has given more than all those who gave much out of their abundance." Do you think she was glad to give? Of course, she was. She didn't make a show of it as the rich did, but quietly gave so no one would notice. No one, that is, except the King of Glory, Christ himself. How wonderful is that! God exalted her in scripture

so that the whole world can see what he saw and what he found pleasure and gloried in.

Look at verse 4

2 Corinthians 8:4 KJV

Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

2 Corinthians 8:4 NIV

"they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints."

D) Godly attributes

Without question, this was an unusual offering but certainly not out of the realm of what God would desire for all of his children to enter into today. The application of biblical truth pleases God completely. The church was literally begging and pleading with Paul to be able to give to the ministry. Paul had to be overwhelmed by such generosity. He knew what he had taught them and now it was being played out. He was still humbled by their great love for the ministry to give in such a way. Is it little wonder that he loved being in their presence to worship with these Godly people. What an attitude they displayed by their giving. The response was universal in their congregation. It was a supernatural awakening that brought "joy unspeakable and full of glory."

The attributes of a genuine heart are revealed in. . .

- The offering becoming a place of pleading to be included.
- The offering becoming a place of unspeakable joy.
- The offering becoming a place of both giving and receiving.

Let me ask you a few simple questions. When the opportunity to give is offered, do you genuinely look forward to it? Does it bring you joy? Do you count it a privilege and an honor to serve God in this manner - to give out of the abundance of your heart?

The Corinthians pleaded to give. Who could imagine such a thing today. Most of today's Christians give out of duty (the law), or feel that they are simply coerced out of their hard earned money with good line. They say there is no joy for them in being forced to give. They hate getting ripped off and expect little more than a simple tax deduction at the end of the year for their sacrifice. These people

never look forward to the offering and dread and avoid it at all costs. They might show up late for service, or leave before the offering takes place. These people have been abused by religion and were not taught as Paul taught the Corinthians. In some instances, it takes years to undo the damage that has been done to them. They suffer and the ministry suffers because of it and they will continue to do so until their minds have been renewed. The process can be accelerated when total reliance on God and upon his precious word, which never fails.

These words sound good, but so few of God's children live there.

2 Corinthians 8:5 KJV

And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

The NIV version says it like this. . .

And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

Friends, please listen to me. When you give to God with an open and cheerful heart, you are literally surrendering all of yourself unto the Lord. Nothing holds you back from total service to the Father.

E) The Heart of The Matter

The Lord showed me something last week that is absolutely awesome concerning our giving. There are two distinct ways to give. The first way is by faith which always exceeds the tithe. It is unrestricted. The other way of giving is by tithing according to the law. Remember, if it is by the law, then there is no faith involved. It becomes a matter of duty. Though some say they love God, their very actions (law driven) demonstrate you do not. The difference between the two is that one (faith) sets you free, while the second (the law) places demands on us which must be satisfied.

I sincerely believe that the Lord chose the financial giving of his children as one method of establishing his kingdom here on this earth. He doesn't need people for money, since he owns all the cattle upon a thousand hills. The purpose of giving is actually for our benefit. He did it out of love for us. How insightful he is to use such a thing as giving to bless us. Perhaps you can understand it in this light. The kingdom of God is like one very large business and God is the CEO of that business. As shareholders, you are

given the opportunity to invest in God's company.

By investing, you are given an opportunity to participate in the success of it. Without stockholders there simply would not be a business. Essentially, the investors of the company are the very company itself. Investing their resources strengthens and enlarges the company. Having the same vision as their leader they see the positive results of sound investing. Many good things result. As that company thrives, the investors see the fruits of their giving and are blessed with increase.

Unlike companies here on the earth, God's kingdom company is eternal. Earthly companies fail, but God's kingdom company has never failed to have a banner year. Investors profit according to the success of the company. They receive dividends and benefits according to their investment, some 30, 60 and 100 fold. God rewards us according to our faith. It's not the quantity in the giving, it's the heart of our giving that please God.

As these Macedonians were giving of themselves, they were literally giving back to themselves as well.

Proverbs 11:25 KJV

The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

When it comes to the offering, you'll experience only one of two responses. You'll either be glad or sad. There is no doubt that what you give is hard earned money. It's the sweat of your brow, the sacrifice of your labor, which brings remorse or joy. God knows the difference. Do you?

Reread 2 Corinthians 8:5 5 NIV

And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us

They gave of themselves first, then of their finances. This is how the Lord desires it. When you plan to give, you will honor the Lord by giving with purpose and not out of necessity (law).

2 Corinthians 9:7 KJV

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Faith needs to be behind your giving or it profits you nothing. No

wonder that the devil fights desperately to bring error into this wonderful principal of giving. He'll steal from those who are unaware.

On Sunday mornings I have told those in my congregation over and over again that the word of God is seed. Seed is also related to giving. Read it for yourselves.

2 Corinthians 9:6-10 KJV

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

The word of God is clear in it's teaching. It's out of the joy of our heart and the abundance of our heart, as we determine in our heart. Ponder these scriptures.

2 Corinthians 9:8-11 KJV

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

9(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad ; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:9 &10 NIV

As it is written: "he has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

Isaiah 55:10 KJV

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

I would like to leave you with these final thoughts.

The Word of God is infallible, which simply means it will never fail, nor has it ever failed. It fulfills all of it's promises to those who would believe. If you are having difficulty accepting these messages on prosperity, I invite you to seek the face of God in prayer. Read all of the scriptures you can find in the bible pertaining to finances and prosperity, then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to you so that you will understand God's will in this area. God will never disappoint you if you sincerely seek understanding.

Thank you and God's greatest blessings. Pastor DK Grooms

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