

# Being An Overcomer in Today's World #3

## Living According To God's Promises

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### I. Introductory Remarks.

In this series of messages I have been talking about our ability to be an overcomer in today's world. There are all kinds of conditions in the world today that are making it increasingly harder to get by. As Christians we must realize that God wants us to draw upon His strength and sufficiency in all that we do. This is what gives us the ability to cope in a world that is on a self-destructive course.

In this message we will see the importance of living our lives according to the promises that God has given to us in His word. The closer we come to the return of Jesus Christ the more of a necessity it will be for us to walk by faith in the promises that God has given to us.

**Jeremiah 12:5** *If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with the horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the flooding of the Jordan?*

One of the great challenges of being a Christian is putting into reality the fact that we must walk by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

**2 Corinthians 4:18** *...while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

What is it then that we are to be setting our sights on? I believe we must set our sights on the wonderful promises that God has given to us in His word. We must learn to dwell in the land of promise.

**2 Peter 1:3-4** *as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

We have been given promises in God's word that pertain to every area that we deal with in this life. With these kinds of promises working on our behalf we should be able to glide right through all the muck that comes against us.

## **II. Promises To Live By.**

### **1. The Comfort of God's Presence.**

**Isaiah 43:2** *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.*

### **2. The Promise of Unlimited Blessings.**

**Psalms 68:19** *Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, the God of our salvation! Selah.*

**Mark 9:3** *Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."*

### **3. The Promise of Divine Provision.**

**Philippians 4:19** *And my God shall supply all you need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

### **4. The Promise of Being More Than a Conqueror in Any Situation.**

**Romans 8:37** *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

### **5. The Promise of All Things Working Toward Our Good.**

**Romans 8:28** *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

### **6. The Promise of Divine Protection.**

**Psalms 91:3** *Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence.*

**Psalms 91:11** *For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.*

## **7. The Promise of Complete Victory and Authority over the Devil.**

**Luke 10:19** *“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

**James 4:7** *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

## **8. The Promise of a Way of Escape in the Midst of Temptation.**

**1 Corinthians 10:13** *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

## **9. The Promise of Sufficiency and Grace for Every Task.**

**2 Corinthians 9:8** *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, have an abundance for every good work.*

## **10. The Promise that He will Complete the Work He Began in Us.**

**Philippians 1:6** *being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

## **11. The Promise of Divine Healing and Health.**

**Psalms 103:2-3** *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.*

## **12. The Promise of Freedom from Guilt and Sin.**

**Romans 8:1** *There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

**Romans 6:14** *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

## **13. The Promise of Eternal Life.**

**John 14:1-2** *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”*

These are just some of the exceedingly great and precious promises that God has given to us, so that we can escape all of the corruption that is being sown in today’s world. Now we must learn to dwell in the Promised Land instead of the wilderness.

### **III. How To Receive and Walk in the Promises of God.**

#### **1. It is Important to Understand the Purpose of the Wilderness.**

When the nation of Israel came out of Egypt, God gave them some exceedingly great and precious promises. They were told they were going into the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

The problem was that there was a wilderness journey that they had to pass through first. Between the promise and its actual fulfillment lie a physical and a spiritual wilderness, consisting of problems, difficulty and confusion. This is where we learn obedience before we can enter into the promises.

**Isaiah 1:19** *If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.*

**Deuteronomy 8:2-3** *And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. <sup>3</sup>So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”*

The purpose of the wilderness then is to take the principle or the commandment of God and apply it to the problems or trials that are standing between the promise and the provision.

Bob Mumford calls this the 4p’s: Promise, Problems, Principle and Provision.

The problems are a very important part of God's overall purpose. It is through the problems that we come to understand the importance of walking in God's sufficiency.

What happens when we fail to learn the lessons of the wilderness? We develop a wilderness complex and never get out and eventually die there.

## **2. We must be Fully Persuaded of God's Promise.**

As we go through various problems and trials that are standing in our way of receiving our inheritance, we must remain fully convinced of the promise and not waver in unbelief.

- **Abraham is an example of this kind of faith.**

***Romans 4:20-20** He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised he was also able to perform.*

One of the reasons we fail to receive the promises of God is that we have grown up in a culture where promises are broken so easily. We have been conditioned by our world not to take promises seriously.

- **God has a reputation of Keeping His Promises.**

***1 Kings 8:56** "Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that he promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.*

***2 Corinthians 1:20** For all the promises of God in Him are yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

## **3. The Promise of God Must Become My Substance.**

***Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

The promise that God has given to me for whatever situation I am going through must be the substance of my life, meaning that which I am really holding on to. I must refuse to look at the problem through my carnal eyes. I must set my eyes and sights on that which is not seen, the promise of God's provision.

In the midst of the problem I must be able to keep my thoughts focused on the promise of God's provision without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

It is when I focus too much on the problem that it becomes an insurmountable mountain in my eyes, which then causes me to lose sight of the promise of God.

**Hebrews 10:23** *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

#### **IV. Concluding Remarks.**

God's desire is to bring us into the Promised Land in every area of our lives. He desires to provide for us – keep us in health – out of debt – united and strong families – and filled with His love, joy and peace. He wants to bless us in order that others may see His goodness and, in turn, come to Him to be blessed.