The Skillful Disciple
Skip Gray

I. Introduction.

    A. We can be encouraged because Christians win the final battle. (Revelation 4-5)

    B. Disciples need to develop skills in claiming the promises.

    C. Text: II Peter 1:3-4.

II. Concepts of knowledge.

    A. Acquisition of information.

    B. A love relationship. Our knowledge of Jesus is to be experiential. (Romans 7:4)

III. We can have a "marriage union" with Christ through the promises.

IV. Kinds of promises.

    A. General promises to all Christians. (I John 1:9)

        1. When we sin the Spirit puts His finger on our sin and the devil accuses us.

        2. However, if we confess then we have instantaneous forgiveness. (I Corinthians 10:13)

        3. If you are dealing with the devil, resist. If you are dealing with the flesh, run. (I Corinthians 10:13)

    B. Specific promises. (Acts 13:44)

V. The specific promises of God often come in stages.

    A. The gift. God takes the initiative and gives us a promise. (Genesis 17)

    B. The test. (Hebrews 16)

    C. The fulfillment.

VI. How to claim the promises.

    A. Know conditions such as obedience through prayer. We have the promise of experiencing God's love through obedience. (Exodus 17:11)

B. Know the Spirit is sovereign. (Acts 13:47)

      1. God will never contradict Himself in Scripture.

      2. If there is any doubts about a promise, use the test of time and godly counsel.

C. Do not tell God how to fulfill His own promises.

D. Know God keeps His promise for His glory. (II Corinthians 1:20, Isaiah 43:25)

VII. Three areas we need promises.

A. Personal life. (Galatians 5, II Timothy 1:7, I John 2:15-16)

B. Family life. (Romans 15:13, Philippians 1:9-11, Ephesians 1, Colossians 1, Ephesians 3)

C. Ministry. (Exodus 28:3, Ephesians 3, 4, II Corinthians 7:1)

Application questions:

1. How can it be helpful to understand that God's promises unfold in stages?
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2. Which tip for claiming God's promises did you find most helpful? Explain.
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3. How can you better claim the promises of personal life, family life and ministry? Explain.
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