

A Life of Faith

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 2 Peter 1.

B. One is a servant before he is qualified for a position.

C. Grace always precedes peace.

D. The Greek understanding of knowledge was acquisition of information. The Hebrew understanding of knowledge was one of relationship. We increase in knowledge through an intimate relationship with Christ.

E. We partake in the divine nature by appropriating the promises of God.

II. Kinds of promises.

A. General promises.

1. Escape in temptation. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

2. Restoration after sinning. (1 John 1:9)

B. Specific promises.

1. The Spirit's guidance to Paul. (Acts 13:47)

2. Guidelines

a. Prayer and obedience. (Exodus 17)

b. Do not put God in a box regarding fulfillment of a promise. (Joshua 1; 3:7)

c. Tell God the need, and let him select the promise.

d. God keeps promises to glorify himself. (2 Corinthians 1:20, 1 Kings 8:56, Isaiah 43:25)

III. Areas for promises.

A. Personal life.

1. The fruit of the Spirit is a promise of God, but the believer must ask for this daily. (Galatians 5:22-23)

2. We are called to take God's promises back to him in prayer. (2 Chronicles 6:17)

B. Family life. (Romans 15:13; Isaiah 54:13; 49:25; Philippians 2:22)

C. Ministry.

1. Ministry must be based upon God's promises.

2. Keep doing what you are doing until God gives you a word in this area.

IV. Major on the basic promises as a young believer. (Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 10:13)

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to make distinctions between general and specific promises?

2. Why are guidelines essential for obtaining specific promises?

3. How should a person go about obtaining specific promises for his life? Explain.
