

Claiming the Promises

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I. Introduction.

A. When you pray, be specific.

B. Knowledge of Christ. (II Peter 1:1)

1. The Greek idea of this is information contained in the mind.

2. The Hebrew concept of knowledge is experience. Peter is writing from this mindset.

3. We “feed” on Jesus Christ in this way. (John 6, II Corinthians 3)

C. We have been given promises of God to partake of Jesus Christ.

II. Kinds of promises.

A. General promises applied to all Christians.

1. A way of escape in temptation. (I Corinthians 10:13)

2. Forgiveness. (I John 1:9)

3. Fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)

B. Specific promises that apply only to a person in a circumstance. (Acts 13:47, Isaiah 42, 49)

1. Scripture has one true interpretation.

2. Scripture may have other applications.

III. Guidelines.

A. God will never contradict Himself.

B. Give the specific promise the test of time. (Joshua 1:5; 3:7)

C. The test of godly counsel.

D. Be aware of conditions such as prayer and obedience. (Exodus 17)

E. We need to present God with a need and let Him select the promise.

F. We ought to count God's promises as sure—we are the vehicle to bringing God glory as we appropriate the promises. (II Corinthians 1:20)

IV. Three areas we can apply the promises of God.

A. Personal life. (Galatians 5:22-23, Isaiah 3:2, Colossians 3:4)

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

C. Ministry.

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to distinguish the different kinds of promises?

2. Which tip for claiming God's promises did you find most helpful? Explain.

3. How can you better claim the promises of personal life, family life and ministry? Explain.
