

APPROPRIATION

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When we read through God's Word, there are many passages that tell us of things that God has done for us or has provided us with, yet for many, these promises seem to always be out of reach or not a part of their experience.

That is something I hope to be able to explain tonight and enable you to walk in the power, freedom, and provision of God's Word.

PRINCIPLE OF APPROPRIATION: Setting aside or claiming what already belongs to us.

The dictionary definition is: 1. the act of setting apart or taking for one's own use
2. the act of acquiring something;

(ROM 8:37) Nay, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him that loved us. (KJV)

What things? Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword.

It is not a matter of complying with a lot of conditions to enter into that blessed life in Christ---more **it is merely appropriation of what is already ours.**

In order for us to appropriate something for our daily walk in Christ, there are two essentials that must be met:

1. We must see what is already ours in Christ, and
2. We must be aware of our need for it.

It is upon these two factors that ability to appropriate rests. **Appropriation is simply reaching out in steadfast faith and receiving that which already belongs to us in our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Isaiah 55:6-13 (KJV)

⁶ Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

⁹ For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ 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:

¹¹ **So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.**

¹² For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off.

2 Peter 1:1-11 (KJV)

¹ Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

³ **According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:**

⁴ **Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

With those thoughts in mind, I am going to share some Scripture with you to enable you to see what is already ours in Christ:

(EPH 1:3) Blessed {be} the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly {places} in Christ**: (KJV)

(Ephesians 1:17-23 KJV)

(17) That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: (18) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, (19) And what {is} the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, (20) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set {him} at his own right hand in the heavenly {places}, (21) Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: (22) And hath put all {things} under his feet, and gave him {to be} the head over all {things} to the church, (23) Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

(EPH 2:6) And hath raised {us} up together, and made {us} sit together in heavenly {places} in Christ Jesus: (KJV)

We might make **note in the reading of the first three chapters of Ephesians, Paul does not mention anything that the saints must do**, but merely expounds great and eternal facts concerning them. **When he does finally get around to his plea for them to walk as saints, it is all based upon what he has already proclaimed as theirs in Christ.**

It is when we finally come to this realization in our own lives that the struggle to try will cease and **we will begin to trust in the completed work of our Lord.**

When we as individuals finally grasp what our Lord is teaching us, we will cease laying down to others long lists of conditions for entering into the blessed life in Christ, and instead, begin to show them what their position, possessions, and privileges in Christ already are. It is only then that we will truly be working with the Holy Spirit and that we will see more abiding fruit for our labors.

We cannot appropriate that which we do not know.

It is essential for us to study the Word if we ever expect to grow. The majority of people sit around and complain about what they don't have or that God isn't answering their prayers or questioning why they seem to be forgotten by God, **yet they never read His Word and appropriate His promises.**

It is the practical needs in our lives that will cause us to appropriate God's Word in our lives to receive an answer for that need. Life is meant to bring a succession of discoveries of our need of Christ, and with every discovery of need, the way is opened for a new inflow of the supply.

As our need is met, we prove the sufficiency of Christ to meet our inward need, so He can be glorified through us. **Appropriation of our needs must be according to clear, scriptural, specific truth---we do not need to ask amiss.**

Mr. T. Austin Sparks stated truthfully, **"Every bit of truth we receive, if we receive it livingly, will take us into conflict and will be established through conflict. It will be worthless until there has been a battle over it."**

It may take time. After we have seen our possessions in Christ, and been made aware of our need, we must allow Him time to appropriate it in our lives.

(PHI 2:13) For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of {his} good pleasure. (KJV)

Also keep in mind that a day with the Lord is as a 1,000 years. It takes time.

WHAT IS OURS IN CHRIST?

General Promises:

(PSA 84:11) For the Lord God {is} a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good {thing} will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. (KJV)

(ROM 8:32) He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (KJV)

(1Corinthians 3:21-23 KJV) (21) Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; (22) Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; (23) And ye are Christ's; and Christ {is} God's.

Food and Clothing:

(PSA 37:3) Trust in the Lord, and do good; {so} shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. (KJV)

(Matthew 6:25-34 KJV) (25) Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? (26) Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? (27) Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? (28) And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: (29) And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (30) Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, {shall he} not much more {clothe} you, O ye of little faith? (31) Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (32) (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. (33) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (34) Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day {is} the evil thereof.

(JOE 2:26) And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. (KJV)

Long Life:

(PSA 91:16) With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation. (KJV)

(DEU 5:33) Ye **shall walk in all the ways** which the Lord your God hath commanded you, **that ye may live**, and {**that it may be**} **well with you**, and {**that**} **ye may prolong {your} days in the land which ye shall possess**. (KJV)

Health:

(Psalms 103:3-5 KJV) (3) Who **forgiveth all thine iniquities**; who **healeth all thy diseases**; (4) Who **redeemeth thy life from destruction**; who **crowne thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies**; (5) Who **satisfieth thy mouth with good {things; so that} thy youth is renewed like the eagle's**.

Peace:

(PSA 29:11) The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace. (KJV)

(ISA 32:18) And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places; (KJV)

Direction:

(PSA 32:8) I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. (KJV)

(PSA 37:23) The steps of a {good} man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. (KJV)

(PRO 3:6) In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (KJV)

Honor:

(1SA 2:30) Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed {that} thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. (KJV)

(PRO 22:4) By humility {and} the fear of the Lord {are} riches, and honour, and life. (KJV)

(JOH 12:26) If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will {my} Father honour. (KJV)

Success and Prosperity:

(PSA 1:3) And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (KJV)

(JOB 22:28) Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways. (KJV)

Plenty and Riches:

(Deuteronomy 28:12-13 KJV) (12) The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. **(13) And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do {them}:**

Over the years I have spent in the pastorate, when people would come to me with financial problems, the first thing I would ask them was whether or not they were tithing and the general answer from the majority was NO! There are many promises of financial prosperity in the Scriptures, but there is also an accountability that goes

along with them. Look back at verse 13 of the passage we just read. Let me assure you that if you aren't a tither, you will never experience the fullness of the financial prosperity that can be yours as a child of God. This is not a health and wealth prosperity message that you hear from many of the TV Evangelists today for **their message is centered on giving to get**. The truth from God's Word is that we have already been given everything that pertains to LIFE and GODLINESS, **BUT we need to walk in obedience to God's Word to be a recipient of the fullness of the promises**.

Upon all our possessions:

(Deuteronomy 28:3-6 KJV) (3) Blessed {shalt} thou {be} in the city, and blessed {shalt} thou {be} in the field. (4) Blessed {shall be} the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. (5) Blessed {shall be} thy basket and thy store. (6) Blessed {shalt} thou {be} when thou comest in, and blessed {shalt} thou {be} when thou goest out.

(DEU 28:8) The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. (KJV)

Against the troubles of life:

(JOB 5:19) He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee. (KJV)

(PSA 91:10) There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. (KJV)

(Psalms 46:1-3 KJV) (1) God {is} our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (2) Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; (3) {Though} the waters thereof roar {and} be troubled, {though} the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

Against Temptation:

(1CO 10:13) There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God {is} faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear {it}. (KJV)

(2PE 2:9) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: (KJV)

(HEB 2:18) For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted. (KJV)

(JAM 4:7) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (KJV)

(1JO 4:4) Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (KJV)

How do we know that God will do these things?

Because His word is true and He has promised in His word that He will do what He has said.

(DEU 7:9) Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he {is} God, the faithful God, **which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;** (KJV)

(Psalms 119:89-90 KJV) (89) **For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.** (90) **Thy faithfulness {is} unto all generations:** thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.

(PSA 119:160) Thy word {is} true {from} the beginning: and **every one of thy righteous judgments {endureth} for ever.** (KJV)

(NUM 23:19) God {is} not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: **hath he said, and shall he not do {it}? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?** (KJV)

(HEB 6:18) That by two immutable things, **in which {it was} impossible for God to lie,** we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: (KJV)

(HEB 10:23) Let us hold fast the profession of {our} faith without wavering; **(for he {is} faithful that promised;)** (KJV)

(PSA 18:30) {As for} God, his way {is} perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he {is} a buckler to all those that trust in him. (KJV)

(PSA 89:34) **My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.** (KJV)