

— GOD'S PRECIOUS PROMISES —

"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" (2 Peter 1:4).

Life is difficult. It is hard to clear every obstacle that comes up in our daily lives without getting discouraged. It is during these times we must remember the promises God has given us. While they are vital to the Christian, I am not talking about those promises concerning eternity, heaven, and our final reward. I am talking about promises for the here and now, promises that can see us through the dark and difficult days of life.

When I Am Tempted. We all face temptation on a regular basis. Sometimes it seems as if we just cannot overcome it. Remember God's precious promise. "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*" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

When I Am Afraid. Perhaps when you were a child, you were afraid of the dark. What are you afraid of now: sickness, job loss, financial difficulties, death? Remember God's precious promise. "Fear not, for I *am* with you; be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

When I Need Guidance. From time to time, we all need help in choosing the right path. We are faced with difficult choices and need guidance. Remember God's precious promise. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct you paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

When I Am Lonely. I remember going to basic training in Missouri. I stepped off the bus farther away from family than I had ever been. I would have given just about anything to see a friendly face. Remember God's precious promise. "And He said, 'My presence will go *with you*, and I will give you rest'" (Exodus 33:14).

When I Have Sinned. There is the forgiveness a sinner receives when he obeys the gospel. In this case, I am referring to the Christian who sins. In writing to Christians, John says that if we deny sin in our lives we deceive ourselves. Even as God's children we slip and stumble from time to time. Remember God's precious promise. "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:7, 9).

When I Face Death. Death is probably one of the greatest fears of every person. Remember God's precious promise. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4).

These are only a few of God's precious promises, but the next time life tries to take you down, remember God is there.

- Lamar Russell, St. Mary's Church of Christ, St. Mary's GA

Why carry the load alone when God wants to help you?

News & Notes

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies to help make bears for children.

PANTRY: Canned vegetables.

REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS & CARDS: *City Hospital:* Dan Williams, Richard Clutter (Eva Steff's brother). *Weirton Medical:* Linda Wiersbicki. *Trinity West, Steubenville:* Beulah Rice. *At Home:* Ella Beagle, Scharlotte Cyphers, Margaret Board, Ilene Rayl, Carl Miller, Harry Nice, Marilyn Sprout, Randy Beagle, Michelle Hanlon, Bette Gentry Gene Miller, Blondenia Orr, Virginia Rickerd, Bertha Seman, Pauline Clutter. **Don't forget to encourage others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. They are listed on the bulletin board.**

JUST SUPPOSE

Suppose we had to "run" for church membership as any candidate runs for political office. Would you win or lose?

Suppose the membership were good for one year only, and that re-election depended upon the good we had done in the church during that time. Would we be re-elected or would we be dropped?

Suppose there were a long list of those waiting to get in; would we be more alive to our duties as Christians?

Suppose we were called to explain just why the church should keep our name on the roll. Have we a case to offer in our defense?

Suppose every member of the church did as much for the church as we are presently doing? Would more seats be needed, or would the doors be shut?

JUST SUPPOSE!

- Author Unknown, Beech Grove Church of Christ, Spring Hill, TN; via *Bulletin Digest*



On Sunday evening, as they passed by the church building where they attended the morning service the little girl of "Christian parents" exclaimed, "Look daddy, someone left the lights on. We should stop and turn them off." In silence, the parents drove on. Later at home they decided they had better start attending the evening service not only to satisfy the curiosity of their little daughter, but their own consciences as well. If you passed the building on Sunday or Wednesday evening would your children wonder who left the lights on?

Don't Miss!

- *The Visitor*, Adamsville Church of Christ, Adamsville, AL