

Living by Faith, Part 4

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 2 Corinthians 1:18ff.

B. We as humans are very dependent and vulnerable. Our hope is God's faithfulness in His promises and His protection. (Acts 17:25ff)

C. God's promises are sure. (2 Corinthians 1:18-20)

II. God is faithful in all of his promises.

A. God's "yes" to the messianic promises, as well as those regarding the second coming of the Messiah, is Jesus.

B. Christ's life earned fulfillment of all of God's promises and we inherit those promises through relationship with Christ. (Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 4:19)

III. Some of God's promises are conditional. (Genesis 12; Matthew 6:33)

A. In ourselves, we cannot perfectly fulfill those conditions. We rely on Christ for the deserving the promises, but the general drift of our lives should seek to honor those conditions.

B. The "amen" Paul refers to in Greek expresses confidence and certainty, which we only have through Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:20ff)

IV. Many promises that were given to others also apply to us as individuals.

A. Some promises are directly to individuals for a specific situation. (Genesis 12)

1. These promises are limited to individuals, but they reveal the character of God and so we can pray for those promises to be applied to us.

B. Some promises are more general. (Matthew 6:33)

C. Some promises were given to specific people groups, in particular, the Jews.

1. Almost all promises were given to individuals or to groups, but we can still claim them because God's character is the same and the principle of many of the promises is universally true. (Philippians 4:19; Joshua 1:8; Isaiah 41:8-15; 1 Kings 17:9-16)

V. Ask God to give you promises to claim from the scriptures. Living by faith means pleading the promises of God over our lives. (Joshua 21:45)

Application questions:

1. Are there promises that God has made that you have trouble having faith for? Why?

2. How have you seen God be faithful to his promises in the lives of the people you know? List a few examples.

3. Pray and ask God to show you a promise from scripture that is meaningful to a situation in your life today. Pray that promise over that situation several times in the next week.
