

# **Living by Faith in the Promises of the Word, Part 1**

**Review: Saved by faith, live by faith**

## **A personal connection**

“I am writing this book because I am so eager that we learn to fight for holiness by faith and not by works.”<sup>1</sup>

**Faith in the promises of the Word = faith in God's promises through Jesus**

- 1. Jesus is the Word (the ultimate revelation of God and His promises)**
- 2. All of the written word leads us to Jesus**
- 3. Jesus is the heir of all the promises, and we receive them only through Him (i.e., by grace alone)**

Galatians 3:13-14

Galatians 3:16

Genesis 22:18 *in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

Galatians 3:29

<sup>1</sup> Piper, J. (1995). The purifying power of living by faith in future grace. Sisters, Or.: Multnomah Press (220).

Romans 4:13, 25 *That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring ... to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

**1. In Jesus, all of God's promises to us are "yes"**

2 Corinthians 1:20a *For all the promises of God find their Yes in him [Jesus Christ].*

Galatians 3:29 *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.*

"If you belong to Christ by faith, then everything God could possibly give you for your good he has signed over to your account in Christ. You hear the same answer at every point: Is this promise in my account? Yes. Is this gift in my account? Yes. Is this blessing in my account? Yes. Yes. Yes. All the promises of God are Yes in Christ."<sup>2</sup>

**2. The two biggest promises for Christian living in all of the New Testament are based entirely upon God's work through Jesus.**

Romans 8:31-32

Romans 8:13 *For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.*

<sup>2</sup> Piper, 105.

Hebrews 1:2 *in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things.*

Romans 8:17

1 Cor. 3:21b-23 *All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.*

“What puts Romans 8:32 in a class by itself is the logic that gives rise to the promise and makes it as solid and unshakable as God's love for his infinitely admirable son.”<sup>3</sup>

### Romans 8:28-30

“When it comes to the architecture of future grace and the buildings we call the promises of God, Romans 8:28 shares the tribute of being one of the two or three greatest. This structure is staggering in its size. The infinitely wise, infinitely powerful God pledges that in this building, future grace will make everything beneficial to his people! Not just nice things, but horrible things too - like tribulation and distress and peril and famine and slaughter (Romans 8:35-37). What brick would you lay on top of this skyscraper to make it taller? 'God works all things together for good' means all things. If you live inside this massive promise, your life is more solid and stable than Mount Everest.... Outside this promise ... there are straw houses ... cardboard fortifications ... a thousand substitutes for Romans 8:28.... It's as though [Paul] is saying, 'For the highest of all promises of future grace I will dig the deepest foundation of past grace. I will dig all the way back to eternity in the heart of God.’”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Piper, 112.

<sup>4</sup> Piper, 122-23, 27.

## Conclusion

“The essence of faith is being satisfied with all that God is for us in Jesus.... Or better: satisfied with all that God *will be* for us.... The Spirit loves to exalt Christ; and nothing exalts Christ like being trusted and treasured above all other future fortunes.”<sup>5</sup>

*John 4:14 Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.*

*John 6:35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”*

<sup>5</sup> Piper, 206, 281.