

A.R.M.

Promise

Ephesians

Keywords Devotional



Ephesians Ch 1, v 13

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of PROMISE

Paul describes the Holy Spirit as someone who was promised by God. Not only is Jesus the promised Messiah, but Holy Spirit was promised by God throughout the Old Testament as well. God's promise was for those who believe in His Son for salvation and forgiveness.

When we believe in Jesus, we're filled with the promised Spirit of God. Part of this promised Spirit, is what God promised His Spirit would accomplish. In other words, God's promise wasn't just about His Spirit, but it was also about those things His Spirit would do. According to this verse, the Holy Spirit comes and fills us when we believe in the message of salvation and He seals us according to the truth that we've believed in.





Ephesians Ch 2, v 12

that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of **PROMISE**, having no hope and without God in the world.

God gave Israel different promises in the form of covenants, or agreements. These covenants were given to the descendants of Abraham, who was the original recipient of God's promises. These covenants were given to the nation of Israel, and they were based on God's promises and unique activity within His chosen nation Israel. Because several of these promises revolved around the nationality of the Jewish people, Gentiles (non-Jews) had no connection to these promises because they didn't physically descend from Abraham.

Therefore, Gentiles were disconnected from the unique covenants and promises that the nation of Israel was given by God. Non-Jews had no share in the promises for national Israel. But, what the Israelites misunderstood, was the fact that God actually planned to include Gentiles in these promises through their faith in Jesus, because He is the One who realizes the promises of God and establishes even better ones.



Connecting the Verses

The Holy Spirit was apart of the promises that God made to Abraham and his descendants, whether old testament saints knew it or not. Since all of God's promises are yes and amen in Jesus, this promise of the Spirit would be realized through Jesus. He makes it possible for the believing descendants of Abraham to be filled with the Holy Spirit. And, technically the non-Jews were at one time

disconnected from the promise of God's Spirit too. Gentiles had no way to participate in this promise of the Holy Spirit, because they weren't physically apart of the nation of Israel. But, God always intended to grant His promised to Spirit to anyone who would believe in His Son.

The ultimate and perfect Israelite (Jesus) would grant Gentiles entrance into the promises of God through His sacrifice. Where once Gentiles were cut off from the promises of God, Jesus makes a way for Gentiles to be included in these precious promises, which includes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Jesus gives Gentiles access to what they once had no right to experience. He makes a way for believing Jews and non-Jews to be filled with the Spirit of God through their faith in His work. The promises of God weren't fully understood by the Israelites throughout history. But, now that Jesus has come to fulfill these promises, we have clarity on God's plan. We understand these promises accurately now, that we see them as being realized in Jesus.





Ephesians Ch 3, v 6

that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His PROMISE in Christ through the gospel

Part of God's mystery (the gospel) was that Gentiles could become fellow heirs with Israelites through their faith in His Son. One of God's best kept secrets was that He always intended to include Gentiles into the promises that He made to Abraham and His descendants, because the true descendants of Abraham are those who have faith like him. This means that Jew and Gentile can be spiritual descendants of Abraham if they would have faith like him. This faith gives Gentiles access to the same inheritance, same promises, and same spiritual family of God as the believing Israelites had access to. As non-Jews, access to God's promise doesn't come through our ethnicity, but through our faith in Jesus and His perfect work. Jesus doesn't give Gentiles access to anything different than what God always intended to give to His beloved children. They're given access to the full inheritance of Christ through faith.





Connecting the Verses

Trust in the gospel message seems to be the way into the promises of God. These promises include the Spirit of God's presence, access to Jesus' inheritance, and adoption into the spiritual family of God. The gospel message includes these promises. When the gospel is preached, the message will include these precious promises and the inheritance of Christ that He shares with His people.

Apart from Christ, there is no access to the precious promises of God. Without Jesus, there is no indwelling of God's Spirit, there is no participation in the body of Christ, there is no adoption into the family of God, and there is no sharing in the inheritance of Jesus.

All of these precious promises are realized by Jesus, and they're given to us through our faith in Him. When we trust in Jesus, we're responding to the promises of God and taking God at His word in faith. This is what it means to believe in the gospel message. We're believing everything that God has promised about His Son, and those who trust in Him.





Ephesians Ch 6, v 2

“Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with PROMISE:

One of the promises God made to Israel through Moses, was that He would grant a person long life in the promised land if they would honor their father and mother. In other words, God promises to honor and bless those Israelites who would honor and bless their parents. This is one of the ten commandments:

honor your father and mother. And, attached to this commandment comes a promise from God for the people of Israel that He will bless that obedient son or daughter with a full life in the promised land.





Connecting the Verses

Some of God's promises are conditioned upon the choices of His people. Many of God's promises are conditioned upon Jesus and His finished work on the cross. One of the conditional promises that God made to Israel was that He would give them long life in the promised land if they would honor their father and mother. This is uniquely different than the promises that we have in Christ.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the inheritance of Christ, the adoption into God's family, and share in the body of Christ are promises that are applied to us the second we trust in Christ for salvation. In other words, these promises are accomplished by Jesus, and we experience them through our faith in Christ.





Connecting the Verses

When we come to Jesus in faith, there are countless promises that apply to us the second that we believe. But, there are several conditional promises God has given, which are based on our daily decision to obey Him or not. When we come to Jesus, He grants us access to the conditional promises of God, and He enables us to experience them through our own daily decision to meet the conditions God has laid out.

No matter what, all the promises of God are yes and amen in Christ, but we choose to live in the experience of certain promises based on our own daily submission to God's word.



Ephesians Chapter 1, v. 13-14

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of

PROMISE,

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.





Connecting Ephesians 1:13-14

In the Old Testament, God promised to send His presence in the form of His Spirit. This Spirit would come upon His children to mark them as His own. As part of this promise, God guaranteed that His children would receive His full inheritance in the coming ages. The Spirit of God is not only the fulfillment of God's promise, but the Spirit guarantees another promise, which is that God's children will enjoy the riches of Christ's inheritance in Heaven.

There is a full redemption that God's children look forward to, when they're resurrected to glorified bodies in order to reign with Christ in the new earth. There is an unspeakable glory waiting for God's children in Heaven, and the Spirit of God testifies to the fact that this future inheritance is guaranteed to us by God Himself. Our heavenly inheritance isn't something we've earned or achieved. We didn't deserve it. God gave it to us by way of promise. He promised that those who would trust in Jesus for salvation would receive the inheritance and eternal rewards of His Son.





Connecting Ephesians 1:13-14

Jesus became the way back to the Father for all who would believe, and there's nothing God has promised that's better than Himself. He is the greatest gift and treasure we could receive. Now, in Christ, we not only share in the inheritance of Christ, but we are given access to God Himself through His Holy Spirit. Believing Jews and Gentiles are given access to the same exact inheritance through the same Holy Spirit and their shared faith in the same Savior.





Connecting Ephesians 1:13-14 (Continued)

Gentiles were once cut off from what Israel had access to as a nation. But, Christ gives both Jew and Gentile something even greater than what the nation of Israel had access to. He gives believing Gentiles better covenants, promises, and closer access to God than the nation of Israel ever had. What God has promised to believers, is way better than what national Israel had access to. We have the promised Spirit who marks us as God's children and guarantees us the full inheritance in Heaven.

God has given us a downpayment of our inheritance to guarantee His future promises for us. This is why we can walk confidently in the promises of God, and take Him at His word. Whether we find ourselves honoring our parents and obeying the first commandment with a promise, or doing something else God has commanded, we're called to live according to the promises that we have in Christ. As believers, we're called to live like the promises of God are most certainly ours in Christ. This means we live each day simply taking God at His word and trusting in His promises.



Ephesians Chapter 2, v. 11-13

11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—

12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of PROMISE, having no hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.





Connecting Ephesians 2:11-13

Paul is addressing the previous condition of the non-Jew before they come to Christ in faith. What we have to understand, is that God made specific covenant promises to the fathers of the Jewish faith, and these promises were for their descendants. God made covenant promises with people like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and David. These promises were not based on race or nationality, but rather faith. The Israelite people believed that all of God's promises applied to them simply because they were physical descendants of Abraham. But, these promises were for those that had the faith of Abraham, not just physical lineage from him. Israel assumed that all of God's promises automatically applied to them because they were His chosen nation in the earth. But, this wasn't true. Israel was God's special treasure, and He showed this by giving them unique benefits such as the temple, the priesthood, the Law, the covenant of circumcision, and the sacrificial system, which made way for The Lord to dwell in the midst of an imperfect people. Though these benefits were uniquely for Israel as a nation, this didn't guarantee that each individual was under the favor and grace of God, or were included in all of His promises that He gave to the patriarchs of the faith.





Connecting Ephesians 2:11-13 (Continued)

Because God worked uniquely with Israel, Gentiles were disconnected from the promises that God made to Israel. Gentiles didn't physically descend from Abraham, so they didn't share in all of the wonderful covenant promises and benefits that national Israel was able to enjoy. Before we came to faith in Christ, we were disconnected from all of the wonderful promises we now have in Christ. We had no access to the promised Holy Spirit, or any of the wonderful promises that Christ has realized and guaranteed for us in the future.

Now, in Jesus, we've been connected to better promises than even national Israel had access to. Every promise of God is yes and amen in Christ, so Jesus is the One who brings substances to every promise God has made. None of the wonderful promises of God for His people are accomplished without Jesus, period. Israel did have covenant promises with God because of their descent from Abraham, but these old covenant promises pointed to Jesus, who would establish even greater promises through His sacrifice. Jesus establishes eternal promises through His blood, and He invites both Jew and Gentile to come and share in these wonderful promises of God.





Connecting Ephesians 2:11-13 (Continued)

As Gentiles, we used to be cut off from Christ, as well as everything the Israelite nation had access to. The temple system, priesthood and Law was for Israel. Gentiles didn't have these things. But, these temporary benefits of Israel were always meant to lead the world into the eternal benefits of Christ.

Now, through our faith in Jesus, we have something better than the nation of Israel had, even with all their covenant promises.

The Israelites relied on the High Priest to go into the holy of holies once a year on their behalf, but now we have the Holy Spirit, which is the very near presence of God in our everyday life. We have greater access and deeper intimacy with God than the nation of Israel ever had. Jesus has not brought us near to what Israel had. He's invited us into something way better.



Ephesians Chapter 3, v. 1-6

1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—

2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,

3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.

4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,

5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the PROMISE in Christ Jesus through the gospel.





Connecting Ephesians 3:1-6

Paul says that He is a prisoner of Christ and a steward of the mystery of the gospel. Paul's faithfulness has led him into some difficulty and trouble. Jesus does promise that His followers will endure suffering, persecution and difficulty in this life. Its one of the many promises Christ makes about those who follow Him. We can't cherrypick which promises of God we want to claim for our lives. When we come to Christ, we take on all the promises that God has made for His people, and some of those promises include difficulty and hardship. As believers, we can't be selective about which promises of God we want to believe.

Paul says that he has been entrusted with the stewardship of God's grace, which is the gospel mystery. When God gives this calling to Paul, God equips and qualifies Paul by His very Spirit. Because Paul is filled with the promised Holy Spirit, he's qualified to accomplish the calling of God on his life. The promised Spirit of God is the One who empowers Paul to effectively steward the mystery of the gospel for the benefit of others. God doesn't just promise His presence when He sends His Spirit, but He promises His very power to flow through His people.



Connecting Ephesians 3:1-6 (Continued)

Part of the mystery of the gospel, is that Gentiles can be included into the family of God as fellow heirs with believing Israelites. This means that when Gentiles believe in the gospel, they become partakers of the same promises, same body, and same inheritance that the believing Israelites have access to. And, Paul is called to bring this good news to Gentiles so they can come into the precious promises of Christ through faith. Part of preaching the gospel, includes sharing the beautiful promises of God for His children. When we bring the gospel to people, we're bringing news of God's precious promises as well as His terms of people for those who are disconnected from these things by their sin. God's mystery is that Gentiles have access to everything the believing Jew has when they believe in Christ. And, God chooses a man named Paul, fills Paul with the Holy Spirit, and empowers him to go and invite people into everything that God promised and accomplished through His Son.





Connecting Ephesians 3:1-6 (Continued)

We're called to bring this same beautiful mystery to those in darkness. This mystery was once hidden from humanity in the mind of God. Even the saints and prophets of old didn't have the complete picture of God's plan like we have now. They didn't know that God promised His Spirit to both Jew and Gentile who would believe in His Son. They didn't know that Gentiles could be included into all of God's precious promises for His people. They didn't know that Christ would invite all people into something even better than the nation of Israel had.

There are millions of people who don't know this beautiful mystery. They don't know all that God has made available to them in Christ. And, it's our job to let the promised Holy Spirit lead our lives so that the world around us would come to know this beautiful mystery of Christ in us the hope of glory. God has not brought us near just for our benefit. He hasn't filled us with His very near presence and spoken promises over us for our own personal gain only. He promises to use us to bring other people into these precious promises that we get to experience in Jesus.



Ephesians Chapter 6, v. 1-3

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with PROMISE:

3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."



Connecting Ephesians 6:1-3

In this passage, it's clear that this promise of God to Israel was based on their obedience to this commandment. One of the ten commandments is to obey and honor your parents. And, God promises Israel that if they do this command, they will have long life in the promised land. The interesting thing is that Paul doesn't quote this promise as applying to us. He quotes the command with the promise in its original context, but Paul only takes the command to apply to new covenant believers in Christ.

There are some promises of God that are conditional. Not every promise of God in Scripture applies to us as new covenant believers. Some of God's promises were situational or seasonal. Some of His promises were based on the promised land or the chosen nation of Israel. Other promises are based on Jesus and His finished work, and these promises are automatically true for anyone who would trust in Jesus.





Connecting Ephesians 6:1-3 (Continued)

The promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled by Jesus, and He makes this promise automatically apply to anyone who would trust in His sacrifice.

Other promises become accessible to believers through their trust in Christ, but they aren't automatic. In other words, some of God's promises automatically become true for us the second we come to Jesus in faith. Other promises are made available to us through our faith in Jesus, but they only apply to us when we meet God's conditions around that promise.

The ultimate promise is Jesus, and through Him every other promise either becomes reality for us, or accessible to us if they're conditional. As we submit to the promised Spirit and know Jesus, the promised Messiah, we'll find ourselves experiencing and walking in every promise of God for His people. No matter what, no promise of God is realized without Jesus.

We need to know this promised One better everyday as we submit to the leading of His Spirit. We're called to live like God's promises are true by taking God at His word each day. If we live according to God's promises, we'll see other people around us come into these promises through our simple faith and love for the God who has granted us these very great and precious promises in Christ.



