



GGN is a teaching resource for ministers and churches all over the world. We advocate the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ - Jesus alone, grace alone, faith alone. Our purpose is twofold: to help the Church rediscover Jesus and to take this message to the world.

KNOWING YOUR REAL IDENTITY

Some good friends of me have been missionaries for many years. They went into missions while their children were still young. One day the whole family was interviewed on the platform in the home Church. A pastor asked one of the young boys what he would like to become when he grew older. "Do you want to become a missionary?" The child's reply came strong and without hesitation: "You can't become something you already are!" His identity was settled – he was a missionary!

In Luke 15 we find the story of the father who had two sons. The younger son made many bad choices, and the course of his life went all in the wrong direction. When he returned home to his father he was ready to sign up as a servant, since he thought his chances to be called a son were destroyed. His identity had changed in his own eyes! However, it had NOT changed in the father's eyes. The wrong behavior of the son hadn't changed the father!

In the same story we see that the older son also had a wrong identity. He presented his good merits as a faithful servant as a reason to why he deserved the blessings of the father. But the response of the father came without hesitation: "SON, you are always with me, and all I have is yours." He didn't call him a servant, but a SON!

The missionary kid had understood his identity – the result of being a child of his parents. None of the two sons in Luke 15 had understood their real identity as sons and how the father himself viewed them. We can't work to become who we already are or to deserve the gifts that we already have.



Mary Felde
Editor



Reign as a King in Life!

By Evan Beecham

Are you living a life of His rest? Or are you living under condemnation? If you want to reign as a king in life, then it's important to get rid of guilt and condemnation.

For those who know my writing style, I like to close most of what I write with something like, "now reign in life as a King this week." I do this because it is God's desire that you reign in life as a King, and I like to constantly remind you, the reader, of this! (Romans 5:17) The Amplified Bible uses the word "King"; however, the very word "reign" implies King. In Romans 5:17 & 21 the word reign in the Greek is *basileuo*,

which is to rule as a King, to reign.

When our minds are set on our redemption realities, and we understand that our redemption is complete and perfect, everything we lost was restored at the cross (including our innocence), then we can reign in life. We are seated in Heavenly places with Christ Jesus. When? Right now!

THE Power of God

Knowing this (and that it is by His grace), how can you not reign in life? And your business or occupation not be blessed? I believe most Christians live substandard to what has been paid for at the cross. Why is that? Simply put, religion has

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introduced a form of godliness that denies the power of God (2 Timothy 3:5). Romans 1:17 tells us that the gospel of Christ (finished work) is **THE** power of God to salvation... For in it **the righteousness of God is revealed!** The revelation of the righteousness of God in your life is **THE power of God**, which causes you to REIGN in life! Being established in this new identity, His righteousness is vital in understanding who you are, and what your redemption has given you! (Isaiah 54:13) This is not who you are trying to become. We have been declared "innocent" by His grace!

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I know this sounds simple, and it is simple and extremely important to your reigning. Forgiveness of sin is central to the finished work; understanding these simple yet powerful redemptive realities are important to the Christian reigning in life. Romans 5:18 (Mirror Translation): "The conclusion is clear; it took just one offense to condemn mankind; one act of righteousness declares the same mankind innocent."

The controversy surrounding forgiveness is amazing. You know many Christians believe that all sin must be confessed before one can be forgiven. This controversy was started based on one verse of scripture in 1 John 1:9. It makes sense that the enemy would want Christians to always question their forgiveness, for then they will live in perpetual guilt and fear thinking maybe they missed confessing a sin and now have broken fellowship with

God. Then they will fear constantly that maybe they missed the will of God. This will hinder their reigning in life; I assure you of that.

They tried to **become** through their self-efforts what grace had already done

Self-righteousness

This is that form of godliness I spoke of - they look pious and godly, yet there is no power. It is called self-effort or self-righteousness. The Pharisees practiced self-righteousness. Can you find one single account of a miracle done by a Pharisee? They tried to **become** through their self-efforts what grace had already done. That's why Jesus told us that our righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees' (Matthew 5:20). The Pharisees' righteousness was a self-effort, works-based righteousness, trying to "do" to become what God has already made us. Our righteousness in Christ is a free gift by His unmerited favor (grace) - you already are. You don't have to **do** anything to become.

Are you living under condemnation? A result of condemnation is guilt. Do you feel guilty about anything? Yes, I said anything! If you feel guilty about anything, then that is where your "unrest," your troubled heart, will come from. If so, then check what you believe, because someone who was made innocent through the cross is not guilty.

Guilt and condemnation produces worry, anxiety and fear, and this chokes the Word making it unfruitful. The solution is to hear the gospel of grace, believe it, embrace it, and bear fruit (Mark 4:19-20). Martyn

Lloyd Jones said about Romans 8:1 concerning no condemnation, that in the Greek it means, "it is utterly impossible." Condemnation is utterly impossible in Christ! Jesus took ALL your condemnation upon His body at the cross, thus making it utterly impossible for you to ever be condemned again.

Guilt and condemnation go hand in hand. Once you are condemned, then you feel guilty, and that condemnation came as a result of the law. In 2 Corinthians 3:7 & 9 the law is referred to as "the ministry of death" and "the ministry of condemnation." The ultimate goal of guilt and condemnation in your life is to produce death. Be mindful of your redemption realities: there is therefore, now no condemnation for those who are in Christ (Romans 8:1).

If you feel guilty about anything, then that is where your "unrest," your troubled heart, will come from

Colossians 1:12-14 NKJV: "giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His Love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the **forgiveness of sins.**" And Colossians 2:13 NKJV: "And you being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having **forgiven you ALL trespasses.**"

Enter Into His Rest

If He has forgiven you of all trespasses (and He has), then you are NOT guilty.

Reign as a King in Life!

You're innocent, praise the Lord! You will enter into His rest based on your believing you're innocent. You will find unrest in your believing you're guilty. This is your righteousness being revealed, which is THE power of God! What God says about you is far more important than what you think about yourself.

Unbelief really is believing a lie about yourself. God has declared who you are, what your new identity is in Christ and that is all that matters. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). Israel believed a lie about themselves (Numbers 13:33) and the result was they did not enter the Promised Land (rest). Colossians 2:9 & 10 Mirror Translation: "Christ reveals that there is no place on the universe where God would rather be; the fullness of Deity physically resides in Him! Jesus proves that human life is tailor-made for God! Jesus mirrors our completeness and **endorses our true identity**. He is "I am" in us."

You will enter into His rest based on your believing you're innocent

The Work of God

John 6:28 & 29 NKJV: "Then they said

to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God that you **believe** in Him whom He sent."

People are always looking for something to **do**, when Jesus said to believe. Believe what? Believe in Him whom He sent - Jesus and the finished work of the cross. Do you believe that it is truly finished? Or do you believe that there is something you can do to help with the completion? Many Christians do believe there is work to be done to complete their righteousness, or forgiveness, among other things. There is really nothing for you to do but believe; it is all yours by His grace.

The Bible is **all** about JESUS, and JESUS is **all** about YOU! What an awesome God we serve! Hebrews 10:7, 9-10: "7 Then I said, "Behold, I have come - in the volume of the book it is written of **Me** - to do Your will, O God..." 9 then He said, "Behold I have come to do your will, O God." He takes away the first so that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Luke 24:27: "And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded

(explained) to them in **ALL** the scripture **the things concerning Himself.**"

The Bible is **all** about JESUS, and JESUS is **all** about YOU!

Unconditional Love

The Bible is all about our beautiful Savior and His finished work; His awesome demonstration of His love! In the Old Testament we see types and shadows of the things to come through Christ at the cross, and in the New, His finished work. Hebrews 10 reveals that the redemption plan was completed by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, and that He took away the first (the law, which was works-righteousness) to establish the second (the gift of righteousness by faith, not works). Friends, this is His unconditional love and undeserved favor.

Just think about how much you are loved! We have to recognize that Jesus is always the solution and never the cause of our problems.

The Bible is **all** about Jesus, and Jesus is **all** about YOU!

Yes about YOU! Isn't that amazing!



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Everything Jesus did at the cross was done for you. All He requires is that we believe what He has done for us at the cross. Yet many times we still want to go back to trying to earn or merit our righteousness from Him. Galatians tells us that it is to fall from grace if you try to deserve it - then it is no longer undeserved favor.

Luke 24:25 describe the main indictment of the church - slow **of heart to believe**. Sometimes we

are very slow to believe everything Jesus did for us at Calvary and just how perfectly redeemed we are. Believe, and receive His abundance of grace and free gift of righteousness and **reign in life as Kings today!**

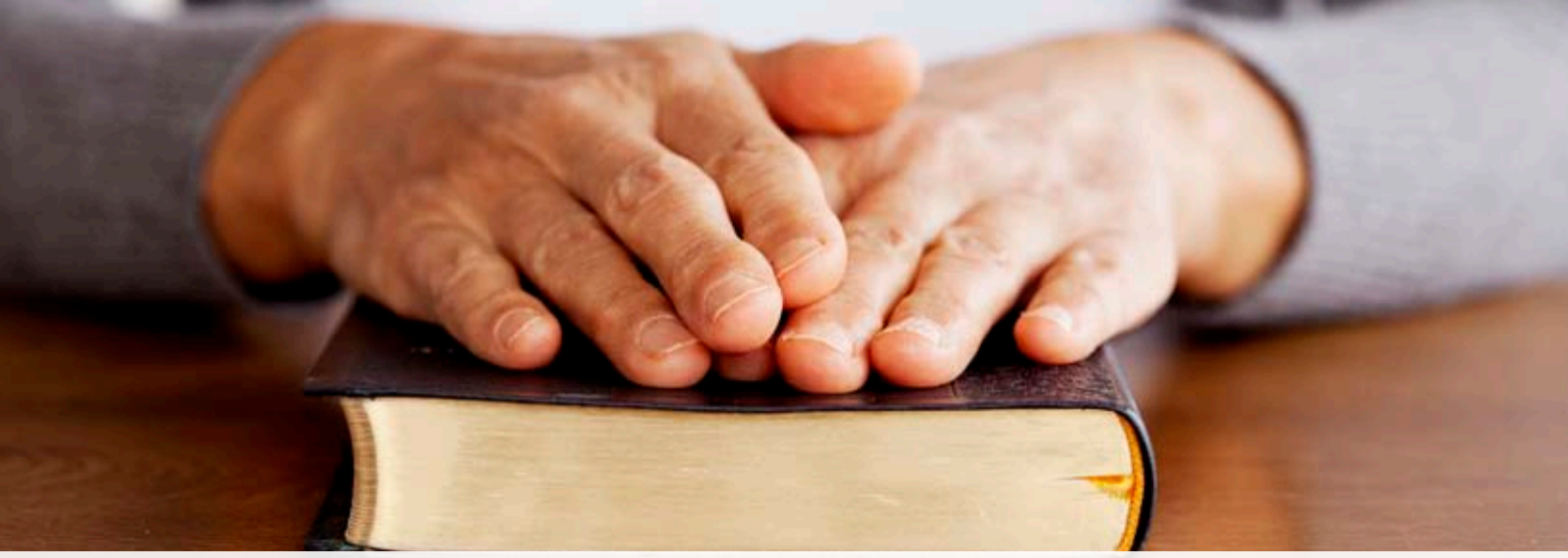


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Making Promises to God

By Steve McVey

Have you ever been told to “stand on the promises of God?” Maybe you have also thought that you should do your part and make your own promises to Him.

For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore, also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us (2 Corinthians 1:20).

I spent many years with my life revolving around promises. Half the time I was making promises to God and the other half I was trying to “stand on the promises of God” by appropriating His promises to my situations and trying my best to believe that He would indeed keep them.

We're never told in the New Testament to promise anything to God

Do you find yourself doing that too? It's not an uncommon thing for people to do, but as I look at the many years I was either claiming God's promises or making my own to Him, I wish I'd known

something. I thought that making promises to Him and standing on the promises He had made to me was a vital part of my daily walk, but I was wrong.

Our Role is to Receive

If I had only understood then what the Bible says about the whole matter of promise making and promise believing, I could have saved myself a lot of stress and strain. We're never told in the New Testament to promise anything to God. It's not there. The Bible is, however, full of promises that God has made to us. That's the part of grace that people find so hard to accept - it's one-sided. He gives and we get. We have nothing to offer in return nor is there anything He wants or needs from us. Our only role is to receive all He has promised, but even that doesn't come from our own effort.

Even understanding that God made promises to us isn't enough, because if we don't understand the whole story we will think we have to try to muster the faith to believe He will keep His promises. The truth of the matter

is this: God has already fulfilled every promise He has made to us! He has done it in Christ.

whatever God has promised us, we already have it in Christ

Paul said that the promises of God are all “Yes!” in Jesus Christ. That means He is the embodiment of God's promises. God's promises to us have been already fulfilled in Jesus! What's our part now? Paul says it is simply to say “Amen!” Through the life of Jesus Christ in us, we experience the realization of God's fulfilled promises as we trust Christ every moment. Claiming the promises of God is nothing more than simply resting in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

In other words, whatever God has promised us, we already have it in Christ. We are “children of the promise” (Romans 9:8) and as “heirs of the promise” (Hebrews 6:17) we can relax and know we don't have to do anything to gain God's blessings in our lives. Everything He has ever promised to do on our behalf has been accomplished and given to us in Christ.



No wonder the Apostle Paul praised God by saying, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). Notice that he didn't say that God will bless us with spiritual blessings but that in Christ we have already been "blessed" with every spiritual blessing. The fulfillment to every divine promise will be realized in your life as you simply trust Christ to be who He is in and through you.

God's Covenant with Abraham

When God got ready to enter into covenant with Abraham as the beneficiary, Abraham went to work to prepare for the ratification ceremony (See Genesis 15). He assumed that he and God were about to enter into covenant together.

He prepared the sacrificial animals by filleting them and laying the halves on two sides with a bloody path down the middle. Normally, when two people entered into covenant together they would walk arm in arm down that bloody pathway together. In so doing, they were promising that they would each keep their part of the covenant, even if it meant shedding their last drop of blood to do it.

But when the time came for the

covenant to be ratified with Abraham, God caused him to fall into a deep sleep and God walked alone down the bloody pathway. It was a flaming fire and a smoking wick that passed through that bloody pathway produced by the sacrifice.

We aren't standing on the promises. We are seated on the premises with Him!

What did that mean? It meant that there was no need for Abraham to make any promises. The covenant was between the Father (fire), the Spirit (smoke) and the Son (blood). Abraham had no part as far as having to keep up his end of the covenant. He didn't have an end. Keep promises to God? The only thing he would have ended up doing was breaking them anyway. So our Triune God walked the path and entered covenant together, and in so doing, proved that He would keep the terms of the covenant. The only thing Abraham had to do was trust Him by realizing that he was the beneficiary. When it was all said and done, Abraham did believe it and "it was counted to him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3).

Seated with Christ

That's all you have to do too. Just believe that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises to

you in every situation. You don't have to make anything happen. You don't have an end to hold up in this matter.

Legalism insists that we "do our part" by working up enough faith to believe His promises or by making promises to Him about how we'll do better and try harder, but grace tells us that He has done it all. We are seated with Christ in the heavenly places. We aren't standing on the promises. We are seated on the premises with Him! So just rest in what He has done and give a loud and hearty "Amen!" to Jesus. That and that alone is what brings the highest glory to God.



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