

PROTECTING THE PROMISE: OBSTACLES TO THE FULFILLMENT

REVIEW

- Much of what God does He does by promise
- Our part is to learn to respond to what He promises in His Word
- Purpose of the promise
 - ◆ Reveals God's will
 - ◆ Creates faith
 - 2Co 5:7 - We walk by faith not by sight
 - Mk 9:23 - Faith removes natural limitations
 - ◆ Keeps us steady in tough times
 - ◆ Become partakers of the divine nature
- Homework
- This week we will talk about what to do next - protecting the promise

HEB 10:35, 36, HEB 4:1 - OBTAINING THE PROMISE IS NOT AUTOMATIC. IT CAN BE LOST.

- Promise - Can come short of it. Promise = a supernatural encounter, a supernatural provision; a miracle in an embryonic state, in seed form
- It is not automatic because we have enemies - we live in a fallen world
- We have an adversary. We are to resist him (Jas 4:7, 1Pet 5:8)

OBTAINING THE PROMISE IS A FAITH ISSUE

- Rom 4:16 (Amp) Therefore, [inheriting] the promise is the outcome of faith and depends [entirely] on faith
- Heb 3:18-19 to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.
 - The root cause of their disobedience was unbelief
 - New Testament obedience is an active response to faith (Jas 2:20, Rom 14:23)
 - ◆ Faith without works is dead, but works without faith is dead works. It is the letter, not the spirit
 - 1Ti 6:12 - fight the good fight of faith (Eph 6:12)
 - ◆ If there's a fight, that must mean there are obstacles to faith
 - ◆ Matt 12:11 - Can't be passive
 - 2Co 7:1 - God's promises require a response

HOW DO WE PROTECT THE PROMISE THAT GOD GAVE US?

RECOGNIZE THAT OUR HEARTS ARE THE INCUBATORS OF GOD'S PROMISE. PROTECTING, NURTURING THE PROMISE IS A HEART ISSUE

- Protecting the promise requires us to hide the Word in our heart
 - ◆ Mark 4 - Cares, deceitfulness of riches, desires for other things, distractions can choke the Word
- Prov 4:20-25 - must guard our heart
 - ◆ Guard our heart first by watching our tongue (v24, Jas 1:26)
 - ◆ Guard our heart by watching what we look at (v25)
 - ◆ Guard our heart by doing the Word (v26, Jas 1:22)

THINGS THAT COME TO STEAL THE PROMISE FROM OUR HEART

- **Dt 1:28 - Unbelief of others**
 - ◆ The Bible, the word of your doctor, your lawyer, your banker the news media, your friends, Dr. Phil, Oprah, are not on equal footing. Do not attempt to develop a mindset that melds all of them together.
- **Contradictory circumstances (Joanie's rock climbing picture)**
 - ◆ God's promise does not come to explain current circumstances but to transform them (checkbook example)
- **Redefining the promise (Abraham with Hagar)**
 - ◆ I don't have to understand it to believe it. (childlike faith)
 - ◆ Faith will work in your heart with doubt in your head.
- **Prior failures or failures by others**
 - ◆ 1Co 13 - We know in part. We should never allow experience to trump revelation.
 - ◆ The truth of God's Word remains the truth, the standard even when we fall short. We should never tarnish its luster by lowering it to the level of our experiences

HEB 6:12 WHAT IT TAKES TO INHERIT THE PROMISE- FAITH AND PATIENCE

- Time is the greatest robber of faith that we face (Prov 13:22, Gal 6:9)
- Patience is when we walk in God's will without fainting on a consistent daily basis until the promise is fulfilled.
- Heb 10:35,36
- Many of the promises in the Bible: Abraham, Moses, Joseph, David, Joshua and Caleb took years to fulfill

SUMMARY - MATT 14

- What was the will of God - walk on the water or sink?
- Why did Peter sink? - he doubted
- Why did he doubt? - He took his eyes off of Jesus and onto the wind and the waves
- Bottom line - you need to keep your eyes on God and His Word and not the circumstances
 - ◆ When the circumstances occupy a higher place in your heart and your thought life than God's Word you are in trouble