

THE BLESSINGS OF WAITING FOR THE PROMISE OF GOD ...

STANDING ON THE **SURE PROMISES** OF GOD WE SEE THE **FOREVER PLANS** OF GOD ...



THE BLESSINGS OF WAITING FOR THE PROMISE OF GOD

OUTLINE: 2 PETER 3:13-18

1) Blessing #1: The blessing of belief, 3:13.

- (2 Peter 3:13 ESV) But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
- (Romans 9:15–16 ESV) For he says to Moses, “**I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.**” 16 **So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.**

WE HARVEST THE FRUIT OF THIS BLESSING ...

- a) ... as we know *and do not forget* that it is only by the mercy of God that we are able to believe the promises of God and see the plans of God.
- b) ... as we continue to believe and grow in our faith and so become effective and fruitful and do not forget we have been cleansed from our sins.
- c) The person with the unprepared, forgetful heart does not harvest the fruit of living in the reality of the new heavens and the new earth as this person has become nearsighted and blind.
 - (2 Peter 1:8–9 ESV) For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 **For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.**

2) Blessing #2: The blessing of joyful anticipation and diligent preparation, 3:13-14.

- (2 Peter 3:13–14 ESV) **But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.**

WE HARVEST THE FRUIT OF THIS BLESSING ...

- a) ... when the reality of the last acts of Almighty God toward his earthly creation—all the events of the Day of the Lord—has a transforming and purifying effect on our lives.
- b) ... when the context of the coming Day of God gives us a confident, joyful anticipation of our glorified lives in the new heavens and the new earth.
- c) ... when we live in the reality of the kingdom and righteousness of God.
 - (Matthew 6:33 ESV) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- d) ... when we diligently prepare for that future moment when we meet our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 - i) ... to be diligent to be found by him without spot—**living in forgiveness.**
 - ii) ... to be diligent to be found without blemish—**living in obedience.**
 - iii) **... we will be at peace because we are ready to meet our God.**

3) Blessing #3: The blessing of trust, 3:15-16.

- (2 Peter 3:15–16 ESV) And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.
- (Proverbs 3:5 ESV) **Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.**

WE HARVEST THE FRUIT OF THIS BLESSING ...

- a) ... as we fully submit to and trust in the

wisdom of God as revealed in his written word.

- b) ... as we understand that trusting God and trusting the word of God to be one and the same.
- c) As a result we are able to fully rest in the Lord's timing and tender mercies as he brings his plan of salvation to fulfillment.
- d) This complete trust in God and his word frees us from the urge to twist the things we cannot understand to fit our desires or understanding.

4) Blessing #4: The blessing of forewarning, 3:17.

- (2 Peter 3:17 ESV) You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, **take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.**
- (2 Timothy 3:16 ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.**
- (2 Timothy 4:2-3 ESV) Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove, rebuke, and exhort**, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions.

WE HARVEST THE FRUIT OF THIS BLESSING ...

- a) ... first of all **when we understand the warning of God to be the wisdom and goodness and compassion of God.**
- b) ... when we understand that he speaks his words of warning to us because he is rich in mercy because of the great love with which he loves us.
- c) ... when we understand that God is not obligated to even speak to us.
- d) ... when we humble ourselves before the words of warning and acknowledge our great need for his instruction, correction and training through his word.
- e) ... when we understand that the Shepherd leads the sheep to himself and away from their sinful wandering by reproofing and rebuking.

f) The Holy Spirit produces his fruit in our lives as we heed the warning to not be "*carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.*" **This verse (3:17) speaks of being led away by the inadvertent incorrectness—the wandering away, the straying about, the roaming hither and thither—of unsubmitive, disobedient people.**

g) This corrective work of the word of the Holy Spirit of God in our lives should bring us to our knees in thanksgiving and worship and praise.

h) If we allow our pride to block us from hearing and heeding the warnings of Scripture, then we will fall into self-deceit and undermine our relationship with our God.

5) Blessing #5: The blessing of growing in grace and truth, 3:18.

- (2 Peter 3:18 ESV) But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Peter extends a blessing of grace early in this letter just as he did in his first letter.

- (2 Peter 1:2 ESV) **May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.**
- (1 Peter 1:2b ESV) ... **May grace and peace be multiplied to you.**

For grace to be multiplied in our lives we need to first understand the infinite and eternal nature of God's grace and that grace is entirely God's merciful choice to favor the undeserving. From eternity past he has determined (*from the riches of his glory*) to unleash his power and authority on our behalf to save us and to shower his goodness on us forever.

In his first letter toward the end Peter exhorts us to stand in grace.

- (1 Peter 5:12 ESV) ... I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that **this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.**

AND NOW PETER EXHORTS US TO GROW IN GRACE.

HOW DO WE DO THAT? By accessing what we have access to. **AND HOW DO WE DO THAT?** By growing in

our knowledge of Jesus Christ; by coming to truly know our Savior and the blessings of God that come to us through him.

- (Ephesians 1:3 ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.**



WE HARVEST THE FRUIT OF THIS BLESSING ...

- a) ... when we truly understand our necessary connection to the very source of grace and truth—Jesus Christ.
- (John 1:16–17 ESV) For from his fullness we have all received, **grace upon grace.** 17 For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**
 - (John 15:4–5 ESV) Abide in me, and I in you. **As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.** 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, **for apart from me you can do nothing.**
- b) ... when we set our hope fully on his grace that will be brought to us.
- (1 Peter 1:13 ESV) Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, **set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**
- c) ... when we look to the word of God as the pure, spiritual milk that **turns us away from** our natural patterns of thought and behavior and **turns us to** the goodness of the Lord.
- (1 Peter 2:1–3 ESV) So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

- d) ... when we live in the peace we have through Christ **and trust in the grace to which he has provided access** as we live in hope of the coming glory of God.
- (Romans 5:1–5 ESV) Therefore, **since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.** 2 Through him we have also **obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand,** and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- e) ... when we grow in our understanding of the infinitely generous expression of his intent to show us the riches of his grace forever.
- (Ephesians 2:7 ESV) **So that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**
 - (2 Corinthians 8:9 ESV) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.
- f) ... when we begin to understand our part in the glory of God which happens according to the grace of God.
- (2 Thessalonians 1:11–12 ESV) To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, 12 **so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.**
 - (2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT) So **all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord.** And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him **as we are changed into his glorious image.**