

Only The People Of God Get The Promises Of God

Looking Back At The Laws:

Exodus 20, 21, 22 & 23

Looking Ahead To The Promises:

Exodus 23:20-33 Joshua 5:13-15 John 14 15 16 & 17 Matthew 6:33 Proverbs 3:5-6,
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Romans 8:1-18

The promises of God:

- ✓ “Bring us to the place he has **prepared for us**”.
- ✓ Depend on the **practices** of his **people**.
- ✓ Are not all at **once**, but **little by little**.
- ✓ Are God’s best **for us**, not our best **for ourselves**.

“Little By Little”

Exodus 23:29-30

Two questions to ask:

- ❶ Has my **walk** with God **grown** this past year?
- ❷ What little **steps** do I need to start taking **today**?

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 15, 2016

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Can you think of anything you were sure at one time was a good thing to do, goal to set, item to buy, etc. only to realize later that you actually benefited from it not happening or taking much longer to happen than you planned? If so, explain.

2. If you created a spiritual growth timeline for your life, how would it look? Would it show steady growth or ups and downs? Did you grow a lot more at certain times than you do now? Are you wondering what's happening now?

When you experienced times of noticeable growth, is there anything particular you would attribute it to?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we heard how getting to the promised land happens one step at a time, "little by little". Unfortunately "one step at time" can seem way too slow for our preferred timing, leaving us wondering what God is really up to. How do the following verses speak to and/or give us perspective when it comes to operating on God's timing and not our own?

Galatians 6:9-10 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Isaiah 55:8-9 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the LORD.

⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2 Peter 3:8-9 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Ephesians 2:10 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Looking back at what you just wrote, write next to each verse any of the following statements that align with your response:

- a) "Yep, I've experienced this & it's helpful to remember."
- b) "That's a challenge."
- c) "Can't relate."

2. One of the challenges of learning to take one step at a time, "little by little," is that it requires patience. Patience is difficult because by definition it is something that causes us pain or resistance to how we would like things to go. Yet ironically, it is this kind of difficulty that causes us to develop patience and to grow. What encouragement can be taken from the following verses in terms of being patient, enduring challenges that slow us down, and learning how God wants us to grow?

Romans 5:3-5 *New International Version (NIV)*

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

James 1:2-4 *New International Version (NIV)*

Trials and Temptations

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Are there any areas in your life you think God may be telling you to grow your patience or character? If so, explain.

3. One of the enemy's best strategies to cause Christians to live a defeated life is to make them think they need to always take "giant leaps" to grow. He doesn't want us to realize that small consistent steps of obedience and spiritual health result in significant growth over the long haul. What could be the result of putting the below verses into action over time?

1 Thessalonians 5:17 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁷ pray continually,

Ephesians 4:29 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Psalms 1:2-3 *New International Version (NIV)*

² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law day and night.

³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

1 Peter 4:8-10 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Looking back at the verses, how might someone complicate the simple steps we're asked to take?

Do you have any ideas on how you could keep each action listed above doable?

Is there one you would like to put into practice on a more regular basis?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's message and study, are there any little steps you need to start taking to continue on the journey of growth that God has for you?

Prayer Requests:

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