

## PROMISES AND FACTS

(2012. New year blessing message)

***Ephes. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:***

Dear brothers and sisters! Greetings in the mighty name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. God is Love (**1 John 4:8**). He is the same yesterday, today and for ever (**Heb 13:8**). It is His will, that we have to be perfect by His words (**2 Tim 3:16**). His grace makes us to live righteously and Godly (**Tit 2:11, 12**). Christian life is not something we try and live as a Christian. It is “Christ living in us” (**Gal 2:20**). To live a life pleasing God, it is important that we know His word and do accordingly (**Josh 1:8, James 1:22-25**). As a believer, one should know the true nature of God, the difference between the Old and New Covenants, the difference between a miracle and a blessing, the difference between the Dispensation of law and the Dispensation of Grace... etc. These are some of the fundamental truths a believer should know in order to live a victorious Christian life. With this, it is important that a believer should know the difference between **PROMISES** and **FACTS**.

In this Bible Study, let us see what is a PROMISE, and what is a FACT? This will be very helpful for our spiritual and material life.

There are three important things in the Bible. They are 1. Promises. 2. Facts 3. Covenant.

**1. PROMISE.** Greek; epangelia (epi, "upon," angello, "to proclaim, announce"). Another meaning for this word is “a promise that something will be given or done“. God’s promise means, “Something He told that He will do or give”. Some Bible scholars further divide the Promises of God as ‘conditional promises’ and ‘unconditional promises’. Many of God’s promises are conditional. One has to fulfill the conditions in order to get those promises.

**2. FACTS.** A fact is something God said He would do or give and then had fulfilled it. Facts are not conditional. They are something which God knows that we cannot do and so He had done it by His grace.

**3. COVENANT.** An agreement made by God, with us in Christ. In the covenant, there will be many promises and facts.

For example the phrase “**Blessed shalt thou be**” in **Deuteronomy 28**, is a “**promise**”. When you read that chapter you can find these promises and the conditions associated with them. If you don’t fulfill the conditions there are curses mentioned.

But if you see the phrase in **Eph 1:3** “**hath blessed us**”, it is a “**fact**”. There are no conditions mentioned with this fact.

**John 16:7** .....”*But if I depart, I will send him unto you*” is a promise.

In **acts 2:1- 4** it is a fact. Now anybody (saved persons) can receive the Holy Spirit.

In the New Testament alone there are about 750 promises. Many of them are already fulfilled facts.

When we take a promise for us from the Old Testament, we should consider some important points.

1. For whom this particular promise was given?
2. Can I take this or receive this?

3. How can I receive this?
4. Is there any condition associated with this promise?

For example, Let us take one particular Old Testament promise, which everybody likes.

**“will I shew unto him marvellous things”.**

***Micah 7:15** According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things.*

Many people take this as a promise and decide that God will bring many miracles in their lives. Before believing and expecting such a promise, it is better to know some truths. First let us see, what is a **miracle**? A miracle is **‘A marvelous event manifesting a supernatural act of a divine agent’**. When God created this world and man, He did not create man for miracles. God created man and “blessed” him. That means God created man to be blessed. ***Gen 1:22, 28.***

Here, it is important that we know the difference between a miracle and a blessing. If a miracle has to take place, before that there should have been a dangerous situation. A miracle is required only to save a person from a dangerous situation. But a blessing is ‘being in state free of dangerous situations’, “being without any problems”. For example, a man suddenly had a heart attack. He was admitted in the hospital, and is in a critical condition. A man of God with faith prays and commands healing, and the man was miraculously healed. Doctors examine him and say “Oh! This is a miracle”. Yes, this is really a “miracle”. But God did not create man to have heart attacks, receive a miracle and then be healed. God created man to live without heart attacks. He didn’t create man to get heart attacks, receive a miracle and then live. He created man to live a healthy life without any heart attacks. I hope, by now you must have definitely understood the difference between a MIRACLE and a BLESSING. Getting a miraculous healing after a heart attack is a **“miracle”**; living a life healthy without any heart attack is a **“blessing”**

If you are in a financial trouble and without money, and you receive a large amount of money miraculously through someone is a **‘miracle’**; having enough money so that you never have a financial trouble is a **‘blessing’**.

An accident happens and someone miraculously escaped from that, is a **‘miracle’**; never having an accident is a **‘blessing’**.

God created man and blessed them, to remain blessed. Dear brother and sister, now decide which promise to take or ask from God. If you are really in a situation that you need a miracle, you can ask for a miracle and receive one. Then as much as possible learn to live a life without asking for any miracles. This is the will of God (3 ***John 2***). It is the will of God that you live in the blessings of God. You don’t have to live a life as ‘problem – miracle – problem – miracle’. Learn to live a life where there is no necessity for miracles.

More over, many of the Old Testament promises are conditional. You have to do this and this and then you will get this and this. But if you carefully read all the conditions associated with that particular promise, you will clearly understand that normally no one will be able to fulfill all the conditions.

For example, ***“Deut. 28:3** Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.”* If you want to take this promise, there is an associated condition mentioned in the first verse. ***Deut. 28:1** And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, .....*

Only Jesus Christ observed and did according to all of the commandments of God. No human being had ever done that, and cannot do in future also. Scriptures say this in many places. If we take this scripture as a promise, there is a danger also associated with that. What is it?

**Deut. 28:15** *But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:* There were curses for those who disobey even one command at any time. So believers need to be careful in selecting the promises from the Old Testament.

**Micah 7:15** *According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things.*

Let us take this verse again.

First, we will see, for whom this promise was given. If we take the book of Micah, in the first three chapters there are punishments, bondages and things which God said against the people of Israel. There are also blessed promises for the remnant. The chapters **4,5** say about the 1000 years rule, Babylonian bondage, the first advent of the Messiah ( **4:9-10. 5:1-2** ), the scattering of the people till the second advent of the Messiah ( **5:3** ), war with the antichrist ( **5:4-15** ). In **6:1 to 7:6** God says about the people of Israel and things against them.

**7:7-20** say about the future incidents when the covenant which God established with Abraham shall be fulfilled completely. So, when we take this promise mentioned in **7:15**, we should understand that it is really a promise given to the people of Israel which shall be accomplished in the future. This promise is actually given to the people of Israel.

Let us take one more example.

**Isaiah 45:2-4** *I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: [3] And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. [4] For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.*

Many people take this as a blessed promise and hold dearly. But if we see, for whom this promise was given, we can find out that this promise was given by God to the first Persian king Cyrus.

**Isaiah 45:1** *Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;*

**Isaiah 44:28** *That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.*

Let us take some of the verses which we use in calendars and posters.

**Jeremiah 1:8** *Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord.*

This promise was given to Jeremiah.

**Zech. 9:12** *.....even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee;*

This promise was given to the remnant.

**Isaiah 54:10** *For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.*

This promise was told to the Israel, this is about the separation of the mountain and a connection shall be formed to the dead sea ( **Eze 47, Zac 15:1-5** ).

**Isaiah 43:2** *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

This promise was given to the Israel (Isaiah **43:1**).

**Deut. 28:3** *Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.*

**Deut. 28:6** *Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.*

These promises were given to the Israelites through Moses (Deut **27:1**).

**Rev. 21:5** ..... *Behold, I make all things new.....*

God said about the renewing of earth and heavens in the end (Rev **21:1 – 22:5**)

Likewise, many of the promises we casually take are actually given to the people of Israel, and to some individuals. We should have a clear knowledge and learn, how can we take them for us, and how can we use them?

Throughout the Bible, great promises of blessings are given through God's covenant, and they are for us. They were promised in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, they are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

**2 Cor. 1:20** *For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*

**Galatians 3:7** *Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.*

**9** *So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.*

**13** *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

**14** *That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

**When we receive Jesus Christ, all these blessings are given with Him to us.**

**Ephes. 1:3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

A person, who received Jesus Christ as his Lord, need not wait for someone to come and give a Old Testament promise. He need not receive it from some one. He need not wait for Daily, weekly, monthly, yearly promises. He does not have to beg for them. If you have Jesus Christ, you have all the promised blessings of God. They all belong to you.

Dear brothers and sisters, some of you might have spent the year 2011 with problems, failures, sorrows, sickness and poverty etc. You may be prayerfully waiting for God to give you a good promise. Many people earnestly wait for the Lord to “do something new”. 2 Peter 1:3 says “**2 Peter 1:3** *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

This verse says, “God’s divine power **hath given** unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him”. This says **already given**. Continuing, the verse **2 Peter 1:4** says about great and precious promises.

To receive a promise, proper prayer is required. But it is not so for a fact. To receive a fact mentioned in the Bible, all we have to do is ‘**believe**’.

So, we have to understand whether we are taking a promise or a blessing from the bible, and according to the scriptures we should properly take a promise or a fact. Otherwise we may take a promise as a fact or a fact as a promise and become confused. When we ask something with God, which he had already given, is like unbelief and disrespectful. Like wise, whatever faith may be present, we cannot ask for something which God had not promised by his Grace.

We will read Eph 1:3 in some other Bible versions.

***Ephes. 1:3*** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: (KJV)*

*"May blessing (praise, laudation, and eulogy) be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual (given by the Holy Spirit) blessing in the heavenly realm!" (AMP)*

*"May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be eulogized, the One who conferred benefactions upon us in the sphere of every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ," (The New Testament: An Expanded Translation by Kenneth S. Wuest )*

*"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," (RSV)*

***Eph 1:3-14*** verses say about the marvelous things God has done for his children. These all are "Facts". God has done these by His Grace. To receive these, all we have to do is "believe and accept". One great fact among these verses is ***Eph 1:3***, ***"who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"***

## All

In the phrase 'all spiritual blessings', The Greek word for 'all' is 'pas'. The meaning is "*all, any, every, the whole, all manner of, means, always, whatsoever, whole, whosoever.*"

## Hath blessed.

There are two words translated "blessed," **makarios**, which means "happy" in the sense of "prosperous," used in ***Matt 5:3-11***, for instance, "Spiritually prosperous are the poor in spirit"; and **eulogetos**, used here, means "**to speak well of**" (our word "eulogize"). When we bless (speak well of) God, it is usually only words. But when God 'bless' (speak well of) us, it is not only words, it is with action. **In word and thought we bless God because in deed and positive effect He blesses us**". When we see the tense of this phrase "**hath blessed**" it is in aorist tense. This means an action which was completed and its effect is still on. God had blessed us with words and deeds and its effects are always present.

## All spiritual blessings.

Many dear believers do not esteem this wonderful precious blessing which is for now and forever and take it. Instead they take some promise, which was given to somebody at sometime, as their promise for the New Year, new month and new day. One reason why many do not esteem this blessed fact is the misunderstanding of the word '**spiritual**' in this verse. They take spiritual blessing as opposite to material or physical blessing. They think, spiritual blessings mean only tongues, gifts, redemption, eternal life, adoption etc.

The correct meaning of 'all spiritual blessings' is "**Blessings which are produced and given by the Holy Spirit**"

Now we will see whether this meaning is correct according to the Bible. In the New Testament the word 'spiritual' (Gk;Pneumatikos) is used in the following places (***1 Pet 2:5 ;Col. 3:16 ;Col. 1:9 ;Eph. 6:12, 5:19, 1:3 ;Gal 6:1 ; 1 Cor. 15:46,44 ;14:37 ;14:1 ;12:1 ;10:3-4 ;9:11 ;3:1 ;2:15 ;2:13 Romans 15:27 ;7:14 ;1:11***)

We will see some of the explanations given by some Bible scholars.

*"Pneumatikos (spiritual) in the N.T., always implies the working of the Holy Spirit, never bearing merely our modern inaccurate sense of spiritual as opposed to bodily."*

.....Alford

*"Paul emphasizes in this epistle the work of the divine Spirit upon the human spirit. Not spiritual as distinguished from bodily, but proceeding from the Holy Spirit."*

.....Vincent

*"It is best ... to take pneumatikos (spiritual) to define the blessings in question as spiritual in the sense that they are the blessings of grace, blessings of a divine order, belonging to the sphere of immediate relations between God and man. It is true that these come from God through the Spirit. But the point in view is what they are, not how they reach us. There is little to suggest either that a contrast is drawn between the blessings of the gospel and the more temporal blessings of the O.T. economy ... There is still less to suggest that the statement is to be limited to the extraordinary gifts of the Spirit, healing, tongues, etc. This latter supposition is refuted by the all inclusive 'all.' The expression is a large one, covering all the good that comes to us by grace — whether the assurance of immortality, the promise of the resurrection, the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven, the privilege of adoption, etc."*

..... Expositors

*Summing up the above authorities we would say that the expression, "spiritual blessings" refers to blessings that are by their very character such as come from the Holy Spirit. We have here therefore, a balance, on the one hand, the kind of blessings, Spirit-produced, and on the other hand, the source of these blessings, the Holy Spirit.*

.....Wuest

From all these biblical explanations we can understand that **‘spiritual blessings’** means **‘blessings given through the Holy Spirit’**

### **In heavenly places**

This place denotes the abode of God. This is not ordinary places which are in the sky. This is above than that. The place where God lives. The place where Jesus ascended after His resurrection and is being seated on the right hand side of the Father. The epistle of Ephesians is the one which talk about the works of the ascended Christ. All the spiritual blessings come from the place where God is and reign.

### **How to experience all these blessings in your life in the year 2012 and in the coming years?**

From all this above we have to understand that these blessings are not something for which we have to fight or beg. But these are blessings we have to **find and enjoy**. When you read this a doubt may arise in your mind, 'Why then Jesus said to Ask?'

**Matthew 7:7** Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

When we see the **8-11** verses, we can understand that Jesus is telling "as a child asks his parents, we also should ask God". The Greek word for 'Ask' is 'aiteo' and the meaning of this word is **‘A demand of something due’**. This is asking like a child who is coming from the school and asks his mother, "Mummy! I am hungry give me something to eat". No child goes to his parents, kneel down and beg saying "mummy, please give me some food to eat, please give some

money to buy my school books, my head is paining please heal me”. If you go to a house and see a child in that house begging like this, what would you think? Won’t you think, there is something wrong in this house, these parents are not good? Does not our God love us more than our earthly parents?

**Romans 8:32** *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

If we have a health problem and go to a doctor and ask him to heal us, will he say “If you want, I will give my only son to you, but I will not give some medicines to heal you”. Think about this. Actually **Romans 8:32** is asking such a question only; “God our loving father gave His only begotten son to suffer and die for us, without our asking; will he not give things like some money, healing, power, spiritual gifts, relief from problem etc ? Can He be like that?

When a child runs to his parents and demand for food, that shows the faith which the child has upon his parents. It shows that the child has faith that my parents are good parents and they keep everything ready for me in the proper time. **Jesus is teaching that our asking should be like this.**

The “**all spiritual blessings**” mentioned in **Eph 1:3** are true. They are more real than those things which we can touch, feel and see. When we believe this, and do works according to that faith and cooperate with the principles of Jesus, we can experience and enjoy all these blessings in our day to day life.

For example, let us take ‘**financial needs**’. Many believers live in poverty. Money is one of the blessings among “all blessings” God blessed us with.

**Proverbs 10:22** *The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.*

**3 John 1:2** *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

**2 Cor. 9:8** *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

**2 Cor. 8:9** *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

It is a ‘**fact**’ that Jesus became poor, so that we through His poverty might become rich.

**How to experience this blessing in 2012?** Believe this word, and believe this as a “**fact**”, do works according to the faith and cooperate with the principles of Jesus. You will see that your financial **problem** is over and you will reach a position where you will be able to give to others who are in need of money.

**Luke 6:38** *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

Next, we will take “**Healing**”. Healing is one of the blessings among “all blessings” God blessed us with. In the New Testament, one of the great “**fact**” is we “**were healed**”.

**1 Peter 2:24** *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye **were healed**.*

“**Were healed**” is in past tense. It is an accomplished fact. We don’t have to actually fight for healing. All we have to do is keep the healing which Jesus purchased and gave to us, from devil stealing it.

**John 10:10** *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (3 John 1:2; Ps 35:27)*

**How to experience this blessing in 2012?** Believe this word, and believe this as a “**fact**”, do works according to the faith and cooperate with the principles of Jesus. We can live with complete health. Proper food, proper sleep, exercise and resisting the devil when he bring some sickness are some of the things which we do to cooperate the principles of Jesus. Then the devil will run with his diseases (**Jam 4:7**). Sometimes this may not be possible by everyone at the first instance. But after some practice, all believers can do this and live in divine health (**Heb 5:14**).

**Matthew 7:8** *For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

**Hebrews 6:12** *That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

**Hebrews 10:36** *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

Likewise we can experience all the blessings of the Holy Spirit. We can live a blessed life. We can be a blessing for others also. **“who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” This is a great fact.**

Dear brother, sister,

Thank and praise God for all the blessings of the last year and the previous years.

God had blessed us with all the blessings of the Holy Spirit. These are from heavenly places.

We are blessed with spiritual gifts, eternal life, peace, joy, prosperity, health, redemption, answer for prayer, fruit of the Spirit.... Etc...

Experience and enjoy all these blessings in the year 2012 and in the coming years. Be blessed. Be a blessing for others.

Amen.

**Bro. D. Vergin kumar.**

If you need any clarifications kindly contact me in [deeveekumar@yahoo.com](mailto:deeveekumar@yahoo.com) Ph; 25572195, 99663557. Your comments are welcome.

**Resources;** Dakes bible commentary, Andrew Wommack bible commentary, Wuest's bible commentary, Amplified bible, Greek Inter linear Bible, Strong's Bible concordance, Vine's expository dictionary of the New Testament words, Wuest's New Testament word studies, New covenant - By Watchman nee ...etc. All bible quotes mentioned in group, are from King James Version bible, unless quoted otherwise. In the Tamil bible some verses may be before or after. (KJV). King James Version. (RSV) Revised Standard Version. (AMP) Amplified Bible.

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