



Teaching Letter 1

Our “Amen” to God’s Promises

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why we utter the Amen through him, to the glory of God” (2 Corinthians 1:20, RSV).

God has given many promises in His Word. In this verse Paul tells us **all** God’s promises find their “yes” in Jesus. It is God’s enthusiastic “yes.” Nowhere in this verse do we find “maybe.” It doesn’t say God has to think about it for a while. God gives His wholehearted and resounding “yes” when He makes a promise. The promise is as sure as Jesus, and He is the faithful and true. He is our sure foundation. He is our rock, like Gibraltar—only better.

Some of God’s promises have conditions. God, however, does not leave us wondering about those. When there are conditions, they are given plainly. He tells us how we can meet them, and then He provides His help so we can meet them.

Next, Paul tells us “we utter the Amen through him.” This means we should respond to God’s promises with some kind of verbal agreement. Some people say “amen” when the preacher says something exceptionally important or exciting in his or her sermon. Often only one or two persons in the congregation respond this way. Paul indicates, however, we all should respond to God’s promises with our own “amen,” whether that is aloud or within our hearts. “Amen” means *yes* or *so be it*. God wants us to say our “let it be” with His.

A few weeks ago, as I was thinking about a new prayer group to be started at church, I felt the Lord would have us intercede for the promises. I was thankful for the leading of the Lord and excited about the implications. To me that means

God wants to bring some of His promises on through the heavenlies and to us at this time.

It also means there must be some resistance by Satan as he would try to prevent us from receiving those promises. Satan will always oppose God’s will and work! One example is when Daniel interceded 21 days for the fulfillment of God’s promise that the Babylonian captivity would last 70 years. (See Daniel 9.) Daniel realized the time was completed, so he fasted and prayed. The answer to Daniel’s prayer was sent from heaven on the first day Daniel prayed. At the end of 21 days, the answer came through, and an angel told Daniel about the warfare in heaven between God’s angels and Satan’s Prince of Persia (a principality or ruling angel over that area). It was Daniel’s intercession for the promise that made the difference.

There are three types of promises for which I believe we should intercede. The first is Scriptural promises that reveal God’s desire or plan on a large scale. An example is found in Acts 2:17: “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.” God is doing this already; however, He wants to increase this as we proceed further in the last days. He wants to increase this in areas that are experiencing spiritual dryness. We should pray for the fulfillment of this promise and others.

The second type is any promise God has made to your local church. If you are part of a

Spirit-filled local congregation where the gifts of the Holy Spirit operate, from time to time God may speak specific promises to your church. The full extent of the promise may not be experienced as God would like if you make little or no intercession for it.

The third type is any promise God has made to you personally. This can be either from His Word—a promise that applies to a particular need you currently have—or a rhema Word spoken to you by the Holy Spirit. These are personal and powerful Words from the Lord that we cherish. I believe God has individual promises He has either spoken or wants to speak to all who belong to Him. Let's intercede and break through Satan's resistance to their fulfillment.

The idea of interceding for promises may be foreign to some. I am not by any means saying God is limited, blocked or hindered. The Psalmist tells us, "Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven..." (Psalm 119:89). However, God's Word is resisted on earth. It is our agreement with, speaking forth, and interceding for the promises that help establish God's Word and will on earth and in our lives. **SH**

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