

INTRODUCTION

Understanding the hope, we have been given enables us to position ourselves to be sure candidates of the great apprehension (apprehending that for which Christ has apprehended us). This meditation will be in two parts, where we will consider key building blocks for our hope.

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; [11] If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. [12] Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:10-12

What is the Power of His Resurrection? It is the Holy Spirit. This means that the resurrection of the dead is the end goal. However, for us to attain to these things, we must give ourselves to the fellowship of His suffering and the Power of His resurrection, being made conformable unto His death. On account of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was made available to us. Jesus suffered once and for all, in this, He destroyed the old man forever. He bound the strong man that held us captive and now because of this, we have the power to love righteousness and hate iniquity. Therefore, Paul calls it the good fight of faith. The enemy has been destroyed; however, the war is not finished. Like the Lord told Israel, He thrusts out our enemies before us and says, destroy them. *Deuteronomy 33:27*. He would not ask us to destroy enemies if there were no enemies to destroy. The whole purpose of this fight, like God told the Israelites in Judges 1 and 2 is so that the people will learn war. The fellowship of His Sufferings speaks of the constant denial that enables us to be conformed and one with His death. When this happens, your Spirit becomes alive to God and you are dead to the pulls of this world.

Anchor Scripture: 2 Peter 1

2 Peter 1:1 KJV

Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

The word "Obtained" here is "Lagchano" which means to obtain by a divine allotment. It is an allotment, a portion and a right given legally to everyone of us by God. We should look at this faith that we have received as a portion. We have been given this faith as a possession that we are to possess.

The verse continues, saying it was given to us by the righteous judgement of God. Like when a judge gives a ruling, we have been given by right, a place in the Holy Land and nothing can cheat us out of it. Knowing that you are a land also has some implication. When God told Israel, if you defile this land, it will spew you out. This explains the concept of spiritual death and physical death as well. Therefore *Jude 1:3* says we should earnestly contend for the faith that was delivered unto the faith. The Lord Himself is fully committed to this allotment. He has promised to water it every moment. *Psalm 16:5* says God maintains our lot. *Deuteronomy 32:9* shows that God seeks to inherit this lot.

2 Peter 1:2-3 KJV

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, [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:

The divine power has given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness. This means Zoey (the Life of God, reigning in life's full glory) and godliness (ability to be devout). This power that raised Jesus up from the grave has been given to us. However, this is wrought through the knowledge of Him that has called us unto glory and virtue. We have been called unto Glory and Virtue (Excellence). The exceeding great and precious promises have the capacity to work in us the Divine nature. *1 Chronicles 22:5* shows that the house that must be built for the Lord must be exceeding magnificent. The exceeding great and precious promises have the capacity to minister unto us the divine nature. These promises can alter everything in you, producing in you the divine nature. It annihilates any cultural, religious, biological human nature and it imprints the basic imprints of Jehovah in a man. The exceeding great and precious promises are things we are looking forward to, but they are also necessary to set our hopes aright.

THE SEVEN GREAT PROMISES

These great and precious promises are the subject matter that are addressed by Jesus in Revelations 2 and 3. It is important to note that Jesus was speaking to the body (church) in these verses, but when he spoke to the promise, He said to Him who overcomes. This means that each one of us will stand as individuals before the throne of God. The Word "Overcomes" is Nicao which means to conquer.

Promise 1- Revelation 2:7 KJV

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

What Is the Tree of Life?

[Genesis 2:9](#) shows that the tree of life is in the midst of the garden. *Revelations 2:7* says it is in the paradise of God. [Genesis 3:22](#) says he who eats it will live forever. Jesus introduced Himself as the bread that when a man eats He will live forever. This tree of life was guarded by cherubim with a flaming sword. This means we must go through the slaying and the burning of the word of God. *Proverbs 3* speaks of Wisdom as a tree of Life. Wisdom is one of the manifestations of Christ unto us, *1 Corinthians 1:30*. Jesus is that tree of life. To partake, you must be found in a paradise of God. This is a totally devout closet experience with Him. [Proverbs 13:12](#) says that the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life. As we begin to feast on the tree of life, we become trees of life. Our hope is immortality, where we do not depend on the oxygen to live. This means we have Life in ourselves and can give Life. The bible says He who have this hope purifies Himself. We are the ones who will wrap this age. The Lamb in the *book of Revelations* simply opened the seals. All the activities done in the book of revelation were done by Human angels (Messengers). We have been given a very high calling. This was what the saints of old held on to, their faith, and faced the worst persecution. When Paul said He was delivered from the mouth of the lion in *2 timothy 4:17*, it was not a spiritual lion. Men were used as game, thrown to lions for the amusement of the crowd. These men were torn in pieces for their faith and did not accept deliverance. In *2 timothy 4:6-7* Paul said he was ready to be offered, this was a violent death. The Lord has called us to make us trees of Life, these are mature sons. The leaves of the tree of life will heal every nation. Every ill: social, technological, medical, etc. will be healed by these Mature sons. *Revelations 22:14* says blessed are they that keep His commandment and they have the right (Authority) to the tree of Life. Not just any Christian will have this privilege, but those who have partaken of the tree of Life.

Promise 2- Revelation 2:10-11 KJV

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. [11] He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

A crown of life exempts you from being hurt of the second death. The first death is that which came through Adam. Christ revived us, but if one dies again not in Christ, this is the second death. Paul spoke about the crown of Righteousness in *2 timothy 4:7-8*. Darker times are coming for the church and many will pay for this faith with their lives. However, there is a promise of the crown of life. We are promised Divine Nature, which is divine life plus divine body. *James 1:12* speaks of the crown of life. However, this was written 50 years before God showed this revelation to John in the Isle of Patmos, this shows that they were all speaking by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The crown of life is given to them that love Him, that keep His commandment to the letter. Part of divine life is to be animate, not just going to heaven and being a monk or singing hallelujah all day. There is a lot of work to be done in the age to come.

Promise 3- Revelation 2:17 KJV

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

The manna is God's sufficient Word for every situation, *Deuteronomy 8:3*. *Psalms 78:25* refers to this as angel's food. *John 6:31, 49, 58* also speak about Jesus as the bread of Life. The manna is God's Word, the divine sustenance that takes man away from any other thing. Money cannot sustain man. God converted the whole riches of Egypt in one night and gave it to Israel when leaving Egypt, *Deuteronomy 12:35-36*. However, it was useless for their sustenance. Their clothes grew on them and never wore out.

The Hidden manna was found in the Holiest of all, inside the ark, *Hebrews 9:4*. It was not accessible to everyone, only the high priest once a year could access it and he did so with much reverence. The hidden manna speaks of the uniqueness of every individual. It is the Divine counsel for you. No one can tell it to you, your children cannot, nor your spouse. There are higher dimensions of God available to you as you continue to stay steadfastly in the house of God. It is the white stone, given to each man. When Paul

received his, He did not confer with flesh and blood, but sought the Lord, *Galatians 1:15-17*. These are counsels that are unique to a person, not just in this world, but in the world to come.

Promise 4- Revelation 2:26-28 KJV

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: [27] And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. [28] And I will give him the morning star.

This promise is for those who keep the business of God. They are people that have kept the charge of the Lord to the end. Matters of Judgement are for people with the mind of God, not given to sentiment. Divine judgement is not to be handled with human reasoning or sentiment. Think of David who slew whole communities, women and Children alike. What is your attitude towards the house of God? All things that are hidden will be seen. If you cannot tend to your house or the house of God, how can you keep the nations?

Conclusion

Some people are waiting for supernatural encounters to believe in Jesus. Peter saw Jesus transfigure in front of His eyes, saw Moses and Elijah, yet He denied Jesus three times. Encounters do not guarantee stability in faith, although they are good. Peter calls what we have a more sure word of prophecy. These promises give us a light and it gets brighter and brighter as we tend to it. What is planted in you is to shine brighter and brighter. It cannot be aborted. It will shine until it breaks open till the final day. When you begin to see your inward part get bitter, a discomfort for sin, it is a proof that there is something planted in you. It will make you to learn to choose the life and hate evil, *Isaiah 7:15*.

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. [17] For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. [18] And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. [19] We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 2 Peter 1:16-19 KJV

The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with your Spirit. Amen