

Where are the Jewels?

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises,” wrote the apostle Peter, “that by *these* ye might be partakers of the divine nature.” (2 Peter 1:4). How many times have you been feeling discouraged, sad, or all alone in this world, and had a friend share with you a promise that *must* have been written just for you? God has given us promises in the Bible for special situations—to keep us from discouragement, and help in every time of need. I believe that we must take time to study and dig for specific Bible promises, so they are accessible when we need them most.

Many people claim a Bible promise or two, but no verse applies to every situation. Philippians 4:13 is a well-known favorite to Christians: “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me;” and Romans 8:28 is another: “and we know that all things work together for good....” Yes, those are encouraging promises, but repeating the same verses day after day, month after month, year after year, can become monotonous and boring. After a while, we forget to claim Bible promises, simply because they do not mean much to us anymore.

Now we will look at the situation from a jeweler’s point of view. Can you cut and polish an intricate diamond with only a hammer? Obviously not—it would smash to pieces! You must also have a holder, a cleaving iron, and a polishing wheel, before you can even *begin* to try. We can learn a lesson from this in the spiritual realm. God’s Word is like a box of tools to help us complete the “diamond cutting” in our characters. You cannot use only one verse, one chapter, or even one book. Each promise is another tool necessary to complete the delicate work.

Are you weary and disheartened? Do stormy clouds of gloom and despair threaten to smother you, blocking your view of the Light above? Do you feel like your situation is so helpless, that it is impossible to find a promise for what you are going through? I have good news for you! There is no reason to worry or fret. The Bible is like a giant mine—full of promises for unique situations, just waiting to be discovered. When you seek God in prayer for help and strength, He may apply a Bible verse to your circumstances that you may have never thought was a promise—especially one written for you!

An experience like this happened to me one summer day while colporteur in New Jersey. It had been a long, hard day, and I had only sold two books since lunch. Beads of sweat trickled down my face as I plodded down the street, facing rejection after rejection, door after door. What was wrong? Why wasn’t God helping me? Discouragement threatened to overwhelm my feeble attempts to be cheerful, and I started praying earnestly for God to provide some encouragement. You can only imagine my surprise when this verse came to mind... “And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.” (Job 42:10) What did that have to do with my situation? Sure, I had memorized the verse years earlier, but not as a promise to help with discouragement! What did God want to teach me?

It was not long before the answer came, “And the Lord turned the discouragement of Kristina, when she prayed for her friends: also the Lord gave Kristina twice as many sales as before.” After pondering the verse for a moment, I began to pray for the others who were out colporteur with me. This took my mind off the discouragement and enabled me to claim the promise. The temperature did not suddenly drop to a comfortable level, neither did the people miraculously turn friendly, but God is always faithful. During the last hour of work that day, He doubled my sales. Praise God for His goodness!

There are many, yes hundreds, of promises in Scripture, but they cannot be found by passively waiting for them to magically appear. We must search diligently to find what God wants to teach us. He has promised that when we seek, we shall find if we search with “*all* our heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13) I have found a valuable tool in making a promise book. Each time another rare jewel is discovered, I write it down. This proves a marvelous blessing when there are times of need, when a friend needs a lift, or when I’m feeling like God is not answering my prayers. The book is always available for review. By faith, I can claim the promises, and rest assured that God does not forsake His own.

I encourage you to search for the treasures that God has hid for *you* in His word. You will find blessings for every situation, and promises you never dreamed were there. Most importantly, you will learn more about God’s marvelous character and love, and He will draw you closer to Himself.