

## Faith to Obtain the Promise

*Luke 4:15-21*

*15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.*

*16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.*

*17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,*

*18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath **anointed** me to **preach** the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to **heal the brokenhearted**, to **preach** deliverance to the captives, and **recovering of sight to the blind**, to **set at liberty them that are bruised**,*

*19 To **preach** the acceptable year of the Lord.*

*20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.*

*21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.*

### I. Introduction

1. Jesus great commission was to fulfil prophecy concerning himself.
2. We read of many grand promises in the Bible, promises of blessings, healings, provision, restoration, comfort, strength, salvation, and the list goes on.
3. But what good will grand promises be to us if we never receive them?
4. If rather than blessed, we feel cursed;
5. if rather than healed, we are afflicted;
6. if instead of provision, we are destitute;
7. if instead of restoration, we have brokenness;
8. if instead of comfort, we have pain;
9. if instead of strength, we have weakness;
10. and if instead of salvation, we are captives under some evil domination.
11. What good are promises to those? How can we move from peril to promise? How can we move from broken to blessed?
12. I want to preach to you this morning on **Faith to Obtain the Promise**

### II. Promises of the Messiah

1. Before we talk about the role that faith plays in obtaining promises, let's talk about the promises we just read.

*Luke 4:18-19*

*18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath **anointed** me to **preach** the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to **heal the brokenhearted**, to **preach** deliverance to the captives, and **recovering of sight to the blind**, to **set at liberty them that are bruised**,*

*19 To **preach** the acceptable year of the Lord.*

2. Jesus was of course quoting from Isaiah 61:1-2
3. **[2 slides comparing Isaiah 61 and Luke 4]**
4. Anointed

5. Preach the good tidings to the meek (preach the gospel to the poor)
6. Bind the broken hearted (Heal [bind up the wounds of] the brokenhearted)
7. Preach deliverance to captives
8. Opening of the prison to them that are bound (Recovering of sight to the blind, set at liberty them that are bruised)
9. To proclaim (preach) the acceptable year of the LORD
10. If any of those describe where you are and what you are going through, God has a promise for you.

### III. Faith for a promise

#### A. Faith as substance and evidence

1. But we need more than just a promise, we need something we can grasp, something with substance, something that brings hope and help. And we need it **now!**
2. **Now**, let me introduce you to the solution:  
*Heb 11:1-2*  
*1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*  
*2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.*
3. The bottom line is this: God has a promise for the situation I am I, and if I want to receive that promise, and live in that promise, I need to grasp the promise through faith until it becomes a substance in my hand, and evidence I can see.
4. Faith is not blindly following a hollow delusion simply to take our minds off the reality of our problems.
5. No, **faith is a substance** we can feel.
6. **Faith is evidence** we can see.
7. And it is not faith in faith. It is not faith in you. It is not faith in the power of positive thinking.
8. It is faith in Jesus. Jesus said He was anointed to preach, deliver, and heal. It is His promises we are believing in. And a condition of receiving those promises is believing in the Source of the promises:  
*Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*
9. Minus faith, we cannot please God. It is impossible.
10. If we were to ask God this question: "God, what can I do to please you?"
11. He would answer, "Start by having faith in me."
12. That is fundamental. That is foundational. That is just the basics. We must believe that God is.
13. That is why He revealed His name as the "I Am." Believe that God is.

#### B. Faith as a drawing power

1. And notice the action that is in mind that faith is the fuel for. "**He that cometh to God.**"
2. God wants us to have faith in Him so that we will come to Him.

3. And it is emphasized again with a more fine-tuned focus in that last phrase: “**diligently seek him.**”
  4. It is not just coming to God that pleases Him, it is our diligent search for Him that He wants to see. That pleases Him. God wants personal relationship to be the basis of our faith.
  5. And those who diligently seek Him will be rewarded for that search.
  6. That is what faith is about.
  7. God is; He wants me to come to Him, diligently seeking Him; and He will reward that effort.
- C. Faith as sight
1. So when the scripture says faith is **substance** and **evidence** of things **hoped for** and **unseen**, we can apply that in an illustration.
  2. It is pretty likely that someone listening in today has a backache. When you are praying in faith for a healing, faith begins with us grasping for substance and evidence.
  3. Picture Jesus before you. He wants you to diligently seek Him so picture Him standing before you and you are asking Him for help.
  4. Then your faith grasps for substance and evidence: You see the hand of Jesus touching your back where the pain is, and then you begin to feel something. Perhaps a warm tingling feeling in that spot. And you hear Jesus saying, “According to your faith, so be it unto you.”
  5. That is one way to move your faith to become an action where you are “he that cometh to God diligently seeking Him.”
  6. And for that kind of faith, He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek His promise.
  7. If it is a healing of a back pain, head pain, or any other kind of physical pain.
  8. Or if it is a broken heart that you need to be healed, He is there with that promise.
  9. If you need sight, either your physical vision or for guidance through a dark place, He came to give recovering of sight to the blind.
  10. If you are a captive to some kind of bondage or addiction, He came to give deliverance.
  11. If you have been bruised and oppressed, He came to set you at liberty.
  12. Some read that passage and see a government program as the solution to these problems, but Jesus said He was anointed to preach deliverance for them.
  13. And it is our faith that brings our problem into connection with Jesus’ promise.
- D. Faith as a bridge to the promise
1. To demonstrate that, after telling people His mission in ministry, people brought their needs to Him, and very often connected their blessing to their faith:
  2. It is Jesus’ purpose, but happens according to your faith:  
*Matt 8:5-6, 13*  
*5 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,*  
*6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.*

*13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.*

3. *Matt 9:28-29*

*28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.*

*29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, **According to your faith be it unto you.***

4. *Matt 15:22, 28*

*22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.*

*28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, **great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.** And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.*

5. *Mark 10:49-52*

*49 And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.*

*50 And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.*

*51 And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.*

*52 And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; **thy faith hath made thee whole.** And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.*

E. What faith obtains

1. Hebrews 11 details the Heroes of Faith.

2. Notice the things that these individuals received because of faith.

3. Elders obtained a good report

4. We know God framed the world

5. Abel offered an excellent sacrifice

6. Enoch was translated

7. Noah was forewarned and took action

8. Abraham obeyed and followed not knowing the plan

9. Sarah conceived

10. Abraham offered his son

11. Isaac blessed Jacob

12. Jacob blessed his sons

13. Moses' parents hid him from harm

14. Moses chose suffering over temporary pleasures

15. The red sea parted

16. Rahab helped the spies

17. Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephtha, David, Samuel subdued kingdoms

18. Others obtained promises

19. Stopped mouths of lions

20. Quenched violence

21. Escaped the sword
  22. Their weakness became strength and valor
  23. The dead rose to life
  24. Others faced trials, torture and even death
  25. All of these responded to God's promises by faith and received a good report.
- F. If they had not responded by faith
1. But what if they had not responded by faith?
  2. They would not have obtained a good report; would not have known their world was framed by God; would not have offered an excellent sacrifice; would not have been translated;
  3. They would not have been forewarned to take action; would not have Abraham obeyed and followed; would have not conceived; would not have offered his son; would not have blessed his sons; would not have hidden their son from harm;
  4. They would not have chosen suffering over temporary pleasures; the red sea would not have parted; would not have helped the spies; would not have subdued kingdoms, obtained promises, stopped mouths of lions, quenched violence, escaped the sword, or become strong in valor.
  5. They would not have seen their dead rise to life, and could not have faced trials, torture and or death with courage.
  6. But through faith, they pursued God's promises and received a good report.
  7. Those were all amazing stories of having faith to obtain a promise.
  8. But what if they had not responded by faith? What if they had not taken action to come to God and diligently seek Him?
  9. Without faith, that list of victories would have been a list of defeats.
  10. Worse yet, we probably would have never even known about them.
  11. They would have been examples of so many who have a promise, but never receive the promise.
  12. And we have the same precious promises, but for you and I, we have something even better:  
*Heb 11:39-40*  
*39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:*  
*40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*
  13. We have received the added blessing of Jesus coming as God in the flesh and not only giving promises to heal the brokenhearted, deliverance to the captives, sight to the blind, and liberty to the bruised, but that we can also have our sins forgiven Jesus who shed His blood to atone for our sins.
  14. And it is important to remember that Jesus did not come just to deliver from sickness and physical suffering. He used healing miracles to stir the faith to believe for the deliverance from sin:  
*Luke 24:46-47*  
*46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise*

*from the dead the third day:*

*47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

15. And we also have the promise available to us of the promise of the Father—we can receive the gift of the Holy Ghost!

IV. Conclusion: Shield of faith

1. We have been talking about faith to obtain the promise.
2. We have a Savior in Jesus Christ, and it was He who said He was anointed to preach the gospel, heal the brokenhearted, deliver the captives, give sight to the blind, set at liberty those who are bruised, and most of all, forgive our sins and baptize us with His Spirit.
3. If we diligently seek Him, if we ask forgiveness, if we ask for the Holy Ghost, we will find those things.
4. Those are all precious promises that our Savior paid the price for and now freely offers them to us.
5. But we obtain through faith. And we miss out through no faith and weak faith.
6. Without faith, just think of how many promises we are missing.
7. And just think of how many fiery darts are damaging us:  
*Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*