

The Promise Of Father

What It Means to Us

BY
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“The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name. He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26.

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Foreword

MANY and various are the books that have been written concerning the Holy Spirit. They discourse on His personality, His place in the Godhead, and His gracious ministration on earth. These make edifying and instructive reading for the theologian, the Bible student, and the teacher of doctrine. Their theme is so many-sided and exhaustless that it affords a field of unending study and delight to the writer and the reader alike. We may not and must not depreciate the value of such books.

But it remains for the writer of this little volume to lead us into an interpretation of the Scriptures concerning the work of the Holy Spirit that is at once unique in kind and intensely practical in value. He is inspired by the one motive that governs all his preaching and personal labor, to open the Scriptures to the understanding of the simple as well as the wise, and to apply them definitely and helpfully to the daily Christian walk. His interest in doctrine is that it may teach us how to live. His conception of dogma is that of a framework for principles that should govern the daily conduct. His view of theology is that it should make us better men and women, better Christians.

Every word that is said here the reader will find confirmed in the chapters that follow. The writer, my beloved friend and brother, C. H. Watson, is here at his best as a Christian teacher. Pressed by the administrative cares of a world movement, and hampered by impairment of health from conscientious devotion to labor beyond his strength, he has enjoyed a closeness of walk with God into which he earnestly desires to lead others. This volume is the fruit of that desire.

It is fortunate that he bases his theme on "the promise of the Father" given us as an expression of His gracious love toward the children of men. The fulfillment of that promise in the sending of the Paraclete, "which is the Holy Ghost," is unfolded in its marvelous meaning to us in personal Christian living from day to day. Though in the chapter themes doctrinal terms are often used, interpretations will readily be seen to be eloquent with truth, uplifting in power, and sustaining in encouragement to earnest and faithful Christian living.

The lesson of the book is that in battling with the flesh, in the keeping of the law, in the overcoming of the world, in short, in the triumph over sin, our loving Father has made available to us the power of the Holy Spirit in all its fullness for our preparation, at the present auspicious hour, to meet the Lord Jesus in joy at His imminent coming.

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W. E. HOWELL

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THE PROMISE

“Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you!”
Luke 24:49.

WAIT FOR THE PROMISE

“Wait for the promise of the Father.” Acts 1: 4.

THE PROMISE RECEIVED

“Being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth this, which you now see and hear.” Acts 2:33.

THE SEAL OF BELIEVERS

“After that you believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.” Ephesians 1: 13.

The Doing of God's Will

IN HIS dealings with man, God does all things according to His own will. It is according to the good pleasure of His will that we become His children through Jesus Christ, God having chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world. According to the good pleasure of His will, too, He has chosen that we should be holy and without blame before Him. Ephesians 1: 4, 5. These acts of His will cannot be changed, for God's will is immutable. As it was before the world began, so it still is. It never has been altered. Though opposed by every force of evil, and often frustrated by the weak and wandering wills of His people, the will of God has remained the same.

Seven hundred years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah was heard voicing the soul-moving lament concerning the people of Israel in their waywardness: “O that thou had hearkened to My commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.” Isaiah 48:18. An echo of this lament is again heard from the lips of the Lord of glory Himself, when, in the flesh, He walked with men and beheld Jerusalem wholly gone aside from the ways of God. “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that kills the prophets, and stoned them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathered her chickens under her wings, and you would not!” Matthew 23:37. But the apostle Paul who has so wonderfully taught us regarding the will and purpose of God, and who had such “great heaviness and continual sorrow” of heart for his unbelieving “kinsman according to the flesh,”

