

Living by Faith in the Promises of the Word, Part 3
Living Faith in Action

How does faith embrace God's promises?

1. Living faith embraces God's promises with fear

Psalm 115:11 *You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!*

Isaiah 50:10 *Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him ... trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.*

“Fearing God is not a negative experience for those who love God. It is the kind of deeply satisfying trembling, and sweet humility and submission that rises in the presence of the absolute power and holiness of God.” (Piper, *Future Grace* [1995], 242)

Psalm 31:19 *Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you!*

Psalm 34:9 *Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!*

Psalm 115:13 *He will bless those who fear the Lord, both the small and the great.*

Luke 1:50 *His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.*

Psalm 86:11 *Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.*

2. Living faith embraces God's promises with gratitude

Numbers 14:11 *And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?"*

Psalms 78:15, 17, 22 *He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert... because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power.*

3. Living faith embraces God's promises in continual dependence upon the Spirit

Galatians 3:2-3, 5

4. Living faith embraces God's promises through prayer

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

"Prayer is the great link of faith between the soul of the saint and the promise of future grace.... Prayer is drawing on the account where God has deposited all his promises of future grace.... Prayer goes to the bank every day and draws on the promises for the future grace needed for that day." (Piper, 296, 107)

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory. (NLT)

5. Living faith embraces God's promises for His glory

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

"Faith calls all attention to grace and magnifies it, rather than nullifying it.... Lives of faith are the great mirror of the dependability of God.... God has determined that we will receive all by grace so that he will get all the glory. Charles Spurgeon put it like this: 'One thing is past question: we shall bring our Lord most glory if we get from Him much grace.' ... O, how this should set our hearts on a passionate quest to trust God hour by hour for all we need – for God's sake! Every moment of faith is a tribute to his grace.... If 'works' wants the satisfaction of feeling itself overcome an obstacle, 'faith' savors the satisfaction of feeling God overcome an obstacle.... When the victory comes, faith rejoices that all the glory and thanks belong to God... Faith loves to experience all that God can do, not all that self can do.... The trusted Giver gets the glory." (Piper, 187, 192, 194-95, 278-79, 220)