

## GOD'S PROMISES: WHEN YOU ARE AFRAID Pt. 1

- Hebrews 4 is devoted to the theme of the \_\_\_\_\_ life. The Christian life is not designed to be mechanical, nor mystical, but \_\_\_\_\_. It is to involve an intimate, personal, vertical love for and fellowship with God and Jesus Christ every day (1 John 1:3-4), motivated by God's incredible love, Christ's finished work, and our new union with Him as our Lord and life (2 Cor.5:14-15; John 15:4-5).
- So how is your Christian life to be lived? As simple and surprising as it may seem, you are to live from day to day in the very same manner by which you were saved from sin's penalty, namely "by \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_" in the supremacy and sufficiency of \_\_\_\_\_ and the unfailing \_\_\_\_\_ of God. (Heb.11:6; Col. 2:6-7; 2 Cor. 5:7; Ps. 20:7; Jer. 17:5-9; Josh. 23:14)
- God, in His matchless grace, has provided His Word and Holy Spirit to enable you to daily live faithfully and wisely by faith in His wisdom and strength, not yours. In doing so He has provided for you His "exceeding great and precious \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Peter 1:4), and also the \_\_\_\_\_ of other believers (Acts 2:42) to encourage you on our way. But this daily walk is only enjoyed, and God's grace appropriated, when you respond to the Lord by faith. And "since faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the \_\_\_\_\_", you must regularly hear, read, or study the Scriptures to come to know our God more intimately and to learn His grace provisions for us. (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Tim.2:15; Matt. 4:4; Prov. 6:23; Job 23:12)
- When the believer humbly opens daily the WOG to seek the Lord and His will, the Holy Spirit is willing to teach and impress upon him/her the person, provisions, power, and promises of God. Since there are many enemies in the Christian walk (the flesh, the world, and the Devil) and tests / challenges (trials, afflictions, sufferings) we all face, it is an act of incredible love and grace that God has provided for us the faith-rest life. This is a life that is to be lived "by \_\_\_\_\_ in the Son of God who \_\_\_\_\_ me and \_\_\_\_\_ Himself for me." (Gal.2:20) In doing so, the believer is encouraged to faith-rest in the Lord and His promises to fight his daily battles for him; to carry his daily burdens for him; to direct his life path for him; to enable his service to the Lord and others; to overcome his anxieties; etc. The faith-rest life involves repeatedly admitting our own insufficiency so as to rely on the Lord's sufficiency. As this is true, we enjoy the peace of God that passes all our understanding, and an inner confidence and courage to humbly tackle life's daily issues due to God's divine resources.
- But why did the Exodus generation of Jewish believers fail to enter into this rest at Meribah and Kadesh-barnea after seeing the delivering power of God at the Red Sea? Hebrews 4:2 tells us: For indeed the gospel (of this rest) was preached to us as well as to them; but the \_\_\_\_\_ which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with \_\_\_\_\_ in those who heard it." A simple principle emerges from their example that we need to hear and heed: \_\_\_\_\_ *God's promises PLUS* \_\_\_\_\_  
*God's promises = entering / enjoying God's rest*
- Sad to say, too many believers today fail in their Christian lives because of either \_\_\_\_\_ of the WOG or \_\_\_\_\_ in the promises of God, or an \_\_\_\_\_ to yield to the Lord and the plan of God. Thus, Hebrews 4 highlights for us both a serious warning & wonderful encouragement regarding daily entering the faith-rest life which God has provided by His grace.

- If you have failed, is the rest God is offering still available? (vs.1, 9)
- Since the Christian life is a walk of faith, must you remember?
- What must you be willing to do to enter this rest? (4:2,10)
- Is the faith-rest life an active or passive life? (4:11)
- Where does Bible study, prayer, and even fellowship with others fit into this? (4:12,16; 10:24-25)