

# CLAIMING GOD'S PROMISES

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## THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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There may be circumstances that we have been praying about for years, but we feel as if God will never intervene. When our requests or needs are not met, the disappointment can lead to doubt despite God's promises. More often, what we want is not always what we need. The Lord graciously steps in to change any inappropriate desires that may be in our hearts. God promises that He shall supply all our needs according to His riches in glory (Philippians 4:19).

### 1. *What is the difference between NEED and WANT?*

Need is something essential to fulfilling God's purpose for our life and this includes the three (3) basic needs: food, clothing, shelter (Matthew 6:31-33). Wants are desires for pleasure and enjoyment.

### 2. *There are three (3) essential truths that will guide us as we wait for our Unmet Needs.*

- 2.1. God wants to meet our needs. The Lord invites us to petition Him. We should pray for those requests (Matthew 7:7-10).
- 2.2. The Lord knows our needs. Although we are called to make our requests known to God, the purpose of prayer is not to inform Him but to acknowledge our dependence on Him.
- 2.3. God is able to meet our needs. Through His mighty power, God can go above and beyond what we ask of Him (Ephesians 3:20). He plans the solution to our problems, arranges the events and the answer at the right time.

### 3. *How do we claim a promise from God?*

- 3.1 **Determine the origin of our needs.** Knowing where our needs originate helps us understand God's way of meeting them.
- 3.2 **Learn what our responsibilities are.** We have roles to play:

3.2.1 *Ask God for help.* Talk with Him about our concern and depend on Him for guidance and provision.

3.2.2 *Wait for God to meet our need in His time.* Be patient so that we do not miss out on His response.

3.2.3 Do exactly what the Lord tells us to do. Develop spiritual hearing through regular prayer time, studying and meditating on His word.

### 4. *God has Priorities in meeting our needs:*

4.1 **Relationship.** He invites us to draw near Him especially in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

4.2 **Christlikeness.** God uses adversity to shape our character. "The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God" (Galatians 2:20).

4.3 **Faith.** Delayed answers require faith (Romans 4:18:21).

4.4 **Dependence.** The Lord wants us to rely on Him, not on ourselves (Proverbs 3:5-6).

4.5 **Repentance.** Unconfessed sins block God's blessings in our lives (Isaiah 59:2).

4.6 **Submission.** God's desire is that we yield to His authority (James 4:7).

4.7 **Rewards.** The Lord promises rewards to those who persevere in adversity (Hebrews 10:32-36).

**Conclusion:** God is absolutely faithful and His promises are reliable and true. However, it is important to know that His promises are often conditional because they are tied to an action on our part. God calls us to trust Him more and put our hope in Him.

**Reflection:** What areas in your life may have caused you to miss out on God's promises?

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, give us the grace to understand how and when we can claim Your promise. May we realize that it will be accomplished when it fits our personal need, and its fulfillment will honor You. In Jesus' Name. AMEN!9*