

The Promises of God - Lesson 6

Introduction:

1. In our study of God's promises we have shown that:
 - a. they are "*exceeding great and precious*" (2 Peter 1:4)
 - b. they are "trustworthy" -- God "*is not slack concerning His promise*" (2 Peter 3:9)
 - c. they are "effective" -- they will have a positive effect upon those who trust them, as illustrated by Abraham, Sara, Isaac, and Jacob (Hebrews 11:13-16)
 - d. some of them are "conditional."
2. This lesson is a study of "God's promise to be with His followers" (Hebrews 13:5-6).
3. We are examining 9 Bible characters to help us understand and appreciate this promise.

Discussion:

- I. ISAAC
 - A. God promised to be with Isaac (Genesis 26:3).
 - B. Even though God gave this promise, Isaac faced problems from the Philistines (vs.19-21).
 - C. Lesson: The Lord's presence does not prevent other people from behaving improperly.
- II. JACOB
 - A. God promised to be with Jacob (Genesis 28:15).
 - B. Jacob prospered, but he also experienced a number of difficulties.
 1. Sometimes he suffered hardship because of the actions of other people.
 2. Sometimes he suffered because of his own actions.
 - C. Notice what Jacob said about the Lord's presence shortly before he died (Genesis 48:15-16).
- III. JOSEPH
 - A. Joseph suffered severe hardship because of the actions of his brothers.
 - B. We might question whether the Lord was with Joseph, but He was.
 1. The Lord was with Joseph when he was sold to Potiphar (Genesis 39:1-2).
 2. The Lord was with Joseph when he was in prison (Genesis 39:20-21).
- IV. MOSES
 - A. God promised to be with Moses (Exodus 3:11-12).
 - B. Because God was with Moses he accomplished many great things.
 - C. However, God's presence did not prevent Moses from striking the rock (Numbers 20:7-11).
 - D. Lesson: The Lord's presence does not excuse disobedience.
- V. JOSHUA (Joshua 1:5)
- VI. GIDEON
 - A. God selected Gideon to deliver Israel from the Midianites.
 - B. An angel assured Gideon that the Lord was with him (Judges 6:12).
 - C. Gideon questioned the angel about the Lord's presence (Judges 6:13).
 - D. To properly understand and appreciate the Lord's presence we must reason properly.
 1. According to Judges 6:1, who was responsible for Israel's oppression from Midian?
 2. The Lord's presence does not mean that we will escape the consequences of our actions.
- VII. SAMSON
 - A. Samson shows how circumstances might develop that will cause the Lord to depart from His followers (Judges 16:20).
 - B. However, the Lord did not leave Samson permanently (vs.22, 28-30).
- VIII. STEPHEN
 - A. Stephen's death is recorded in Acts 7:54-60.
 - B. He did not deserve to be treated so harshly (Acts 6:8, 10, 15).
 - C. Did the Lord leave Stephen?
 1. The Lord stood up for him.
 2. Stephen looked to the Lord for strength as he was killed.
 - D. No doubt Stephen's faith influenced Saul.
- IX. PAUL (2 Timothy 4:6, 16-18)