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PRESSING INTO THE PROMISES

According to one account, there are over 3,500 promises in the Bible. That amounts to almost ten promises for every day of the year. With that many promises, why do people not receive them? I think the answer is easier to give than most want to hear. It is because most of us give up before they materialize. We quit the race before the finish line.

Nothing from God is handed to us from a “promise dispenser.” Promises are all received by faith and pressing in until you get them. Think of it like a race. You run and you give your best just before the finish line. The person running has to be trained and has to exercise their muscles daily or they will “tighten up” if they run without the exercise. Oh, you might make a quick sprint, but the long race takes endurance and stamina. If you genuinely wanted to run that race, you would do everything to prepare for it then run with all you have towards the “finish line.” If you do not prepare you are certain not to win.

Pressing into the promises of God takes the same kind of preparation. You must study the word and learn what promises are conditional and which ones are unconditional. You must spend time with Holy Spirit, who is your guide. The word tells us in John 10:27 *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”* The word of God is the voice of God – a manual for life. To win the spiritual race you must spend time reading the manual. This is the only way we can prepare for our Christian walk if we are to be successful.

John 16:13 tells us *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.....”* Holy Spirit is your “guide”, or another way of putting it is that He is your “trainer.” He will show you the way. He will help you press into the promises and help you cross the finish line.

One day we will each stand before the Lord and receive rewards for what we have done on this side of heaven. II Timothy 4:7 says, *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”* The Apostle Paul wrote those words. He went through more than most, and because he *pressed towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*, (Philippians 3:14) he could say he finished his course. Each of us have a course to follow, and Holy Spirit will show us what it is. As we press into the promises of God and do not quit, we cannot fail.