



LESSON 2 // I BELIEVE

God is in the business of restoring people. We see this clearly in His Word—Moses, David, Paul and Peter are just a few of the biblical characters who were restored by the Lord in miraculous ways.

It's important to understand that God wants to restore you. When you acknowledge your need to be restored and God's power to restore you, you can begin to trust His promises of restoration. Notice what the Bible says about the value of God's promises in our lives:

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NLT) *By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. ⁴ And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.*

What do we need to know about God's promises that lead to His work of restoration in us?

1. God's promises are a picture of God's perspective.

If you want to see God's will for your life, you must look through the right window—the window of God's promises. This is especially important in the process of restoration.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (MSG) ... our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.

People who need restoration often don't fully understand God's desire for them, the possibility that their life can be better, or perhaps even a need for restoration. To move toward restoration, they need to gain clarity from the perspective of God's promises.

2. God's promises give us hope.

Hope is an internal quality that keeps us looking ahead with confidence and positive expectations. It helps us remain anchored and persistent, believing that something valuable is happening in us and through us by God's power and grace.

Psalms 62:5 (NIV) *Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.*

People in need of restoration are often very low on hope. They feel discouraged, defeated, lost, isolated and enslaved—with no way out. That's why God's promises are so important. They revive our hope. They give us a sense that we do not have to remain in the same condition. Restorative hope comes from God and His promises!

Psalm 119:49-50 (NLT) Remember your promise to me, for it is my only hope. ⁵⁰ Your promise revives me; it comforts me in all my troubles.

Romans 15:4 (NLT) Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. They give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises.

3. God's promises give us divine focus and fuel.

God's restoration work in us is a project that happens over time. While there are moments when God works a miracle of restoration instantaneously, generally we partner with Him over time to put our lives back together.

God's promises provide the picture that keeps us focused and fuels us to take the right steps that lead to restoration. His promises inspire and help us endure the process—seeing and believing what the end result will be.

Proverbs 29:18 (Msg) If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what He reveals, they are most blessed.

2 Corinthians 7:1 (TPT) Beloved ones, with promises like these, and because of our deepest respect and worship of God, we must remove everything from our lives that contaminates body and spirit, and continue to complete the development of holiness within us.

4. God's power is released as we believe His promises.

God's restoration is a supernatural work. Complete restoration can't happen by human effort alone. We need to partner with God so that His power can be released into our lives.

The Bible teaches us that God's power is released when we believe God's promises. Faith is the key that unlocks the door of these promises. Notice this example from the ministry of Jesus:

Luke 5:12-13 (NLT) In one of the villages, Jesus met a man with an advanced case of leprosy. When the man saw Jesus, he fell to the ground, face down in the dust, begging to be healed. "Lord," he said, "if you want to, you can make me well again." ¹³ Jesus reached out and touched the man. "I want to," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared.

In this story we see the connection of faith to the release of Jesus' restoration power. This man with leprosy was restored as he cried out in faith and believed Jesus' promise.

Today the Lord wants you to personally receive His promise of restoration. He offers His "great and precious promises" to you and calls you to believe Him for a supernatural work in your life.

Discussion questions

1. Read Psalm 119:49-50 and 2 Peter 1:3-4. What do you learn about God's promises from these verses?
2. In what ways do God's promises "paint a picture" for you that keeps you focused and fueled toward what's most important?
3. How can you grow your faith in God's promises? What difference will this make in your life as you believe His Word?