

Precious Promises

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature . . .” (2 Peter 1:4).

In my studies, I recently came across a page on which were listed some intriguing facts about the Bible. These facts reminded me again of the unique nature of the Bible. For instance, there are 773,692 words in the Bible. Also, the total number of times the name “God” is used in the Bible is 3,358, and the name “Lord” is used 7,736 times. The total number of commands in the Bible is 6,468; the total number of questions: 3,294.

Although I enjoyed going over these and other facts in the list, I was really interested in this particular subject. The total number of promises in the Bible is 1,260. If you used one promise a day, you would have over three years of promises to lean upon. Or if you divided them up for one year, you would have three to four promises to claim each day of the year. Ah, we have more than enough of God’s promises for the days of our lives.

In his two Epistles, Simon Peter mentions five precious things. We have briefly looked at: (1) Precious Trials, (2) Precious Blood, (3) Precious Jesus, and (4) Precious Faith. Now, we come to the final reference, that of (5) Precious Promises. Again, the word “precious” indicates “that which is of great value, or “that which is held as of great price.” Peter mentions at least three reasons why we should esteem the promises of God.

God’s promises are precious because they are given to His people! In the previous verse, Simon Peter explained that God has “given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (1:3). Understanding that principle, and remembering that faith is a gift of God, we are not surprised that His promises are also “given unto us.” Our God is a great Giver! And we are blessed to receive of His fullness. God’s promises—what a precious gift!

God’s promises are precious because they are greater than His people! The wonderful gifts are designated here as “exceeding great and precious promises.” Since the words “exceeding great” might be rendered “very great,” we are confronted with the magnitude of His promises. They are large; they are vast; they are weighty; they are spacious; they are gigantic; they are massive. Our needs look very small in the light of our big God and His immense promises.

God’s promises are precious because they are good for His people! These promises are given to us, Simon Peter continues, that we might be “partakers of the divine nature.” Since believers were made to be partakers of the divine nature in regeneration, the teaching seems to be that as we rely on and experience His promises, the divine nature is manifested in us, and we are made more and more like Christ. Now, that’s what you call “precious!”