

Labor Day
2 Peter 1 1_8
Pastor Randy Stroming
Standing on the promises of God!

As we celebrate this Labor Day we thank God for the workers and the strength and prosperity of our country. We should be thankful and celebrate and remember. But we need to be grateful and thankful to the one God who is our provider and He is faithful and worthy of His name to do just that. His has great love for us. His number one promise is to take care and transform our lives to give us hope and a future.

Promises - promises

WE all make promises. Promises to do something to build trust in others. (cross my heart and hope to die or place our hand on a Bible or in our mother or fathers name – to show how serious we are. But think about it for a moment. How are we as people at keeping promises. We fail miserably. We let each other down. We fall short. WE hurt one another. (shake head NO) But now think about Jesus. Think about his promises The Bible has been called the book of God's promises. The Word of God is powerful in leading people in life to trust in God above all things. That is what we need to stand on and believe in.

Think about the message of the bible verse we had

Exceedingly Great and Precious Promises

By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises... By faith we respond to the promises of God. Let us consider the wonderful promises of God.

They are so wonderful that the scriptures describe them as "*exceedingly great and precious.*" The promises of God (which are deserving of our trust) are "*exceedingly great.*" They are far beyond magnificent. The root of this word gives us our English prefix, "mega"(as in extra large mammoth, jumbo.

The promises of God are also "*precious.*" They are priceless. They are beyond what any human or temporal treasure could ever secure.

As our God He wants to take care of us. To Provide for us. His name Jehova Jirah means God provides.

When we confess our God as Father in the 1st article of the creed.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

God does not want us to worry. He wants us to trust in Him above all things. Matthew 6:25 Don't be anxious about tomorrows needs or problems. Rather rely on the Father.

OT Israelites had no way to get food. Miraculously God provided Manna each day. Each day God provided just enough to feed team and take care of them.

God wants us to trust Him daily with all our needs. This trust does not make us poor planners or careless with our futures unprepared to face what may come. Rather it keeps our relationship with our Lord in proper perspective as He reminds us daily of our dependence on Him.

When we prayer in the Lords Prayer Give us this day our daily bread...

What does this mean?--Answer. God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all wicked men; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to know it, and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?--Answer.

Everything that belongs to the support and wants of the body, such as meat, drink, clothing, shoes, house, homestead, field, cattle, money, goods, a devout spouse, devout children, devout servants, devout and faithful magistrates, good government, good weather, peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Fresh bread is awesome. (thoughts on fresh bread)

Another name for Jesus is Bread of Life to feed us to everlasting life

One of God's "*exceedingly great and precious promises*" "

God is concerned and wants to take care of us physically mentally emotionally and most important spiritually.

The critical point is that Jesus wants to change us. Yet, in every situation, He is the one to rely upon for a changed life. It is amazing what people (even believers in Jesus Christ) will do to try to change their lives. They will sign up for every new program that comes through town (or is offered over national television). They will commit themselves to years of humanistic, therapy. They will follow gurus to every continent on earth. They will even make endless lists of promises to God to do better or try harder. Yet, all of this is to no avail. God's plan for transformation of life is to believe in His promise. "

The Lord Jesus wants people to develop a life with Him. *And He said to them, 'Follow Me'.* " He wants to build a relationship with us. He begins by making us His own and pays for our sins. As believers we receive the blessings promises of God in His Love, Forgiveness and salvation, freedom and Growth. He promises his strength and his Joy and His Peace. He promises to be our God and we are His children.

Our relationship with Jesus as personal Savior makes us a member of God's family. He shares with us intimate blessings. It all begins at the cross. He promises forgiveness and salvation to all who believe.

Yes, by the grace of God, transformation of life is available by faith in the promises of God. By faith to humbly pursue after a developing relationship with the Lord of life, He promises to make us into what He wants us to be. Ponder these following promises and let God speak to your heart.

Joh 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Mat 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Php 4:19-20 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus, thank You for being so patient with me through all my futile attempts to change myself. Please remind me daily to seek after You, knowing that I can count on You to be transforming me into what You want me to be, Amen.