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Taking A Hold Of The Promise

by Bro. Vincent Kent



[Matt. 11:11-12](#)

[Lu. 18:1-8](#)

First of all, I want to thank the Lord and the "Editor & Chief" Josiah Cornett for giving me this opportunity to address what I believe is the "Cream of the Crop" and those with the most supernatural potential (the youth of the Bride of Christ). I do not want to make this little study on Taking Hold of the Promises a complicated exegesis

(declaration). Taking hold of your inheritance in Christ is not something that's complicated. It's simple. Very simple. But! It does require a sufficient amount of work. The two scriptures above are example text that begins to form a picture of a believer beginning to possess their inheritance. I want to draw out a few key words and topics that you should further study and pray on.

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More Signs In The Heavens

by Bro. Ken Hamilton



Last time we were talking about signs in the heavens - specifically, rare planetary alignments. They happened. Two rare planetary alignments occurred in 1962 and 2000. However, there have also been two other very significant stellar events. In [Genesis 1:14-18](#), we are told that God set the sun, moon, and stars in the heavens, He said "[Let them be for signs ...](#)"

Brother Branham taught us that God has written three Bibles:

["God's wrote three Bibles: one, the Zodiac, one in the pyramids, one on paper. Now, ... His first, the Zodiac. It starts off with a virgin, ends up with Leo the lion: Jesus' first coming and His second coming. ... But He writes](#)

[that because He... Man is to look up." \(PILLAR.OF.FIRE, 53-0509, E16\).](#)

Here's an interesting thought: Adam knew how to read that first Bible. He read it as easily as you're reading this article. He also taught his sons how to read that Bible. This is a piece of knowledge that mankind has largely lost down through the ages. Today's astrologers try - and I would submit that like most modern day attempts, they have a piece of the truth, but not the whole truth. Rest assured, however, that this heavenly Bible still exists. It is in perfect alignment with our paper Bible, and God still regards it as His perfect word.

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ANCHOR IN SPIRITUAL BATTLE

"A Thought From A Youth" by Anton Liachovic



(Hebrews 6:17-20)

17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed [it] by an oath:

18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

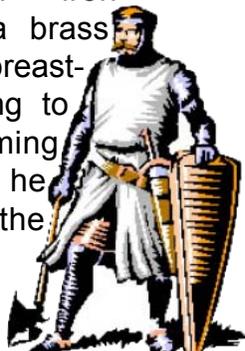
20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Not long ago, I read a history book about a certain battle in the time of the ancients. I saw a wonderful spiritual parallel in one episode of combat, which inspired me.

The year was 480 BC. The Battle of Salamis was taking place between the Greeks and Persians. In this battle, the Persian king, Xerxes, decided to attack both with his army and navy. The Greeks were determined to make the Persians fight at sea, not on land, because the Persian infantry outnumbered the Greek infantry by far. Themistocles, an Athenian statesman and naval

commander, developed the plan of the naval battle. As a result, during the combat on the island of Salamis, the Persians lost 200 ships, while the Greeks lost only 40. The Greeks were victorious.

Legend tells about a Greek hero named Sophan who attached an iron anchor with a brass chain to his breastplate. Preparing to fight oncoming enemies, he would throw the anchor in front of him-



s e l f

and this way obtained steadiness. The Persians couldn't knock him down.

I want to dwell on this story about Sophan. In a spiritual sense, we are soldiers of Jesus Christ. The 7 pieces of our armor are enumerated in Ephes.6: 14-18:

- 1) The girdle of truth (truth = the Word - John 17:17);
- 2) The breastplate of righteousness;
- 3) Shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace;
- 4) The shield of faith;
- 5) The helmet of salvation;
- 6) The sword of the Spirit
- 7) Supplication for all saints.

Let's focus now on verse 13 of Ephesians 6:

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Thus, before the 7 pieces of the Christian's armor are listed, the apostle Paul says, "...having done all..." we must STAND. Of course, this seven-fold armor will help us in the spiritual battle. However, as it was in the case of the Greek warrior Sophan, we also need a spiritual anchor to steady us. The other Greek warriors, no doubt, were falling because of blows from the enemy's weapons. Although they had on their armor, they still fell.

Our Anchor is the Lord Jesus Christ. We must always put Him in front of us, so that we won't fall from the blows of "the fiery darts of the wicked". David said in verse 8 of Psalm 16, "I have set the LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." In the message "In His Presence" (09/09/1962), Brother Branham mentions this verse from Psalm 16 and says the following words at the end of this sermon:



IN.HIS.PRESENCE.title
JEFF.IN V-11 N-4 62-0909E

104 ...Now, I've asked them to go away, placing God before them, always before

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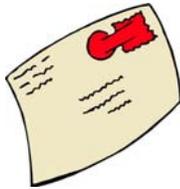
FROM THE ARCHIVES: I.O.U. ME!

By Brother Paul LaFontaine; YQN Is. 12, Spring 1991



In a personal letter I received recently, a very burdened young person wrote to ask me some questions. All the questions were very straight and to the point. But the first question stirred me a little. It was simple and yet very hard. And no doubt if it was first, it was most important to them. They asked, "What is expected of a Christian by God?" My, loaded question huh? Sure is. But at the same time a wonderful one. When I hear someone asking things like that I know I'm dealing with a real believer. No matter how burdened they are, it sounds like a Bride member to me. I believe harbored deep within every true believer is this never ending desire to always be pleasing to God. Am I walking in His will? Is He pleased with me? Am I doing anything to offend His spirit? What can I do for Him? These kinds of questions are just the questions God wants to hear. And yes, He does hear them and can do wonderful things with desires like these.

What does he want? What does he expect? After He kept graciously knocking on your door for years, drawing you to himself so strong, then you repented was baptized and received the Holy Ghost. (I pray that you have). He's done all of this to bring you back to Himself. Now our question is, What can I do for Him? What does He want me to do? Again, "What is expected of a Christian by



God?" I'm sure if I were to ask 10 people, I would get 10 different answers on what you have to do. But we want what the Word says. We do owe God something. Let's look at it.

We became alienated from Him by a deception of Satan in the beginning. We were lost with no way back to our original state with Him. Then He came down, bought us back with the price of His own blood, gave us His spirit within us as an earnest of the resurrection, let us know we have eternal life because we were predestinated to it, and then set gifts of ministry in the body to perfect us. That's only a portion of what God has done for you and me. Total all that up, and think about it. We're indebted to Him. Did someone ever pay a debt for you and you knew you would never be able to repay it? Well that's how we stand with God. No doubt about it, we owe Him something. But what does he want? Is it more offerings in the plate? More activities or sacrifices? Maybe to clean the church bathrooms twice a week? All these things are important I'm sure, but what does He really want in return. **Romans 12:1-2** has the answer.

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

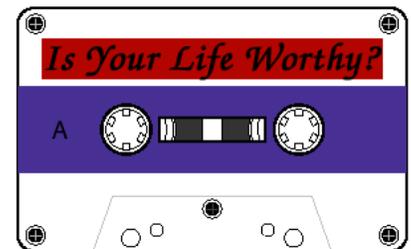
God just told us what He wants. He wants you. All of you, Yes, we owe Him something. It's our whole being dedicated to Him. That's what He wants. The next verse certainly ties in with the first. . .

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

As we grow and let our minds be renewed and transformed into the mind of Christ, we find the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. (Praise God!). As we present our all to Him, we are in the acceptable state with God.

I was reading Bro. Branham's message, "Is Your Life Worthy Of The Gospel?" I think God spoke to me more about



this. Please get the tape or book soon and read/listen to it. The title itself preaches its own message. **"Is Your Life Worthy Of The Gospel?"** In other words, are you living a life that's deserving of the truth He's given you? Like many have put it, if

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**TAKING A HOLD OF THE PROMISE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

MATTHEW 11:12

And from the days of John the Baptist... (the time that John the Baptist began to preach) ...until now (up through the time that John sent his disciples to inquire if Jesus was the ONE or should they look for another) **the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.** (Those that wanted it the most went after it and God rewarded them for contending for the faith.)

We want to look at three key words in these Scriptural texts:

- Violent - **Matthew 11:12**
- Faint - **Luke 18:1**
- Faith - **Luke 18:8**

The word violent in the Greek is biostes (bee-as-tace) - which means strong, forceful. Violence is biazo (bi-ad'-zo), to use force, to apply force or inflict violence.

The Kingdom suffereth violence - what does that mean? The Gospel of the Kingdom allowed or suffered those who truly saw what was their's to come get it. As Jesus went about the Father's business we see interruptions in what

J e s u s was going to accomplish. For example, Jesus is called to come and heal Jarius' daughter. While on His



way there, what looks like an interruption is made by some No-Name who grabs the hem of the Lord's garment. He stops, turns around and says "Who touched me?" Now, what about that? What was going on? God was trying to get the message to His children that "There are some things that I will hand to you and there are other things that you must go after; pursue, hunt, take by force." And so the Kingdom allowed this these type of events to seemingly interrupt the flow of the Gospel story, but really it was God trying to encourage His children "Go get it my son. Go after it my daughter."

Watch this...

The prophet says this in **SECOND MIRACLE; ERIE, PA 51-0729E**

I met a lady tonight while we were having our dinner in a place, that was in the meeting in Windsor, Ontario. I think she was going to speak, did she tonight? A lady that was just... Cancer had eat her completely up in here, and the doctors just give her a short time. And how that the Lord moved down and told her, "You're going to live." See? No matter what the, what others think, said, "That's first." Now, what if she hadn't have believed that? And when she got... Went off in a few days, got a little worse than what she was; she thought, "Well, that man just told me something that was wrong." Well then, she'd have went on and died. But she believed what was said was the truth, and God rewarded it.

In other places the Prophet speaks how she didn't only just believe, but she testified of her healing so much so that her husband said "Honey, I think you ought to be quiet about that. I think you might be bringing a reproach on Christ because you're not healed yet." But she continued to testify. She was violent, she applied what was spoken to her with FORCE.

Next key word...

Luke 18:1 ...men ought always to pray, and not faint.

What causes fainting?

Faint - ekkakeo {ek-kak-eh'-o} to be wearied out, exhausted, utterly spiritless.



There's a lot of Bible prophecies concerning treacherous times. If you didn't know these things were coming and also how to overcome them, it could cause you to be worn out. This is why our Lord said **"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."** (Matthew 24:13)

It's a time of holding on to the promises, not with an "I hope so" but with an "I know so!" attitude and focus. Know what the scriptures have both promised and warned us of and prepare for it with diligence.

We are living in a time very much like the book of **Judges chapter one**, where the people of God had been

announced a promise but they let politics, pressure, and slothfulness twist them away from the scriptural inheritance that was afforded them. They eventually fainted while in transition of possessing all that was theirs.

Final key word...

Luke 18:8

"...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

We've heard so many times that "faith is a revelation" till it's almost a cliché. True revelation stirs one's souls to more

and take action. Revelation void of action is Dormant Dominion. It's like the world's greatest coach with a severe case of laryngitis. The potential is present but it's not being used.

SECOND.MIRACLE.title ERIE.PA 51-0729E

E-30 030 Some people has great big faith like this, anything can happen. The next has faith that deep, takes a little longer. Next has faith that deep, takes quite a little while. Some has faith like a mustard seed. But if it's mustard seed faith, genuine faith, hold on to it; just keep believing it; it'll become

marble faith; then it'll become grapefruit faith; and then it'll become mountain faith. It'll bring you right out if you just stay with it. Hold on to it; it'll bring you right straight to the light, if you'll stay with it. But don't be discouraged. And do not believe symptoms...

In order to lay hold of the promise, it will help you to follow the path depicted in the diagram at the bottom left of this page.

Here's a few more quotes for you:

HEBREWS.CHAPTER.2.PART.1.title JEFF.IN HEB 57-0825M

36-21 ...And we must contend for everything that's in It. I don't want any more, and I don't want any less. I want just what It says.

225-3 THYATIREAN CHURCH AGE - CHURCH AGE BOOK CHAPTER. 6

Surely these Thyatirean saints were the cream of the crop, full of the Holy Ghost and faith, created unto good works, showing forth His praise, holding not their lives dear unto themselves, but gladly giving their all as a sweet sacrifice unto the Lord.

Possess Your Inheritance



CURRENTS EVENTS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Several centuries ago, a man named E.W. Bullinger made an attempt to chronicle the ancient meanings of the stars and constellations, using the best remaining knowledge of the stars that was still available to mankind. His work, called Witness of the Stars, is still in use by Jewish scholars as the most authoritative and faithful reference we have today on the meanings of the stars that Adam taught his children.

Brother Branham also taught us that God would do nothing unless He first declared it in the heavens.

["And when God gets ready to do things great, the first thing God usually does is make it known in the heavens above first. He always declares His works in the heaven before He does on the earth." \(HEAR.YE.HIM. 60-0712, E24\).](#)

It was well known by the ancients that a comet passing through the constellations told a story that was derived from the combined meanings of the constellations.



What does this have to do with current events? In 1996, a Japanese star-gazer noticed a bright comet in the skies. Astronomers dubbed it Hyukatake. It passed through six constellations: Libra, Bootes, Ursa Major, Ursa Minor,

Casseopeia, and Perseus. The order in which the comet passes through the constellations is very important. According to Bullinger, the ancient meanings of these constellations were "price which covers," "He cometh," "flocks," "sheepfolds," "the captives delivered," and "deliverance of the Redeemed." Jewish scholars did not miss this event. Their translation using Bullinger's work reads like this:

"The One who paid the price which covers, He cometh for his sheepfold, to deliver the captives, and to deliver the redeemed."

Coincidence you say?

Consider then that shortly thereafter two American star-gazers noticed a very large, never before documented comet on the same day in 1997. It was named Hale-Bopp after the two discoverers. It passed through eleven constellations. Again, the translation done by Jewish scholars using Bullinger's work reads:

"The Redeemer is Triumphant, having fought and smitten the enemy, and is returning as promised to deliver the redeemed from their bondage and affliction. Messiah, the Judge of all the earth, the Light of the world will come as our glorious Prince of Princes to lead the pilgrims safely home."

The ninth constellation that



Hale-Bopp traveled through was Orion. Orion means "light breaking forth in the Redeemer". Ancient Jewish writings teach that if a comet ever passes through Orion, the Earth would be destroyed.

This comet was the most notable in modern history. It was visible to the naked eye by every human being on earth for a month or more. Now, here's the best part. Today's scientists know that comets travel in elliptical orbits. In other words, Hale-Bopp should have visited the earth before, but there wasn't any record. They discovered in calculating its orbit that the reason it had not been previously recorded was that the comet's orbit was so very large. The last time it had visited Earth, was nearly 4200 years ago. The Jewish scholars recorded a "new star" that had visited Earth over 4100 years ago. It had traveled through all of the constellations in a month's time. It appeared just before the Great Flood in the time of Noah.

ANCHOR IN SPIRITUAL BATTLE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

them, before anything else: before their trip, before their move, before their--before they get up, after they go to bed, always before they sleep, wherever it is, put God first. "For He is on my right hand; I shall not be moved." Then may their hearts rejoice to know that they have what they've asked for, because God promised it, and their flesh shall rest in hope.

105 Now, do you believe you have placed the Lord between you and your sin, between you and your sickness, between you and your fault, between you and your ways? "The Lord is always before me, and I am in His Presence. The next time I start to light a cigarette, the Lord is before me. The next time I start to lust, the Lord is before me. The next time I start to tell anything wrong, the Lord is before me. The next time I start to say a bad thing, the Lord is before me, and I shall not be moved. Amen. I'll live in His Presence each day, with my dealing, each day with my talk. I'll walk as if the Lord is before me, because tonight I've put Him before me. I shall not be moved."

In the message "Influence," Brother Branham says that people act in a wrong way because they don't realize the Presence of God.

INFLUENCE.title NY.NY V-18 N-9 63-1114

107 God's omnipresence knows what you're doing, and even your thoughts. One time

while I was in a vision, I was speaking to a Being standing by me; and He said back; He said, "Your thoughts are louder in the heavens than your voice is on the earth." He knows what you're thinking. You might say you--you do this and you do that, and it--but (You see?), down in your heart, if you think different, you're--you're doing something wrong. You should be just what you are. See? The--the heart--the mouth should speak what's in the heart. See? And so we find that the people doesn't realize the--the Presence of God.

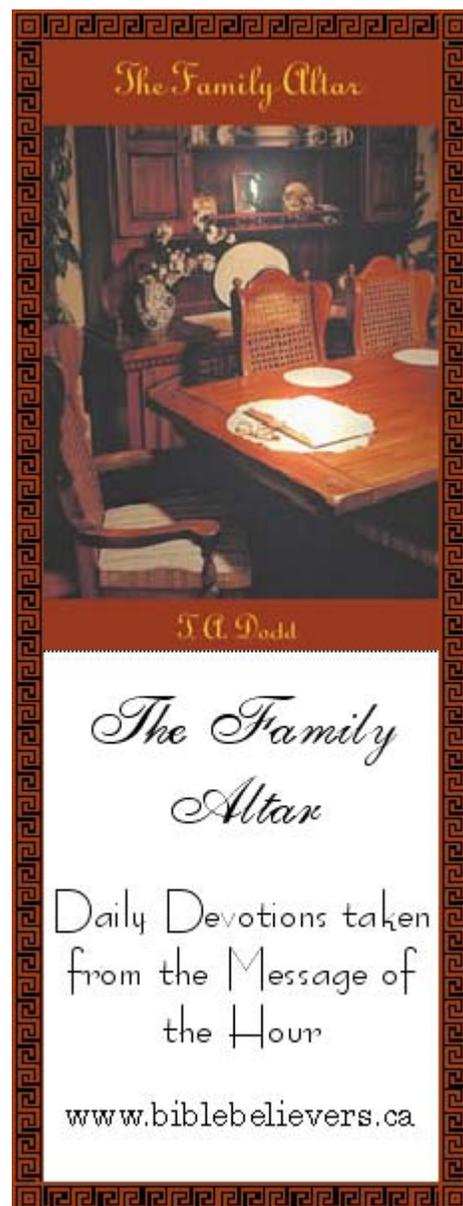
You know, they ought to be like David, the man that was after God's Own heart. He said, "The Lord is always before me." Wherever he goes, he remembers God is always before him. "He is on my right hand, and I'll not be moved," because God is on his right hand.

So, this anchor can be compared to the Presence of God. We must realize that 'the invisible eye of God watches what we think, speak, and do. When we realize this Anchor is before us, we will always stand. All the great heroes of the Bible were transformed when they entered the Presence of God. Moses was changed at the burning bush. Isaiah went into the temple after king Uzziah died and saw the preview of true servants of God. Saul met the Pillar of Fire on the road to Damascus and was completely changed. He became the apostle Paul!

In conclusion, if you are a Christian and are wearing the

spiritual armor of Ephesians 6, but have fallen I am sincerely advising you to really enter the Lord's Presence and there remain. Always put the Lord and His Presence before you, and you like the Greek heroes Sophan, will become a legend! Once a Christian enters the Shekinah Glory, in the Holy of Holies, they never desire to go out from there! I wish you the spiritual steadiness and numerous victories in this spiritual battle!

Your Fellow Warrior,
Anton Liachovic



FROM THE ARCHIVES: I.O.U. ME!
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

you were convicted of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence against you to prove it? There are many things we could bring out in this particular message. One simple thing he said on p.15 (Para. 57 Word Publications) really caught my attention. He said, "If it's right," (In other words if the message is right), "You owe your life to it." In another message he said it again, "If this is the truth, we owe our lives to it."

That's exactly right, If God showed you His grace for this hour, and He has, we owe everything back to Him. A common thought for a young person in this day is "I'm my own and I'm gonna do my own thing." No one ever really does their own thing. Either God leads your life or other forces, but you're never doing your own thing. And if you ever catch a glimpse of what God has done for you, you'll come to this conclusion, I owe Him my all.

We owe Him our life. What does that mean? I don't believe it means we only think about Him at a youth gathering or

church. I believe it means every moment given to Him. Not that you're necessarily doing something for Him all the time. But your heart is on Him and His word all the time - your time, your energy, your thoughts. He is the theme of your life. In "Is Your Life Worthy of the Gospel?" p.19 (Para. 76 Word Publications) the Prophet says, "A life that doesn't follow Christ daily is not worthy." It's a never ending love affair with Christ I'm talking about. Constant communion.

Paul said "Present your bodies." You know your being consists of three realms—soul, spirit and body. God first wants your soul. Then your spirit, which includes your imagination, conscience, memory, reason and affection. Then your outer senses of see, taste, feel, smell and hear. I want all of these controlled by and given to God. I want His spirit flowing through me so free, like it did Jesus. That's what He means by giving your life. It means you get up on the altar yourself and present your body a sacrifice. That's what God wants.

I'd like to add this. The scripture said to "present your bodies

a living sacrifice." There were many through the ages that actually died for the Lord and we know they were anointed to do that. But today the calling is to live for I-Jim. Not die. We're anointed to live for Him. And you may disagree with me but I believe with an my heart that it's a lot harder to live for Him than to die for him. Check it out in "How Can I Overcome." P-11 (Para. 44-45 Word Publications).

There's so much more we could say. We really do owe Him something. He really is looking for something - that is lives sold out to Him. Remember we only have 70 or 80 short years on this earth to give Him. That's if God's grace would let us live that long. Many leave way before that Life is just a short vapor. Less than 20 minutes in God's time. He deserves every minute dedicated to Him.

How about stopping right now and writing out an I.O.U. to God. Write it on your heart. Word it like this, "To Jesus Christ. I.O.U. the rest of my life."

Your Brother,
Paul LaFontaine

That's All Folks!

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