

THE IMAGE by Allison Bown

Chapter 6: The Currency of Identity.

This sounds like a great chapter. In our world there are many different currencies and exchange rates for conversion from one to another. Some like the US dollar are a more desirable choice than others. Whatever country you are in, you usually have to pay for food and goods in that country's currency. If I want to buy a new Mercedes for 100K, the dealer is going to ask before too long "How do you intend to pay for the car Sir?" If you don't have the cash or co-lateral to finance the vehicle then, bingo..that's the end of your dream. You have failed totally to comprehend the world economic system.

In the kingdom, however, God's promises are our currency. They are absolute commitments from an unchangeable God who resources our identity and destiny. Every aspect of our identity has a promise attached to it. While God gives us his promises freely, it is only by our engagement with them that causes the power of our promises to multiply and grow. Money buried in the ground has value but no growth potential. God's promises to us are like gems and should be extremely precious to us. If we invest our time and energy with faith in these promises, then we will be like wise investors positioning ourselves for increase in spiritual equity and dividends when challenges and opportunities present themselves. When we identify promises that are given to us by the Lord, we should record them on paper and in our hearts, bringing them to mind and in prayer until they come to pass.

In the exploration of our true identity (which is how God sees us), it is vital that we identify, collect, value and invest in the promises that we are given. Not only are they a resource for our growth, but they are a powerful weapon when we are challenged by negativity, harsh opinions of others and our own lack. Promises are our chief agent for converting problems into possibilities. The best time to practice a promise is when we are under fire. Our spiritual enemy is infuriated when we stand and say "But God said....." It is a brilliant strategy for getting him to desist or cease.

It is important to note that words of promise often rely more on faith than feelings even though God is present in both. So when the feelings don't line up with reality, our action should be to embrace the situation as an opportunity to trust in him. After all, faith is not a feeling but an act of our will and, if you can do it joyfully all the better. Strangely, it is not that we need to generate more and more faith in God's promises, but instead just to continue in our deep and abiding relationship with him. By trying harder we cannot have more, as he has already given us it all!

All promises release a process of beholding and becoming. There we go again. We don't transform into the fullness of their reality overnight, but we can be confident that the Lord who has begun the work in us will be the one who walks with us through to its completion. Our role is to hold onto what God has said and revealed to us and believe that he meant it. The story of Joseph is a perfect example in scripture. He was tested and refined all along the way. To his credit he never let go of what God had revealed to him as a young man. Over the years he gained the skills, the wisdom, character and understanding that were going to be required for his destiny as second in command to Pharaoh. The process each of us has to go through may not be as difficult as Joseph's but we will have to walk the path if we are to reach our destiny in God.

When faced with adversity, we're often prone to believe the answer is 'out there' somewhere, when it is already in our possession. If we have recorded the little words, hints, dreams along the way, we will be able to see how God knows what is coming and has already provided for us ahead of time.

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Landmark.

New ideas or a fresh perspective from this chapter. Try to identify some of God's promises for your life.

eg.

I know you have given me the promise that I would.....

Questions for Exploration.

These should act as a compass to give some sense of direction in the promises God has in store for you.

eg.

For many years now I have known in my heart God urging me to take that step of faith in regard to

Questions for God.

This is where you are doing the asking and he is doing the answering...hopefully.

eg.

Lord, I have been waiting many, many years now, trusting in you faithfully for.....

New Thought.

This is about actively changing your attitude in relation to the promises God has given you, from being somewhat demanding to patiently waiting and walking forward in faith.

eg.

Lord, I repent of being demanding in relation to.....and will trust you to bring about all you have promised, in your time.

Activating your Discoveries.

How do we activate what we have learned. This is likely to be harder than you expected.

eg.

Lord, I think I am going to have to spend a lot of time thinking and praying this through. Much of what I 'thought' about your promises for me is not correct and does not align with your kingdom. That at least is a good solid start!