

“God’s Ways Are Not Our Ways” --- GOD’S PROMISES

...” because of his glory and goodness, 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.” 2Peter 1:4

Humans make their promises based on: good intentions, wishful thinking, procrastination, or even deception----and an incomplete knowledge of the future. People often forget their promises or break their promises.

God makes His promises based on His perfect knowledge of the future (He is already there) and His infallible character and faithfulness: HE DOESN’T LIE, HE DOESN’T FORGET, AND HE HAS NEVER BROKEN EVEN ONE PROMISE.

Joshua’s testimony [farewell speech to God’s people]:

Josh. 23:14 “You know with all your heart & soul that not ONE of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed...**every promise** has been fulfilled; **not one** has failed.”

Testimony of the Psalmists:

Ps. 119:140 “Your promises have been **thoroughly tested**, and your servant loves them.”

Ps. 145:13 “Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is **faithful to all His promises** & loving toward all He has made.”

Paul’s testimony:

2 Cor. 1:20 “ For as many as are the promises of God, they **all** find their Yes [answer] in Christ.”

----Jesus Himself is the ultimate proof that God will keep His promises, no matter what.

2 Tim. 2:13 “If we are faithless, He will **remain faithful**, for He cannot disown Himself.”

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT GOD’S TIMING*:

Peter’s testimony [concerning Jesus’ promise to return for his people]:

2 Peter 3:3-13 “...know that in the last days scoffers will come mocking and saying: ‘where is the promise of His coming? For since our fathers fell asleep, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation.’

***But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: with the LORD a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day. The LORD is not really being slow** about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. But, the day of the LORD will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Nevertheless we, **according to his promise**, are looking for a new heavens & a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

Thoughts on waiting for what God promises:

Heb. 6:15 ...”and so, **after** he [Abraham] had **patiently endured**, he obtained the promise.”

Heb. 10:36 ...”**you have need of endurance**, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”

John’s testimony:

1 John 2:25 ...”and this is the promise that he has promised us [all believers]---**eternal life**.”
[starts the day we’re born again, and lasts forever.]

“Every promise in the Book is mine” the song says-----not true !

NOT ALL OF GOD’S PROMISES APPLY TO EVERYONE, UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

There are primarily two types of conditional promises:

- 1) ones which apply to a certain group / type of people
[for instance, Rom. 8:28 applies to “those who love God and are called according to His purposes”, not to everyone. Also, the Bible quotes many promises as part of God’s covenant with Israel that apply only to them.]
- 2) ones which require an action on our part in order for them to apply to us. (“if” and “when” are usually stated in them)
[“if you forgive others.....your Father in Heaven will forgive you....” and “if” we confess our sin, He is faithful..to forgive...and cleanse us....”]