



Are Promises Made to be Broken?

Proverbs 3:5-6: (NKJV) ⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.



Promises, promises! We have all made them, heard them, kept them and maybe even broken them. Promises have always been an integral part of the fabric of any society, for they are truly the basis of trust and loyalty. When promises are kept, life is better and less lonely and when they are broken life gets to be broken as well. So, if promises are so important, then why are they so undervalued today?

How do we define "promise?"

Merriam Webster Online Dictionary:

Promise: A statement telling someone that you will definitely do something or that something will definitely happen in the future

 **Program introduction, *Trusting God's Promise*, gogoodgod.com**

- Do promises mean anything, to anyone, anymore? I know that when I was a child a promise meant everything. Promises were unbreakable and anyone who broke a promise became highly untrustworthy. It seems that as I grew up I came to know many people who broke many promises. Maybe you too know someone who broke a promise. Maybe some of you have lived your whole lives surrounded by broken promises. Perhaps it was a parent who said, "I promise I'll do this - I promise I'll do that," and then never did it. They broke their promise. Do you remember how heartbroken we were as children hearing a promise breaking? A promise breaking and a breaking heart make a very similar sound. It's almost as if a broken heart and a broken promise go hand in hand.*



Some Old Testament words that are translated *promise*:

Promised: Strongs #1696 dabar daw-bar'
AV-speak 840, say 118, talk 46, promise 31, tell 25, commune 20, pronounce 14, utter 7, command 4, misc 38;
to speak, declare, converse, command, promise, warn, threaten, sing

Jeremiah 33:14: Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have **promised <1696>** unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

Promise: Strongs #562 'omer (o'-mer); something said
AV-word 2, speech 2, thing 1, promise 1

Psalms 68:11: (KJV) The Lord gave the **word <562>**: great was the company of those that published it.

Psalms 77:8: (KJV) Is His mercy clean gone forever? Doth His **promise <562>** fail for evermore?

There is an uncanny connection between a spoken word and a promise! In ancient days, your word WAS your bond. Your spoken word was a reason for trust.



Where trust comes from, *How to Become the Trusting Kind*, Motel168TV

- *Simply doing everything that you promise you're going to do does not mean people will trust you, it just means you're reliable. And we all have friends that are total screw-ups and yet we still trust them. Trust comes from a sense of common values and beliefs, and the reason trust is important is because when we are surrounded by people who believe what we believe, we're more confident to take risks. We're more confident to experiment, which requires failure by the way. We're more confident to go off and explore knowing that there is someone from within our community, someone who believes what we believe, someone we trust and trusts us, will watch our back, help us when we fall over, and watch our stuff and look after our children while we're gone. Our very survival depends on our ability to surround ourselves with people who believe what we believe.*

Some New Testament words that are translated *promise*:

Promises: Strongs #1860 epaggelia (ep-ang-el-ee'-ah) an announcement (for information, assent or pledge; especially a divine assurance of good): KJV - message, promise.

Galatians 3:16: (KJV) *Now to Abraham and his seed were the **promises <1860>** made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*

Promise: Strongs #1861 epaggello; to announce upon (reflexively), i.e. (by implication) to engage to do something, to assert something respecting oneself
KJV - profess, (make) promise.

Galatians 3:19: (KJV) *Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the **promise <1861>**; was made and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.*

Promises: Strongs #1862 epaggelma (ep-ang'-el-mah); from NT: #1861; a self-committal (by assurance of conferring some good): KJV - promise

2 Peter 1:4: (KJV) *whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious **promises <1862>**: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

**A "Rick" definition:
A promise is a decision to transform a stated intention into a reality.**

What kinds of promises do we or should we make to ourselves?

We often make promises to ourselves without even realizing it. What we say when we talk to ourselves is a form of promise. Be it for good or ill, our "self-talk" firmly guides our daily attitude, decisions and life. It essentially is deciding what our intentions are and bringing them to reality.

Step 1, *New Year's Promises*, Gretchen Reuben, CBS News

- *(Interviewer) And you sort of came to these three steps of self-evaluating: be concrete, think small, and hold yourself accountable. How do you do that?*
- *Well, the thing about being concrete is a lot of times you have this urge to have a vague resolution like "have an attitude of gratitude" or "enjoy the moment," but it's hard to hold yourself accountable for that, so it's better to*



say something like, "I am going to go outside every morning with my dog," or, "I am going to pack my lunch everyday so I eat healthy," so it's very concrete, it's easier.

Should we filter our internal talk in a concrete way? Our promises to ourselves as Christians ought to be making ourselves godlier in our everyday life.

Rather than "think good thoughts" or "think spiritual thoughts," we need to be specific:

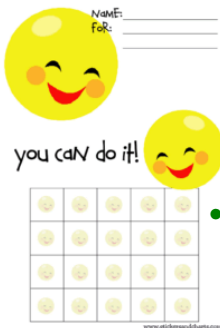
Philippians 4:8: (KJV) Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

We must decide where to place our allegiance, where to place our trust, where to place our promise:

Joshua 24:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods, which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Make a choice then follow through. A lot of Christians don't make their Christianity the most important thing in their lives. Keeping that promise of spirituality is then impossible. Where is my personal allegiance?

Steps 2-3, New Year's Promises, Gretchen Reuben, CBS News



- And if you do something small, it's easier than doing something big like going to the gym for an hour. People get inspired to do that and then they can't keep it up, so it's better to do a ten-minute walk and keep yourself accountable. You need to figure out a way to hold yourself to it. I use a chart where I check myself off just like kindergarten. Gold star or black check mark. That's how I know that I stuck to it. You are agreeing then?
- Absolutely. Behavior planning is fabulous. It's what keeps our kids doing what we want to do. When we're potty training a toddler, you're doing a sticker chart so they keep doing what you want them to do.
- A sticker chart works their whole life.
- And it works beautifully and it's effective. Absolutely. You want to do the same thing when you're an adult and give yourself a reward at the end when you do it for seven days. Why not? If it works when you're a kid why wouldn't it work when you're an adult? It's a great idea.

Promise yourself to grow one day at a time!

Matthew 6:31-34: (NASB) ³¹Do not worry then, saying, what will we eat? Or what will we drink? Or what will we wear for clothing? ³²For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ³⁴So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.



FOCUS Focus first on God's kingdom and righteousness.

Example of the prodigal son promising himself a course of righteous action:

Luke 15:17-21: (NASB) ¹⁷But when he came to his senses, he said, how many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men. ²⁰So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.

Let's continue our view of the history of trust and promises...

Startup vision and values, *How to Become the Trusting Kind, Motel168TV*

- *When an organization is founded - all organizations are founded on the same basic principles. There's some sort of measurement. It is often muddy but it could be anything. Then there's time. And when an organization is founded, what they do and why they do it are inextricably linked. There's usually some founder or some small group of founders that are able to put their vision into words, and their passion inspires others to come and join them in pursuit of something greater than all of themselves. And they trust their guts and off they go, and it's an amazing experience.*

John 15:12-14: (NASB) ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you.

This was the original premise upon which Christianity was built. That helps us focus on what we should be focusing on.

What kinds of promises do we and should we make to God?

The deepest and most serious promise we can make to God is a vow to which we are deeply accountable.

Old Testament:

Vow: Strongs #5087 nadar (naw-dar'); to promise (to do or give something to God)

Vow: Strongs #5088 neder (neh'-der); or neder (nay'-der); a promise (to God); also (concretely) a thing promised: KJV - vow ([-ed])

Deuteronomy 23:21-22: (NKJV) ²¹When you make a **vow <5087>** to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you. ²²But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you.

Growth and fuzzy values, *How to Become the Trusting Kind, Motel168TV*

- *The problem is as they grow, as what they do becomes more successful, they can no longer rely on themselves. They have to now hire somebody who hires somebody, who hires somebody, who hires somebody, who hires somebody, who has to make a decision. Based on what? And what they do starts to grow. That metric. The problem is why they do it starts to go fuzzy, and this is the biggest single challenge any organization will face. It's this thing right here, the thing that I call "the split." Symptoms of the split inside an organization*



are when stress goes up and passion goes down. Symptoms of the split are things like when the old-timers, the people who were there from the founding, from the beginning, start saying things like, "It's not like it used to be. It doesn't feel the same anymore." They can't quite put it into words but they know that it's not the same even though the organization might be more successful than it ever was in the past. It's just not the same.



A caller suggests that fulfillment of a commitment defines character.

Notice how the light of the original purpose grows dimmer, so logically our promises to God could grow dimmer as well.

New Testament: (Same exact word translated both **vow** and **prayer**)

Vow: Strongs #2171 *eucho* (yoo-khay'); properly, a wish, expressed as a petition to God, or in votive obligation: KJV - prayer, vow.

Acts 18:18: (KJV) *And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a **vow <2171>**.*

James 5:15: (KJV) *And the **prayer <2171>** of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

Prayer itself is a deep commitment to God. We have to make sure we are keeping our promises to God. A vow is never to be taken lightly as it is the deepest form of commitment to God that we have.



Founders embody the "why," *How to Become the Trusting Kind, Motel168TV*

- Other symptoms are when the organization starts focusing more on what the competition is doing and worrying less about what they are doing. When they start asking outsiders, "Who should we be? How should we talk to you?" At the beginning they never asked anybody. They ran on their own passion and on their own energy. This is what happened in such organizations like Apple. In 1985, Steve Jobs left Apple and the company went like this and Steve Jobs came back; and Howard Schultz left Starbucks and Howard Schultz had to come back; and Michael Dell left Dell and Dell had to come back. Now whether they are clear on their own wise now or not is yet to be seen, but the point is that these founders, these visionary guys, physically embodied the reason, the cause around which people showed up in the first place and it reminds them why they come to work.*

We need those around us who embody Christianity. This can be hard to do! We can see through the centuries how Christianity tried to appeal to pagans by including rituals, special holidays, and so on. They watered down the original passion to make it more appealing to many. Instead there needs to be a standard to which people will be drawn.

Our devotion to God is carried out in the fulfilling of our promised life of sacrifice:

Romans 12:1-2: (KJV) *¹I 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. ²And 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.*



Never give up...

Proverbs 24:16: (NASB) *For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again, but the wicked stumble in time of calamity.*

The 50's and responsibility, How to Become the Trusting Kind, Motel168TV

- *And the 1950's were defined by responsibility - going out there and giving the same kind of loyalty to your company as you gave to your country or to the cause. And we know what the 50's were like: everybody gave and you devoted your life to the company. The problem is as we started to become more affluent and the wealthy of the country started to grow, that sense of purpose and that sense of cause, and that sense of fulfillment, and that sense of trust, and that sense of happiness didn't grow with it. This is bad. This is confusing. So, in the 1960's we responded to it.*

What are the results of a lack of laser focus for the everyday Christian life?

Especially when formed in the context of a very worldly background...

1 Corinthians 3:1-4: (NASB) ¹And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? ⁴For when one says, I am of Paul, and another, I am of Apollos, are you not mere men?

What kinds of promises do we and should we make to one another?

Part 1, Kept a Promise, Josh James, founder of a company called Omniture

- *It's one of the experiences that we had that we didn't really talk about a lot because we weren't doing it to talk about. But it's come to, over the years, to mean a lot to employees and potential employees and other people. In October of 2000 we had something really bad happen to our company and in December 2000, about two weeks before Christmas, we had to let go 48 people because if you hit 50, you are forced to pay severance and we couldn't afford to pay severance. So, 48 people, two weeks before Christmas, no severance. Horrible. Just the worse day ever and one of the things we told the employees was, "If there's ever a chance, we will try and pay your severance. We feel horrible we can't pay you right now. We're trying to save the company and then everybody will be out of a job and unfortunately we can't pay you anymore, but if we can we will."*

Covenant: Strong's #1285 beriyth (ber-eeth'); in the sense of cutting; a compact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh)

(Source: McClintock and Strong's Cyclopedia) 1. Properly, of a covenant between man and man; i.e. a solemn compact or agreement, either between tribes or nations (1 Samuel 11:1; Joshua 9:6, 15), or between individuals (Genesis 21:44), by which each party bound himself to fulfill certain conditions, and was assured of receiving certain advantages. In making such a covenant God was solemnly invoked as witness (Genesis 31:50), whence the expression "a covenant of Jehovah" (1 Samuel 20:8; Jeremiah 34:18, 19; Ezekiel 17:19), and an oath was sworn (Genesis 21:31); and accordingly a breach of covenant was regarded as a very heinous sin (Ezekiel 17:12-20).



Marriage is one example of a "covenant of Jehovah:"

Genesis 2:21-24: (KJV) ²¹And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; ²²And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. ²³And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ²⁴Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Part 2, Kept a Promise, Josh James, founder of a company called Omniture

- *And about five years later, almost five years to the day actually, we were able to get checks out to all those people. Interestingly, I just started a new company and I was walking around meeting the employees and one of those employees was one of those guys who got that check five years later and to see that made a difference to him and he was excited about that and thought more positively about the company and just kind of word spread that people at Omniture and that management team do care about people and take care of people. And you do it because it's the right thing.*

There are some great promises in Scripture.

David speaking with Jonathan:

1 Samuel 20:8: (ASV) *Therefore deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a **covenant <1285> of Jehovah** with thee: but if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldest thou bring me to thy father?*

These friends swore allegiance to each other.

Ruth 1:16: *And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, and to return from following after thee, for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God;*

Proverbs 17:17: (NKJV) *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*

The 60's and irresponsibility, How to Become the Trusting Kind, Motel168TV

- *And we thought that well, this responsibility thing didn't work, so let's try irresponsibility and the hippie movement was born. Right? And the reason the whole hippie movement could exist in the first place is because the country was wealthier, so we could afford for people to drop off the grid, and our parents were wealthier and they were more affluent so they could pay for us to do it, but we didn't get that sense of fulfillment and so the pendulum swung again.*

No promises in life = No responsibility in life
No responsibility in life = No fulfillment in life

Here is the opposite - something bigger than all of us!

John 15:13-14: (NKJV) ¹³Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do whatever I command you.



What kinds of promises has God made to individuals, nations and specific groups?

 **70's and 80's - all about me, *How to Become the Trusting Kind, Motel168TV***

- *And then we had the 1970's, the "me" generation - defined by looking out for your own happiness, and everybody had to have a guru and it started to become very, very, selfish. But that didn't really work either and again the whole time we're becoming more affluent and more affluent and yet that sense of fulfillment, and happiness, and trust is not growing with it. Then in the 1980's, still that sense of "me," but now business was cool again. And in the 1980's, we started to see something that had never been seen before. In the 1980's, we started to see companies using people to balance the books. This has never happened before where they would use layoffs to make the numbers work - people to make numbers work.*

The promises of God to individuals - varied promises for blessing and consequence - but God always keeps His word:

Genesis 2:16-17: (NKJV) ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Proverbs 3:5-6: (NKJV) ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Genesis 22:17-18: (NASB) ¹⁷indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.

 **90's to now - *distrust everyone, How to Become the Trusting Kind, Motel168TV***

- *And then the 1990's came about and dot com - about the most selfish behavior you can find. Everyone wanted to get rich regardless of everything else and again the split continues. The only thing that happens - the only thing that really grows in organizations or societies that go through a split is that the distrust increases. We become distrustful of each other inside our own organizations. We become distrustful of management. We become distrustful of our politicians and now we find ourselves here today wondering, "What's going to do next? How are we going to find a sense of fulfillment?" Technology is no help. Andy Grove, the founder of Intel, said, "The only thing the microprocessor ever did was make things go faster."*

ME! ME! ME! ME! MY! MY! MY! MY! This only produces a distrust of others! We can no longer see ourselves being a part of something bigger. Our society does not show value in promises and that our word should be our bond.

The promises of God to nations and specific groups:

Amos 3:1-2: (NKJV) ¹Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying: ²You only have I known of all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.



God's promise to Israel based on His deliverance of them and Israel's promise back to God:

Exodus 19:5-8: (NKJV) ⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel. ⁷So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. ⁸Then all the people answered together and said, All that the LORD has spoken we will do...

Technology doesn't produce trust, *How to Become the Trusting Kind, Motel168TV*

- *Don't forget technology is absolutely fantastic for the exchange of information and the exchange of ideas. Technology is absolutely wonderful for speeding transactions. It's wonderful for resourcing and finding people, but it is terrible for creating human connections. You cannot form trust through the Internet.*

God's promise to those who truly seek His protection and guidance:

Psalms 91:1-6: (NKJV) ¹He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust. ³Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. ⁴He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. ⁵You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, ⁶Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

This is a promise of incredible comfort for those of us seeking God's protection in our lives. We can get what we want in life from God as long as we are as good as our word to God, to others and to ourselves.

Jesus' promise to true Christians:

Revelation 2:10: (NKJV) *Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

What kind of promises did God make to all of humanity?

A promise is a decision to transform a stated intention into a reality.

Mirror neuron and bloggers, *How to Become the Trusting Kind, Motel168TV*

- *There's something called the "mirror neuron" which they recently discovered. That's one of the things that contributes to how people relate to each other and how we empathize. It's the feeling you get - it's the same part of the brain that lights up - they did these pictures where they did MRIs and they gave people a picture of someone smiling and then in our own brains when we see someone smiling, the same part of the brain lights up when we smile. It's what creates empathy, and it's necessary to create trust. Again, this very human bond. This is the reason why the videoconference will never replace the business trip. You can't get a good gut feeling over a videoconference. I am a big fan of the bloggersphere. The bloggers think the Internet is the end all deal of the world. Then explain to me why once a year twenty-thousand*



bloggers descend on Las Vegas for a huge big convention? Why didn't they just do it online? It's because nothing replaces human contact.

God promised that He is smarter and wiser than us and that He has ultimate integrity:

Isaiah 55:8-11: (NRSV) ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.



A double rainbow in the Bay of Naples, Italy

Prophecy is a kind of promise from God. It tells us that He knows and cares:

Zephaniah 3:8-9: (NRSV) ⁸Therefore wait for me, says the LORD, for the day when I arise as a witness. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all the heat of my anger; for in the fire of my passion all the earth shall be consumed. ⁹At that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord.

God will destroy the way the earth is now run by Satan. He will replace things with worldwide unity.

God promised that His promises are always on time (from His perspective!) and complete:

2 Peter 3:8-9: (NASB) ⁸But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

God's ultimate plan is so much bigger than the difficulty we experience in this moment.

God promised that with necessary destruction of sin also comes the foundation of righteousness:

2 Peter 3:10-13: (NASB) ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

God will extricate all the evil in the earth and usher in something new and exciting and righteous! That will be the new heavens and the new earth.



Technology and mirror neurons, *How to Become the Trusting Kind*, Motel168TV

- *A friend is not somebody who you check their status. Your network is not on LinkedIn. A conversation doesn't happen on a blog and you can't have a discussion on Twitter. These are human experiences and we need them. We need to learn about each other's values and beliefs, and we can't simply do it through the Internet. These mirror neurons don't light up when we are sending texts or receiving IM messages.*

We need to maintain personal relationships and not rely only on technology.

God promised a true opportunity for all!

Micah 4:1-4: (NKJV) *¹Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. ²Many nations shall come and say, come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths. For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁴But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.*

God is the Father of integrity and His word is His bond. We need to focus on making promises and keeping them.

*So, are promises made to be broken?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
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Here are a couple of other texts relating to marriage being a covenant of God. This designation adds a deep solemnity to the marriage arrangement - the marriage promise...



Malachi 2:10-16: (ASV) *¹⁰Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, profaning the covenant of our fathers? ¹¹Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of Jehovah which he loveth, and hath married the daughter of a foreign god. ¹²Jehovah will cut off, to the man that doeth this, him that waketh and him that answereth, out of the tents of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto Jehovah of hosts. ¹³And this again ye do: ye cover the altar of Jehovah with tears, with weeping, and with sighing, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, neither receiveth it with good will at your hand. ¹⁴Yet ye say, wherefore? Because Jehovah hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously, though she is thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. ¹⁵And did he not make one, although he had the residue of the Spirit? And wherefore one? He sought a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. ¹⁶For I hate putting away, saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, and him that*



covereth his garment with violence, saith Jehovah of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

Proverbs 2:10-18: (ASV) ¹⁰For wisdom shall enter into thy heart, and knowledge shall be pleasant unto thy soul; ¹¹Discretion shall watch over thee; Understanding shall keep thee: ¹²To deliver thee from the way of evil, from the men that speak perverse things; ¹³Who forsake the paths of uprightness, To walk in the ways of darkness; ¹⁴Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the perverseness of evil; ¹⁵Who are crooked in their ways, and wayward in their paths: ¹⁶To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the foreigner that flattereth with her words; ¹⁷That forsaketh the friend of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God: ¹⁸For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead;

(Source: John Wesley) Forsaketh - Her husband whom she took to be her guide and governor, in her youth. The covenant -The marriage covenant: so called because God is the author of that mutual obligation: and because God is called to be the witness and judge of that solemn promise and covenant.

Nehemiah 1:5-11: (NKJV) ⁵And I said: I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments,

This is a great example of the steadfast promises of God compared to the fickle promises of men. We can go to God and ask for mercy with all humility and honesty to re-establish our connection with Him.

Once God's unchangeable character and integrity are stated, we then tell Him our sins:

⁶please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned. ⁷We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.

Accepting personal responsibility for our sin is the best way to repair our broken promise:

⁸Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; ⁹but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.

Clearly stating what we know of God's character and word demonstrates our heart intention:

¹⁰Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand. ¹¹O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.

We can come boldly unto the Throne of Grace!