



Does God Really Keep His Promises?

Psalm 89:34: (NASB) *My covenant I will not violate, nor will I alter the utterance of My lips.*



Promises, promises! Did you ever stop to think about how much of our lives revolve around promises? There are promises at every level of life - those made by a child to secure a privilege, those made when you agree to the conditions of your job, those made between a man and a woman at marriage, those made in political campaigns. Then there are the private promises we make to ourselves and to God. We judge character by the keeping of promises. A promise keeper is a trustworthy person. Then there are the promises God makes to us. It seems like there are a lot of them, but to many people it seems God has not kept them. So, is God a trustworthy promise keeper?

This program was created because a listener wrote in with the following question: *"Why does God fail to help those in despair who believe in Him and His promises? How does God reconcile His non-action to His promises in the following Scriptures: Psalms 89:34, Joshua 23:14, John 14:14 and Matthew 7:8. When man makes a promise and breaks it he is called a liar. Is God exempt from this label?"* This is a great question!



 **Broken Promises, Trusting God's Promise, GoGoodGod, YouTube**



- 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.*

Merriam Webster Dictionary: promise - a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specified.

It simply means you stand 100% behind what you say. The problem is, this does not mean much anymore.



))) My word is my bond, Hook, movie (1991) (Peter at his daughter's play)

- *(Children singing; Peter answers his cell phone) Brad, yeah, I'm at my daughter's play. That's impossible. I'm on a plane to London tomorrow night with my family. A children's hospital? A children's hospital is dedicating an entire wing to Granny Wendy. Brad...*
- *(Women whispering) Peter, you're missing it.*
- *(Man talking on the phone) Alright, I want a meeting tomorrow AM.*
- *(Boy whispering) Dad, my game. You promised.*
- *(Man talking on phone) Listen, it's my son's big game. Last game of the season. Santa series. I gotta be there, I promised. So, we'll make it a short meeting.*
- *(Man whispering to son) I'll be there. My word is my bond.*
- *(Boy) Okay.*



From where does the phrase "my word is my bond" come?

(Source: www.synagoguechm.com)

Since 1801 the motto of the London Stock Exchange expressed in Latin was, "dictum meum pactum." Translated to English it means, "My word is my bond." This motto expressed the practice where agreements and transactions were made with no exchange of documents and no written pledges being given. The assurance was the integrity and word of the individual. People's livelihood depended on it. Their life was bound up in their word, and trust was not something to be taken lightly.

The Bible tells us our word should be our bond:

Numbers 30:1-2: (NASB) ¹Then Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the sons of Israel, saying, *this is the word, which the LORD has commanded.* ²*If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or takes an oath to bind himself with a binding obligation, he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.*

God tells us His word is always reliable. The following texts are all from our listener's question:

Joshua 23:14: (NASB) *Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the LORD your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed.*

Psalms 89:34: (NASB) *My covenant I will not violate, nor will I alter the utterance of My lips.*

John 14:14: (NASB) *If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.*

Matthew 7:8: (NASB) *For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*

It is pretty cut and dry - God offers and we can help ourselves...is this really true?





**These Scriptures are very direct.
But do we understand what they are directly saying?**

How do we become positioned to have this assurance Joshua had before he died?

Joshua 23:14: (NASB) *...not one word of all the good words which the LORD your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed.*



One (wrong) way to TRY and go about it is to demand it of God:

 **I challenge God, *The Failure of Prayer and God's Broken Promises, Wn.com***

- *(yelling) I challenge God. I challenge You to do the things that You have promised the righteous in Your so-called Holy Scripture. I challenge You to do those things right now because we have been waiting. Well, not me, but these believers. Well, I'm included because at one time I believed in Jesus, I believed in Mohammad, I believed in Allah, I believed in Jehovah, I believed in Yahweh, I believed in God. But my faith in God became broken because I saw that my prayers and my righteousness, although righteousness is good for me, but I saw that my behavior and activity, my zeal to bow down to this so-called Supreme Being going for naught. It meant nothing.*

Romans 11:35: (NIV) *Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?*

God's promises can stir up pride in us that God "owes" us.



Let's look deeper at the context of that promise made to Joshua.

Joshua is dying and giving the people his last perspective:

Joshua 23:6-13: (NASB) *⁶Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, ⁷so that you will not associate with these nations, these which remain among you, or mention the name of their gods, or make anyone swear by them, or serve them, or bow down to them. ⁸But you are to cling to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day...*

God's favor is clearly with those who live according to HIS ways with firmness and tenacity!

¹¹So take diligent heed to yourselves to love the LORD your God. ¹²For if you ever go back and cling to the rest of these nations, these which remain among you, and intermarry with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, ¹³know with certainty that the LORD your God will not continue to drive these nations out from before you; but they will be a snare and a trap to you, and a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good land which the LORD your God has given you.

God's displeasure is clearly focused on those who do not follow through in living HIS goodness!

Joshua 23:14-15: (NASB) *¹⁴Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, (he was dying) and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the LORD your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed. ¹⁵It shall come about that just as all the good words which the LORD your God spoke to you have come upon you, so the LORD will bring upon you all the threats, until He has destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God has given you.*

God was talking to the Jewish nation, already in covenant relationship with Him. There is accountability on our part to receive God's promises.



God IS as good as His word. He does keep His promises - both positive and negative - depending on our obedience to Him and our following His way. There are consequences to living a God-dishonoring life.



We should not expect goodness and blessing when we are not "all in" in our pursuit of God's will.

 Introduction, *The Wall: A Hopeless Situation*, Jon Jorgenson

- *The wall at Jericho was an impenetrable force to any army that was trying to overtake the city. Before even dealing with the wall, the attacking troops would have to navigate their way across a 27-foot wide, nine-foot deep pit that lined the outer edges of the city. Then there was the wall itself. Seventeen-foot high, five-foot thick, pure mass solid stone. If the attacking army managed to get this far without getting shot down by archers, all that was left was to defeat the well-trained Canaanite army that was waiting within. This was the reality for a young leader named Joshua and his ragtag Israelite army. These Israelites, who had seen an entire generation live and die while wandering through the desert, were tired, hungry and facing what seemed like an impossible task. A hopeless situation.*



(Our Theme Text) How do we get this assurance?

Psalm 89:34: (NASB) *My covenant I will not violate, nor will I alter the utterance of My lips.*



This Psalm uses David as a picture of Christ:

Psalms 89:20-28: (NASB) ²⁰*I have found David My servant; With My holy oil I have anointed him, ²¹With whom My hand will be established; My arm also will strengthen him. ²²The enemy will not deceive him, Nor the son of wickedness afflict him. ²³But I shall crush his adversaries before him, and strike those who hate him. ²⁴My faithfulness and My lovingkindness will be with him, And in My name his horn will be exalted. ²⁵I shall also set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. ²⁶He will cry to Me, You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation. ²⁷I also shall make him My firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth. ²⁸My loving-kindness I will keep for him forever, and My covenant shall be confirmed to him.*

All is roses, right? Glory! Honor! Power! Promises are piling up...

**Then how do we explain Jesus suffering and dying?
Sure seems like a broken promise...**

The rest of the story...

Isaiah 53:3,7: (NASB) ³*He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief... ⁷He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So he did not open his mouth.*



Pessimist made, *Trusting God's Promise, GoGoodGod, YouTube*

- *Perhaps today we've become so tired of having our hearts broken so often by so many broken promises that we have come to disbelieve in the validity of a promise. The ultimate pessimist is made by too many broken promises.*

Sometimes we see God's unfinished work and interpret it as a broken promise. God's promises are a predetermined plan, not just a short instant message text.

Back to the Psalm and its context:

Psalms 89:29-32: (NASB) ²⁹So I will establish his descendants forever and his throne as the days of heaven. ³⁰If his sons forsake My law and do not walk in My judgments, ³¹if they violate My statutes And do not keep My commandments, ³²Then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes.

We can see a different tone here. For those who are the beneficiaries of God's mercy through the sacrifice of Jesus, there needs be a threshold of obedience for them to individually benefit. If we do not align ourselves HIS way, in HIS time and with HIS conditions, why would we expect His promises to apply to us?

³³But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him, Nor deal falsely in My faithfulness. ³⁴My covenant I will not violate, nor will I alter the utterance of My lips. ³⁵Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. ³⁶His descendants shall endure forever and his throne as the sun before Me.

Now, a glimpse of the Psalms 89 promise fulfilled!

Philippians 2:8-10: (NASB) ⁸Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹For this reason also, God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

Remember, however, Psalms 89 was a promise made to Jesus. We would not expect it to apply directly to us.



Lesson

God's promises sometimes take a very long time to fulfill but are worth the wait!

God's best work, *The Wall: A Hopeless Situation, Jon Jorgenson*

- *Now I haven't lived very long, but I've lived long enough to know this - that running into walls is a part of life. The bigger the wall, the more hopeless the situation can seem. The large walls of sickness, loss, divorce, addiction, they pop up all around us and they seem impenetrable. And just like the wall at Jericho, these walls rarely stand alone. The walls of our lives are often*



accompanied by a deep pit of pain, suffering, and despair. And all the while an army of hopelessness attacks us on every side. The question is asked all the time: If God loves us so much and is so powerful, then how can He allow these walls to pop up around me? Now, I don't pretend to have the answer to any of those questions nor do I pretend to understand just how deep or dark your suffering has been. I simply want to suggest that maybe God does His best work from seemingly hopeless situations.



How do we get *this* promise?

Matthew 7:8: (NASB) *For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*



Who is the *everyone* spoken of? This is still part of the Sermon on the Mount spoken to Jesus' true followers while in the company of the multitudes.

Jesus here tells us we are being carefully watched!

Matthew 7:1-5,7-11: (NASB) ¹*Do not judge so that you will not be judged. ²For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. ³Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, let me take the speck out of your eye, and behold, the log is in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye...*

Now that we are thoroughly warned to stand apart from sinful thinking, the promise comes:

⁷*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? ¹¹If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!*

Such a promise is conditional upon our behavior and attitude. We must be in line with God's will.



To live as a true disciple of Christ dramatically changes what we would ask God for.



Jesus trusted, *Trusting God's Promise, GoGoodGod, You Tube*

- *We must listen to God's voice in the same way that Jesus listened to the voice of our Heavenly Father. He listened to God's voice with the trust of a child - the way many of us used to believe that promises were meant to be kept by a trustworthy promise maker. Even when Jesus cried out on the cross, "Eloi Eloi Lama Sabachthani," he did so with the trust of a child. He trusted in the promise of God. He trusted that those who suffer will be satisfied in the love*



of God. He trusted that those who seek God will praise Him. He trusted that the entire world will turn to God. Every family will worship Him.



How do we get *this* promise?

John 14:14: (NASB) *If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.*

Who is the *you* here? Jesus is talking to his followers, not the majority of the "everybody else." The New Testament is not written for those who have not dedicated their lives to Christ. That does not mean one could not get wonderful principles to live by, but those promises of God are for those with whom He has a relationship.



Just intellectually reading the New Testament is like reading someone else's mail.

The last night before his crucifixion, Jesus pours out encouragement:

John 14:1-15: (NASB) *¹Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way where I am going. ⁵Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going, how do we know the way. ⁶Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.*



Jesus is asking for a great application of faith in their lives - that they would be willing to unquestioningly follow him into spiritual but unknown places...

⁸Philip said to him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us. ⁹Jesus said to him, have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, show us the Father? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own initiative, but the Father abiding in me does His works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

One has to live the words in order to be in line for the promise.

¹²Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. ¹⁵If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

What does it mean to ask in his name? It does not mean to simply use the word, "Jesus." Jesus had just explained what would be expected of them regarding their faith and their actions as his disciples - as those who live in accordance with his name. So, to ask in his name is an outgrowth of living his name.



A caller from Connecticut suggests God is his role model so he tries to be punctual. He is grateful for His promises.

God's "on time" can sometimes take thousands of years!



To "ask in Jesus' name" carries with it the requirement to LIVE in Jesus' name - to represent him in your everyday. A prayer from such a one will surely be answered!

 **All hopeless, *The Wall: A Hopeless Situation*, Jon Jorgenson**

- *I cannot find a single person who walked faithfully with God without first facing a hopeless situation. Adam and Eve ruined paradise by inviting sin and death into a perfect world. A hopeless case. Joseph was betrayed by his brothers for his pride and put in prison. A hopeless case. Moses was cornered on the banks of the Red Sea with the most powerful army in the world breathing down his neck. A hopeless case. Gideon was 300 against 300,000. David stood across the valley from a bloodthirsty giant. Esther was a woman trying to gain a word with a prideful king. Daniel's roommate was a lion, his friends were thrown in an oven. Jonah sucked at his job and got stuck in a whale. Peter was a coward. Paul was imprisoned. The 5,000 had no food. Lazarus was dead. Timothy was too young. Abraham was too old. The youngest son was too stupid. The walls of Jericho were too strong and Jesus was humiliated, hung on a cross, and buried in a tomb, burying all hopes of the revolution that was hoped for for thousands of years.*



A caller from Connecticut explains she works with children and wants to know how to explain "why" to parents who lose their kids to cancer regardless of their fervent prayers. Why couldn't He have healed them, especially kids? Did He take them because they would suffer later in life?

Exactly how does God help us "escape" our trials?

Let us really test this - with a basis of the last promise and the next one, can we really expect that we will get what we ask for and be delivered out of our trials?

1 Corinthians 10:13: (NASB) *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

In context, the Apostle Paul was talking about the errant experiences and attitudes of Israel after their exodus from Egypt. They did many things wrong and Paul listed some of their failures: craving evil things, idolatry, immorality, tempting God and grumbling.



The verse before:

1 Corinthians 10:12: (NASB) *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.*



Perhaps Paul is saying just as Israel was delivered from the evil slavery of Egypt and were therefore essentially homeless, so we, having been delivered from the slavery of sin, are also homeless in this world and susceptible to the same failures.

They were given great miracles and deliverance but were wandering, which caused a lot of their difficulties. We have been delivered as well, but our true home is in heaven. We are “homeless” until we get there. We are still frail and broken and are susceptible to sin.

1 Corinthians 10:13: (NASB) *No temptation <3986> has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape <1545> also, so that you will be able to endure it <5297>.*

Temptation: Strongs #3986 peirasmos (pi-ras-mos'); a putting to proof (by experiment [of good], experience [of evil], solicitation, discipline or provocation); by implication, adversity - in other words, a testing

Way of escape: Strongs #1545 ekbasis (ek'-bas-is); ...an exit (literally or figuratively)

Endure: Strongs #5297 hupophero (hoop-of-er'-o); to bear from underneath, i.e. (figuratively) to undergo hardship

A way of escape and a way to endure seem to be contradictory. How can you escape something and still be bearing the weight of it? The way of escape IS a way to endure.

A Rick story: My son is in the Coast Guard and several years ago was in Boot Camp. They break you down! During that experience he wrote me very short letters and would ask for input and Scriptures. After Boot Camp, he explained what he went through. “How do you bear the excruciating physical pain, mental demands and emotional trauma,” I asked him. He smiled and said, “You learn to embrace the pain. You stop fighting it and accept it is a part of why I am here. It becomes a part of you. That gives you the strength to be able to bear it.”

We believe this is what God is saying in this promise. He is not going to take the trial away from us but will help us “escape” by helping us understand it is part of the process, part of the contract, so we can carry the weight of it with a purpose in mind.

If you are carrying misery without purpose or hope, it will defeat you. If you go through it with purpose and hope, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Ask God for the strength to bear the burden. If you embrace the pain as God’s overruling power in your life, even if it means the death of a child, you find strength through that. Jesus ended his prayers with *nevertheless, not my will but Your will be done*. We expect all lives to be resurrected, including that of a child. That is why Jesus came and God’s biggest promise ever - a ransom for all of sinful mankind to resurrection.



We can pray for wisdom and faith in His promise of His glorious kingdom.

Romans 8:15-18: (NASB) ¹⁵For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, Abba! Father! ¹⁶The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

The way of escape = to embrace the experience as for our good; not to have it dissolve into thin air but to have the testing be of a priceless value to our lives. We can then share that value with other lives and teach others how to bear the pain of our trials so we can see God's promises gloriously fulfilled. In reference to our last caller, God did not promise every sick child would be healed in this day, but He did promise all would be resurrected in the kingdom.

Embrace the testing as what God allows it to be - a test of our fidelity:

Romans 8:28,35-37: (NASB) ²⁸And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose... ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶Just as it is written, for your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered. ³⁷But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

Through the "slaughter" of our human lives, we can be conquerors. This is what Jesus did and what we need to do.



Hope, *The Wall: A Hopeless Situation*, Jon Jorgenson

- *Now, everybody was ready to close the book on these stories. The end, game over. But if there's one thing we learn from the Scriptures, it's that we can never place a period where God has placed a comma, because when all other options have been worn out, when circumstances couldn't get worse, when everything else has failed - get ready because that is exactly where God shows up! Because Joseph became second in command. The Red Sea parted. Gideon won without lifting a weapon. Goliath's head was on a plate. Esther spoke and the king listened. Daniel tamed the lion. The oven felt like room temperature. Nineveh repented. Peter became the rock. Paul rejoiced. Twelve basketfuls were left over. Lazarus was just kidding. Timothy built a church. Abraham built a family. The youngest son came home to a party. The walls of Jericho came a' tumblin' down and Jesus Christ pulled off the resurrection defeating sin and death and the creation that had been marred so many years was now restored for all time!*

God's promise in **1 Corinthians 10:13** is a true promise of hope for eternity! God's plan is bigger than this moment.

Romans 8:38-39: (NASB) ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



God promises us
deliverance THROUGH
testings and
not FROM them -
this is how we grow!

**What about when our life ends and the test
has not gone away - can this be good?**

 His silence is response, *When God is Silent, The Bible in My Life, CSMonitor.com*

- *Well, the fact is God's silence is many times a response. The word of God says in Psalms that God wants us to be still and know that He is God. He's like come on, I love you, I've got your back, so even though you don't necessarily hear me or feel me, you don't have to doubt because I've got you. Just be still. Be comfortable in this silence. Trust me.*

A Rick story: My oldest daughter went through some tough times as a teenager and had a problem expressing herself. One time in particular, she was very upset and I sat with her silently in her room for about an hour or more. We sat in silence. Afterward having just the presence of her dad, she was able to better cope. When God is silent, it does not mean He is not there.

Back to our last caller, it is as if God is sitting on the edge of a sick child's bed. WE are His sick and dying children whom He loves dearly. In His silence He is saying, It is okay. I have this covered. You will see the glory later.

We have to learn to trust God where we cannot trace Him.

The end of Stephen's life - was this a fulfillment of God's promised protection for him?

Acts 7:52-54,57-58: (NASB) ⁵²Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; ⁵³you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it. ⁵⁴Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him... ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. ⁵⁸When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Wasn't this defeat?

This was victory!

Psalm 116:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴I shall pay my vows to the LORD, Oh may it be in the presence of all His people. ¹⁵Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His godly ones.



How is our death *precious in the sight of God*? God promises to give us as much time as we need to develop a Christ-like character. Hopefully we have been faithful. His promises to us are ultimately fulfilled, not just for a moment but for eternity.

Part of His plan is to allow sin TEMPORARILY so that in the resurrection, our race will know the meaning of godlessness and its results.

Our victory, protection and promises from God are all wrapped up in the "simple" task of being like Jesus.

Every promise given is for the end result of heavenly glory:

Matthew 10:24-25,28: (NASB) ²⁴A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household... ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Gehenna, a symbol of eternal destruction.)

Walking in Jesus' footsteps requires the testing to be proven faithful so you can receive what God has in store. It is not necessarily all happy all the time at this point.

Give from the depth of your Christian heart and then receive God's promise:

Philippians 4:16-19: (NASB) ¹⁶for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. ¹⁷Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. ¹⁸But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. ¹⁹And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

We give our will, desire, time, talent, actions - everything we can to be like Jesus. Our needs are supplied from God's spiritual inventory and are not based on our personal wants.

Conclusion, *The Wall: A Hopeless Situation*, Jon Jorgenson

- *With God, what seems like a hopeless situation is not only possible, it's favorable because only God can turn a mess into a message. Only God can turn a trial into a triumph, a test into a testimony and a victim into a victory. His power is made perfect in weakness, so let us rejoice in our trials and hold unswervingly to the hope we profess. Because He who promised is faithful, was faithful and will always be faithful no matter how hopeless the situation.*

God's promises always have a context and a purpose and sometimes that purpose is beyond what we are capable of seeing.

Bottom line - He is a promise maker and a promise keeper!

Isaiah 55:8-11: (NASB) ⁸For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, declares 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. ¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.



Ask in accordance with His will. Seek His will in your life and it will be given to you.

God is the ultimate promise keeper. Look at Him in the context of His word, His plan and His will and then see the promises for what they are - the greatest promises ever given.

*So, does God really keep His promises?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Kathy!) and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*

Did you ever think about the promises of God to discipline us as being as precious as His promises to deliver us?

Hebrews 12:4-8: (NRSV) *⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children - My child, do not regard lightly the discipline (education) of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished (rebuked) by him; ⁶for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts. ⁷Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? ⁸If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children.*

Not yet resisted unto blood:

Matthew 24:9: (KJV) *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*

First word "Discipline" - This is the overall experience of learning as a Christian:

Discipline/Chastening: Strongs #3809 paideia paideia pahee-di'-ah; tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction:
- chastening, chastisement, instruction, nurture.

Some examples:

Ephesians 6:4: (KJV) *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture <3809> and admonition of the Lord.*

2 Timothy 3:16: (KJV) *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction <3809> in righteousness:*

Punished - the first level of training; the least painful - correction with words

Punished/Rebuked: Strongs #1651 elegcw elegcho el-eg'-kho of uncertain affinity; AV-reprove 6, rebuke 5, convince 4, tell (one's) fault 1, convict 1;
1) to convict, refute, confute 2) to find fault with, correct

Some examples:

Ephesians 5:11: (KJV) *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **reprove** <1651> them.*

1 Timothy 5:20: *Them that sin **rebuke** <1651> before all that others also may fear.*



Discipline - the second level of training; more painful - training through action

Discipline/Chastening: Strongs #3811 *paideuw paideuo pahee-dyoo'-o*
1) to train children 1a) to be instructed or taught or learn
1b) to cause one to learn 2) to chastise

Examples:

1 Corinthians 11:32: (KJV) *But when we are judged, we are **chastened <3811>** of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*

1 Timothy 1:20: (KJV) *Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may **learn <3811>** not to blaspheme.*

Chastise - the third level of training; the most painful - punishment

Punished/Scourged: Strongs #3146 *mastigow mastigoo mas-tig-o'-o*;
to flog (literally or figuratively), scourge.

Examples:

Matthew 10:17: (KJV) *But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will **scourge <3146>** you in their synagogues;*

John 19:1: (KJV) *Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and **scourged <3146>** him.*

Luke 14:25-29: (KJV) ²⁵And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, ²⁶If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? ²⁹Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him.

Continuing in Hebrews:

Hebrews 12:9-13: (NASB) ⁹Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. ¹¹All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. ¹²Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb, which is lame, may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

A soothing promise from Jesus:

Matthew 11:28-30: (NASB) ²⁸Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

A promise of deliverance in the midst of turmoil:

Psalms 46:1-11: (NASB) ¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; ³Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah. ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, The holy dwelling places of the Most High. ⁵God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. ⁶The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered; He raised His voice, the earth melted. ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah. ⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has wrought desolations in the earth. ⁹He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He



burns the chariots with fire. ¹⁰Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah.

Hypocrisy can afford to be magnificent in its promise; for never intending to go beyond promise, it costs nothing. — Edmund Burke

For every promise, there is a price to pay. — Jim Rohn

We promise according to our hopes, and perform according to our fears. — François VI de la Rochefoucault