



What Does God Promise Us As Christians?

2 Peter 1:4: (NASB) *For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*



As Christians, our faith in God should translate into an unquestionable loyalty and trust. If God says something, it will be so. It is a guarantee it will happen. While this deep faith in the word of God should bring a powerful comfort to our lives, it is also capable of bringing us serious doubts and concerns. How can this be? If God is as good as His word (and He is), then where do the doubts come from? They arise when we do not understand or misapply His word. They arise when we ourselves stand outside of the circle of God’s protective providence and seek to claim promises not meant for us. In other words, God’s

promises to Christians are only meant for true disciples of Jesus. This may sound like an excuse to some, but it is in fact a basis for how God’s favor works in the lives of His true children.

It is easy to misinterpret God’s promises here, as we will shortly see.

That might sound a little harsh, as we at Christian Questions always emphasize how the Bible teaches Jesus died as a ransom for ALL, yet here we are saying that not all Scripture applies to all people at all times. That means we cannot just pull out a Bible verse and automatically apply it to ourselves. Then how do God’s promises for Christians work?

What does it take to be a “True Promise Seeker” from the “Great Promise Keeper”?



Merriam Webster Online Dictionary:

Promise: (noun)

- 1: a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specified
- 2: a legally binding declaration that gives the person to whom it is made a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of a specified act

There is nothing surprising in these definitions. A promise is something you say will happen and it will, or you say will not happen and it won’t. What we declare can be counted upon.

We will focus on three closely-related Greek New Testament words for promise. First is the root word:

Promise: Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance #1861 *epaggello*;
VERB: to announce upon (reflexively), i.e. (by implication) to engage to do something, to assert something respecting oneself

This word gives us a sense of a focused intention before we take deliberate action. In other words, stating your intent. “I am going to... (do whatever).” These are not idle words; they are serious and intentional.



Promise: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #1862 *epaggelma*;
NOUN: from 1861, a self-committal (by assurance of conferring some good)

This word shows us unequivocal commitment to future actions. It is unique and only used twice in the New Testament.

This word is only used for God's personal commitment - He is committing Himself to do this or that:

2 Peter 1:4: (NASB) *For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises <1862> so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises (self-commitment) this alerts us that there is something enormous on the other side of whatever those promises may be. God has given these promises to the true followers of Christ so they may become partakers of the divine nature. This shows a very strong commitment.

2 Peter 3:13: (KJV) *Nevertheless we, according to His promise <1862>, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

A new heavens and a new earth is a big promise. Promises from God are facts not yet completely understood or disclosed.

Each promise WILL happen, even if we do not yet see evidence of it. If He says it, it is a fact.



There are three closely-related Greek New Testament words for *promise*. The verb form means "to announce." The noun form means "self-committal." Here is third word:

Promise: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #1860 *epaggelia*; from 1861; an announcement (for information, assent or pledge; especially a divine assurance of good): —message, promise

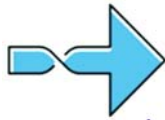
Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) announcement 2) promise 2a) the act of promising, a promise given or to be given 2b) a promised good or blessing

This word focuses on the proclamation of a promise as a basis for a sure and binding expectation. When God makes a promise, it is guaranteed to happen. We can have a sure hope and take comfort that the outcome will be exactly as promised. It is the foreshadowing of a fact.

We want to look at how God's promises work in relation to the BIG picture of His grand plan for mankind, namely the restoration of the relationship between God and man. God foreknew Lucifer would rebel and Adam would sin, as He is omniscient. Before the earth was even created, God promised what would happen much later in time. He promised a grand plan, so it was as good as done.

God's plan, and therefore His promise, was in place long before our world even was. This is one of several scriptures to corroborate that:

Titus 1:1-3: (NASB) *¹Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, ²in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised <1861> long ages ago, ³but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior...*



It is impossible for God to lie. When God makes a promise, He does what He says. *Promised long ages ago* - the King James translates as *before the world began*. This promise was given even before humanity existed!



What exactly is this big, grand promise we are starting with?

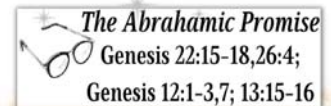


He is talking about *the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago*. The biggest application of that promise of eternal life is to every man, woman and child who ever lived. The promise for reconciliation between God and man, which we so often talk about, is included in this. Eternal life does not come without reconciliation to righteousness or without loyalty to God's word and God's way. How does mankind get to the point of receiving eternal life? God plainly built the pathway for that promise. He makes promises and then builds pathways for those promises to come true.

God plainly built the pathway to fulfilling His promise through Abraham:

Hebrews 6:13-15: (NASB) ¹³For when God made the *promise <1861>* to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you. ¹⁵And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.

This was a huge promise God made that we refer to as the "Abrahamic Promise." It was given in the book of Genesis when God promised to make a great nation through Abraham. His seed (descendants) would be like the *sand of the seashore* and the *stars of heaven*. The promise continues, *In thee and thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed*. That certainly has not come true yet, but God promised it, so we know it will happen.



Hebrews 11:11: (NASB) *By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had *promised <1861>*.*

Abraham needed that seed in order to have enough descendants to fill out the promise of *the sand of the seashore* and *the stars of heaven*. Sarah was well *beyond the proper time* - yet miraculously, she gave birth to Isaac when she was 90 years old!

We see the grace of God in His promises. It is not enough for Him to promise things. He promises, creates paths to fulfill those promises, and these paths are full of grace, wisdom, power, justice and mercy and above all, His love.

God's promise arranged for Jesus to be THE seed of promise. Isaac was born to Abraham as the seed of promise, but there is a dual meaning here.

There is no doubt we are talking about the promise here, as it is mentioned four times:

Galatians 3:16-18: (NASB) ¹⁶Now the *promises <1860>* were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, and to seeds, as referring to many, but rather to one, and to your seed, that is, Christ. ¹⁷What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the *promise <1860>*. ¹⁸For if the inheritance is based on Law, it is no longer based on a *promise <1860>*; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a *promise <1860>*.



The word *promise* appearing four times in these few verses in Galatians gets our attention. It is a powerful word, and it shows us that God made these promises to Abraham long before the Law covenant. Long before Moses and the Ten Commandments, there were these promises.

The apostle says the Law came in to show the Jewish nation the way toward God, but it did not nullify what God promised beforehand. Why? Because He promised it! When God said all the nations, *all the families of the earth*, will be blessed in Abraham's seed, He meant it. Yet, we have just the Jewish nation as the promised seed. This shows us something bigger must be coming at the end - how else could all the nations, all the people of the earth be blessed?

We therefore see that the Law played a part but was not the end result. It was just one of the pathways God used to further His plan. The Law was put in place temporarily until Jesus came so that the Jewish nation would have an acceptable way to approach God during that intervening time period.

This is validated by the announcement of the angels to the shepherds at the birth of Jesus. The angel said, *I have good news of great joy which will be for all people*. The Abrahamic promise says, *all the nations of the earth shall be blessed*. No one is left out. Jesus' sacrifice was enough. It is heartbreaking that some brands of Christianity do not believe it was enough and that they must go to men or organizations to receive salvation.

When we realize the depth of God's promises, we must look beyond what tradition tells us because God's promises are bigger than Christian traditions. Jesus, as the promised seed, brings eternal life and liberty to any and all of God's created ones who choose to follow.

The Abrahamic Promise speaks of:


*The stars of heaven – referring to the spiritual seed of Abraham -
CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.*

*The sands of the seashore – referring to the physical seed of Abraham,
the nation of Israel.*

What do these offspring of Abraham do? They *bless all the families of the earth*. Everybody has a part in the blessing.

2 Peter 3:8-9: (KJV) ⁸*But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.* ⁹*The Lord is not slack concerning His **promise <1860>**, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

God is not just hoping or wishing that all will come to repentance. This is His promise. If this lifetime was the only opportunity for people to follow Jesus when billions died without even hearing his name, then Christianity is a miserable failure and God's promise is devastatingly worthless. But we know this is absolutely not true. God's word is His bond toward the future.



**BEING A TRUE
PROMISE SEEKER**

FROM THE GREAT PROMISE KEEPER:

God IS as good as His word! The Scriptures show us how His word - from before our world was - had already established an end result for eternal life. Because God's word IS His promise, He then executed His plan of the ages for humanity, so that ALL (either now or after resurrection) will have the opportunity for eternal life put before them.

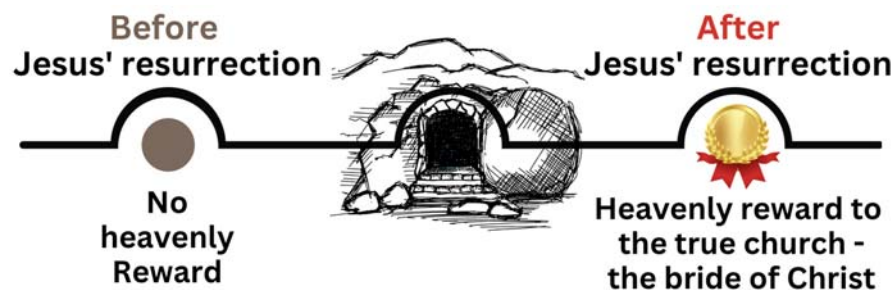
The magnitude of the faithfulness of God cannot be counted or comprehended by mere imperfect humanity. How blessed are we?

**God is above reproach and impervious to contradiction.
What does this mean for the promises He gives to true Christians?**

With such a magnificent God making the promises, there can be nothing but goodness, righteousness and grace in store for the disciples of Jesus. However, as we shall soon see, this does not mean our lives will always feel like things are in perfect order. On the contrary, we will see that the presence of turmoil and trial multiplies the power of God's promises.

We are not saying that God's promises take away our troubles; we are saying that God's promises bring value to our troubles. How does that work?

Any and all promises given to the disciples of Jesus are ONLY as a result of Jesus' own sacrifice. We know that no one who lived before Jesus' resurrection was promised or given a heavenly reward. His true church, the bride of Christ, is comprised only of those who die after he did. Promises made to this group cannot be applied to anyone else.



Placing scriptures in their proper timelines is crucial to understanding. Again, not every scripture applies to all people at all times. This is an important basis to understand as we look at God's promises.



Because of his faithfulness, Jesus plainly assured his followers of a place with him and his Father.

This was spoken to his disciples the night before his crucifixion:

John 14:1-3: (NASB) ¹*Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me.* ²*In 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.* ³*If 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.*

Jesus makes a powerful statement of comfort and focus for the future: *I go to prepare a place for you... that where I am, there you may be also.*

Then Jesus assured his followers of continual spiritual guidance in his physical absence:

John 14:15-17: (WEY) ¹⁵*If you love me, you will obey my commandments.* ¹⁶*And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to be for ever with you—the spirit of truth.* ¹⁷*That spirit the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him. You know Him, because He remains by your side and is in you.*



We are not seeing the word "promise" so far. Where is a promise from God for the true believers of Christ?



Jesus said he spoke the words of his Father. *I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate, (the holy spirit)* - Jesus is repeating what the Father told him. Yes, this is an unequivocal promise because Jesus is simply reflecting the words and the will of God. He is expressing a promise of God. We know this to be a fact with these next scriptures.



After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection and before his ascension, he refers back to God's promise:

Acts 1:3-5: (NASB) ³*To these he also presented himself alive after his suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.* ⁴*Gathering them together, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had **promised** <1860>, which, he said, you heard of from me;* ⁵*for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the holy spirit not many days from now.*

We know when Jesus told his true followers they would receive the spirit of truth, meaning God's spirit, Jesus relayed the promise even though he did not use the word *promise*. Here in Acts, the disciples were not supposed to leave Jerusalem, and ten days later they would understand why. They would receive God's spirit - His power and influence - at Pentecost. This is the first promise to faithful Christians as a group. Receiving the holy spirit is a necessary first step in every Christian's walk.

This is where the promises to true Christians have their roots. The "begettal" - the receiving - of God's spirit which began at Pentecost, marked a new age in which a *new creation* would begin.




See Bonus Material for more on "spirit begettal."




This is the spiritual life that begins in Christians when they are “begotten,” or given God’s spirit. It was to this *new creation* that the Christian promises of the Bible are directed.

Q. How do we know we have been given God’s spirit? Do you have to speak in tongues and physically heal others in order to have proof?

 Absolutely not. The gifts of speaking in tongues and healing were only given for a specific time in order to develop the early church. Once the writings of the apostles in the New Testament were available, they would not need these special gifts. How do we know that? Because the Apostle Paul stated it plainly in 1 Corinthians 13:8. He said these gifts *will cease*. That did not mean the giving of the holy spirit ceased; it meant those GIFTS stopped because they now had the word of God to replace them.

We are narrowing the focus to how the holy spirit works in us and what we are promised as a result.

Q. How do these promises work? Are they a free ticket to greatness, abundance and prosperity in our lives?

 No, but they are an assurance of God’s providence in the midst of whatever chaos is in our lives. We will take God's providence any day, under any circumstance - and the assurance of God’s providence over anything else because He is merciful.



Sometimes people read eloquent scriptures and claim their promises without understanding the details.

At face value, this next promise seems to give a 100 percent chance for God’s peace to successfully guard our hearts and minds:

Philippians 4:7: (NASB) *And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

It sounds like we don’t have to worry about a thing! If we just read this one verse, it sounds like everyone is promised the *peace of God*, but if that were true there would be no fear or anxiety in this world. Who specifically is promised this peace, and what are the requirements to get it?

We know Paul is writing to the believers of the church at Ephesus, and it is a documented fact that the letters to the churches were circulated throughout the established churches. Why? Because the words written to one group were for all groups. What was the qualification? **The promises are for the followers of Christ begotten by God’s spirit and doing God’s will.** But it is not so simple as just having God’s peace come to guard our heart and mind in Christ Jesus that we will never have another worry again.



The context gives us a bigger picture of what needs to be in place for this promised peace to work:

Philippians 4:4-7: (NASB) ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This unfathomable peace of God comes with important conditions:



- Rejoice always, even in the worst of circumstances
- Have a gentle spirit and display it at all times
- Do not be anxious
- Pray constantly

In other words, live in the peace of God whether in abundance or scarcity. We have to comply in order to receive. Many of the promises require some effort on our part in order for them to be received.

It is important we understand that there are qualifications. We do not just naturally absorb a promise which is just floating out in the atmosphere and suddenly we're transformed! We have to be willing recipients of that promise by essentially creating an environment where the promise can be planted.



God's promised peace is a verifiable and attainable aspect of our lives if we let it be so. Because God's promises are so big and so powerful, they require us to reach up to them instead of just sitting here saying, "Oh, just rescue me." If we let God's peace dwell in us, then it can - we have to let it.

Colossians 3:14-16: (NASB) ¹⁴Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

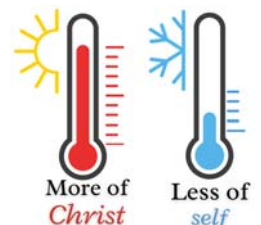


We have to claim the peace and do something about it. Just having a scripture on my mug or a T-shirt is not enough.

Let the peace of Christ rule - Let the word of Christ richly dwell - the responsibility is on us. We have to put ourselves in the position where the promise of peace can live and grow.

More of Christ, less of self. It is a matter of degrees. We can even have the word of Christ dwelling within us, but is it dwelling richly? Are we giving it the space needed to completely take over, like a vine that grows everywhere?

God's promises are immensely powerful when given the opportunity to let their power expand and grow.





God's promised peace had Old Testament applications as well.

Just as in the New Testament, His peace does not come without our preparation and invitation:

Isaiah 26:3-4: (KJV) ³*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.* ⁴*Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.*

Keep our minds on God? Trust in God forever? Now that's how to have perfect peace! Where are our minds and hearts? If they are where God's peace can work with it - wonderful! If they aren't, we need to adjust because God's peace is waiting if we go to where it is.

God's peace IS available to God's people:

Psalms 29:10-11: (NASB) ¹⁰*The LORD sat as King at the flood; Yes, the LORD sits as King forever.* ¹¹*The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.*

But who are *His people*? We just flipped from the New Testament to the Old Testament and we want to make sure we are not appropriating promises to ourselves that were only made to the Old Testament recipients. How is this OUR peace?

When we remember the Abrahamic promise, there are several ways to describe this. There are two parts to the seed of Abraham.

I will multiply thy seed as...

1. *the sands of the seashore and*
2. *as the stars of heaven.*

We know that Christ is the ultimate seed of Abraham. If we are followers of Christ, then this applies to us:

Galatians 3:29: (NASB) *And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.*




- 1 So, the stars of heaven applies first to Christ...
- 2 ...then the promise applies to all the true followers of Christ.

This gives us a basis for looking at these Old Testament scriptures because we are still looking at promises for the people of God. Even before we as Christians were a "people" - even long before Jesus was here on earth - the promises were put in place for the physical people of Israel; and then, after Jesus, for the spiritual people in Christ. In our day, both apply.

Promises that speak of God's protection, God's spiritual abundance and God giving grace, wisdom and teaching, they apply both to physical Israel and to spiritual Israel. There are some promises in the Old Testament that only apply to physical Israel. How do we know?

Because they refer to physical things such as land, fruit or cattle. The promises in the Old Testament that are about spirituality, growth, grace, knowledge, strength and so forth, have a dual application. This is how we know we can appropriate these promises to ourselves.



**BEING A TRUE
PROMISE SEEKER**

FROM THE GREAT PROMISE KEEPER:

God has promised much to those who are called to follow Jesus, beginning with the begettal - the receiving - of God's own power and influence in their lives. If this were the sum total of what He promised them, it would have added up to the greatest gift ever given to any human being. The amazing thing is His spirit and the peace it brings are just the beginning!

This is only the beginning of what God has in store for those who are called to follow Jesus. How blessed are we?

What about our trials? Can we expect we will be delivered out of our trials if we have promises from God that tell us we will?

The short answer to this is absolutely! The longer and more complete answer to this is yes, but we need to clearly understand what kind of deliverance God has in mind. It is far too easy to assume that our personal definition of deliverance is correct, when in fact our definitions of many things spiritual are just plain faulty. We want to be careful to not define things in a way that is comfortable for us. Rather, we want to define things in a way that is scriptural.



**Strength and Deliverance
through trial**

What do God's
promises promise?

Another inspiring promise of God for the footstep followers of Jesus is in 1 Corinthians 10:13 assuring us God provides an escape from our trials. What human being wouldn't want that?

The context leading up to this verse is the Apostle Paul telling the Corinthian church to not make the same mistakes Israel did after their exodus from Egypt. Paul lists some of their failures in verses 1-11, like how they craved evil things, their idolatry, their immorality, how they tempted God and their all-encompassing complaining.





Next, the Apostle Paul writes:

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

God's chosen people were just delivered from the clutches of sin in Egypt, but not to a life of ease. Paul is warning the Corinthians - and us as spiritual Israelites - to not make the same mistakes they did.

Perhaps Paul is reminding us that Israel was delivered from the evil slavery of Egypt and were therefore essentially homeless. He delivered them to the harsh conditions of the, where they had to absolutely depend on God. This was key.

Within this context of Israel's deliverance, we look at our own situation. We, having been delivered from the slavery of sin, are also homeless, in a sense, and susceptible to the same kinds of failures that Israel experienced. Paul says to the Corinthians (and therefore, to us), we should not get cocky when we look at ancient Israel because we could fall into the same kinds of failures and temptations.

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** <5297> it.*

Temptation: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #3986 *peirasmos*; a putting to proof (by experiment [of good], experience [of evil], solicitation, discipline or provocation); by implication, adversity

Way of escape: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #1545 *ekbasis*; ...an exit (literally or figuratively)

Endure: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #5297 *hupophero*; to bear from underneath, i.e. (figuratively) to undergo hardship

A *way of escape* and a *way to endure* seem to be contradictory - what is the meaning? How can you escape something and still be bearing the weight of it?

This is why God's promises are not to be read lightly and just repeated as some nice saying to hear. They need to be understood.



"Escaping" and "enduring" are both in these verses:

Romans 8:15-18: (NASB) ¹⁵*For 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!* ¹⁶*The spirit itself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,* ¹⁷*and 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.* ¹⁸*For 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.*

We said the Greek definition of this *way of escape* means a literal or figurative exit. It sounds like suddenly we get ejected from the difficult circumstance and land on a bed of pillows somewhere - preferably with relaxing music and lots of dark chocolate...



Wait - let's consider. Why does God give promises to His chosen people now, to true Christians, who are in the process of developing to become like Christ? It is not so they can have an easy life, it is so they can mature in Christ. When we look at having *a way of escape* and a way to *endure*, they do seem to contradict each other. But really, endurance is the way of escape!

We learn to endure by being given God's strength and His perspective, His providence and His word, so that we can escape what would have been a catastrophic ending to these kinds of trials. This is how we want to balance looking at escape and endurance.

The *way of escape* is learning to embrace the experience because it is for our good, rather than wishing it would dissolve into thin air. Of course we would prefer it to be removed entirely! "LORD, just make it go away." Instead, testings and experiences are of priceless value in our lives. The point of exit is not from the experience so much as it is from an end result that would be detrimental to our growth. This is where we find the balance.



But sometimes all we want is a literal way of escape! What is wrong with this prayer, "LORD, take this away from me! I just cannot do it anymore!"

This reminds us of Christians who think it is acceptable to demand that God do something for them. We have heard the expressions, "decree and declare," or "name it and claim it," but this is NOT how God's promises work. The prayer of "just take this away from me" is a prayer of exasperation. While understandable, when it gets to the point where we are telling God to take it away because we have had enough, it becomes an idolatrous prayer. Now we are commanding God Almighty!



With "decree and declare," or "name it and claim it," or any other phrase to try to manifest our desires, the person has the audacity to consider they are the one in control. This is not how God's promises work - we do not want to EVER tell God what to do. Even Jesus never did that! His prayer (Luke 22:42 KJV) in the Garden of Gethsemane that said *Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done*, should be the ending of our prayers of this kind, modeling how Jesus prayed.

Episode 1188: "Do We Have the Purpose of the Holy Spirit Backwards?" was all about the right way and the wrong way to approach the promises of God. [See the Bonus Material for additional episodes for further study.](#)

Moving on, there is a way of escape, which does not necessarily mean the trial ends, but it is *so that you will be able to endure it*. How is that second part accomplished?

It all comes down to being properly equipped for whatever God's providence allows to come before us. If we know there is a difficult time coming, we prepare ahead of time. This is what God's promises do for us.

Let's take a look at God's ultimate preparation kit for us:

Ephesians 6:10-13: (NASB) ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the LORD and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Another promise is that we have this strength through His armor - through His word and through these experiences. In other words, we are not asking the LORD to erase this from our life's experience. Instead, pray, "Dear LORD, please help me to be armed so I can face this experience with Your overruling providence." This is a much better prayer.

The way to live that better prayer is to dress the part. Put on the armor! Do not leave home without the sword of the spirit or the breastplate of righteousness. And CERTAINLY we should not leave our shield of faith in the closet. If we take those things with us, they give us the capacity to be able to receive God's promises. When God tells us we will be able to bear it, He is saying if we do our best, He will absolutely cover the rest. He will deliver us because He is OUR God. He said so!



It is a promise for a refocused, spiritual mind to handle whatever life brings us in order for it to be a positive growing experience of character development and not a tragedy.



Embracing the testings and trials and God's provided *way of escape* are evidence of our fidelity to the call of Christ.

That call of Christ is one of being invited into a new spiritual relationship never before available:

John 17:22-24: (NASB) ²²The glory which You have given me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as we are one; ²³I in them and You in me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent me, and loved them, even as You have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given me, be with me where I am, so that they may see my glory which You have given me, for You loved me before the foundation of the world.

What a promise! This is an incredible opportunity. This is the promise of heavenly glory and immortality - to be one with the Father and Jesus in complete unity. It is unfathomable.

What is the catch? We must live in a Christlike way. We have to follow in his footsteps. His footsteps did not walk a nice, rosy, easy path. His footsteps walked through trauma, trial, difficulty and testing - and pushed him to the limits.



Why should we expect anything less having been given such an amazing level of promise ourselves? What an incredible way to *belong* with Jesus - *I desire that they also, whom You have given me, be with me where I am.* This was his last undisturbed prayer before his life ended. And what does he spend it doing? Praying for us! Think about the depth of what this promise is saying.

This reminds us, in terms of belonging, of another promise:

1 Corinthians 3:21,23: (NASB) ²¹*So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you... ²³and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.*

We belong to Christ. Christ belongs to God. This is a "yea and amen" statement. How is this possible? By walking in Jesus' footsteps.

2 Corinthians 6:18: (NASB) *And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, says the LORD Almighty.*

What a powerful family connection! God's spirit within us provides this unique relationship.

This is not just for everyone who has an "I love Jesus" coffee mug on their desk. This is the depth of the promises of God. This is as big as it gets - to actually be with God and Christ in heaven.

To have God call us His sons! To be the brother of Jesus! But the promises are not freebies. They are given freely, but we must stand up and reach for them with the greatest spiritual effort that we can.



Only when we truly belong to God through Christ. How do we belong to God through Christ? It is not just in our words, our thoughts, our actions and in the trail that we leave behind us. It is in those that are in front of us that we embrace. It is always looking up in prayer. It is in keeping things in order so that God's will can flow through us to bless others.

It is inspiring and encouraging to realize the personal care and attention we are given by God through Christ. How blessed are we?



We have seen in God's promises that we will have peace, strength, deliverance and belonging. What else does He promise?

While all we have seen so far is inspiring, it is important to realize we can only scratch the surface of the depth of His care for us. There is SO much more! In an attempt to merely introduce a few of the many ways God's promises guide our lives, we will look at Psalm 91 as an inspirational and comforting example.

The promises so far have been amazing, and are so much bigger and better than what we have to do in order to qualify for them. What else do God's promises promise to the faithful followers of Jesus?

Let's look at Psalm 91 as a whole to see the kinds of promises that are given to God's people. These initially were for Israel, but they absolutely apply to spiritual Israel.



Psalms 91:1-2: (NASB) *¹He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say to the LORD, my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!*

A fortress provides safety and defense. When we are accepted as God's children, we come under divine protection through Christ, but we have to live in that shelter of protection. That has to be our address.

We have to be there. Protection comes when we go to the place where the protection lives. It really is that simple. We cannot stray away and tell God to come with us. If we walk outside of His providence, we walk outside of His protection.

Along with protection comes instruction:

Psalm 32:8: (NASB) *I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.*

Think about what this is saying - God is going to *teach* us. We know we can take this very literally because Jesus told his disciples the night before he died that God's very spirit was going to dwell within them. His power and His influence would be guiding and teaching them and us.

Psalm 32 is obviously a promise that applies to the true church.

I will counsel you with My eye upon you - He is watching us. Not as though waiting for us to mess up, but He is watching us because He loves us.



Psalms 91:3-4: (NASB) *³For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence. ⁴He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.*



What a beautiful picture. We can imagine snuggling under these beautiful wings where nothing can befall us. *The snare of the trapper* - the deceptions of Satan. The only safety is living at the right address, staying near to the LORD. It is the only safe retreat. When we live as Christians armed with the *armor of God*, we are protected because we are actively seeking protection. We are putting on that armor. This is how we are delivered from evil.

Another part of deliverance from evil is when things happen that we do not even understand are evil, but God has that in control as well:

Psalm 34:7: (NASB) *The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.*

Sometimes we do the best we can, but the enemy is still overwhelming. God has His angels taking care of those things we cannot manage and that sometimes we do not even know about. We wonder, if we prove faithful and are in heaven - whether our guardian angel will say to us, "I just have to tell you how much of an effort we had to put in to keep you protected!"

That is the beauty of God's providence. It is the beauty of His saying, "I have you and I have those who I am sending to watch out for you out there, to protect you." His promises do bring a deliverance. He promises a deliverance from evil.



Psalms 91:5-10: (NASB) ⁵*You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day; ⁶Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or of the destruction that lays waste at noon. ⁷A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not approach you. ⁸You will only look on with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. ⁹For you have made the LORD, my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place. ¹⁰No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent.*

When we look at these verses, we see all of this stacked one thing upon another. This is a promise of great courage. It reminds us of a little kid who maybe has some bullying issues. So, he brings his big brother along. He does not bring his big brother along to fight his battles; he brings his brother along as support so he can stand up and learn how to fight his own battles.

No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent is a little curious. We recall a lot of Christians being plagued with COVID-19.



So how does this happen when we are promised to be protected from plague?



These phrases assure us that none of this evil will overwhelm us. It will not overcome us. We still have to be courageous. This whole section is NOT saying we are impervious to bad things. It does NOT say there will be no *terror by night*. It does NOT say there will not be *arrows that fly by day*, nor does it say there will NOT be *pestilence that stalks in darkness* or *destruction that lays waste at noon*. It does NOT say those things won't exist; it says *you will not be afraid of them*.



When we are in God's strength through His spirit, these evils do come and they are a part of our lives, but we can stand above them. *No evil befalls us* means it does not overtake us because we are standing in His grace and His strength. *Nor will any plague come near our tent* means the darkness of sin will not overrun us because we are standing in the place we belong.



Let's go to a New Testament application of this courage:

2 Corinthians 4:7-10: (NASB) ⁷*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;* ⁸*we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;* ⁹*persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;* ¹⁰*always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.*

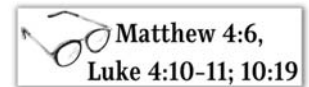
This whole thing is a "reframe" - just like that *way of escape*. This is not where you press an "easy button" and it all goes away. It is not promising to remove our afflictions, but they won't crush us. We might be struck down, but we will not be destroyed. Reframing our circumstances helps us take a step back and look at the situation from a higher perspective to see its higher purpose.

Notice the last verse here: *always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body*. Remember when we looked at Psalm 91:5-10 and we said it was like a little kid bringing his big brother along? Who is our big brother? It is Jesus. He is with us. He helps us to have the courage and strength to stand up to all of these difficult things that come our way.



Psalms 91:11-13: (NASB) ¹¹*For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.* ¹²*They will bear you up in their hands, that you do not strike your foot against a stone.* ¹³*You will tread upon the lion and cobra, The young lion and the serpent you will trample down.*

Satan quoted verses 11 and 12 to Jesus during the temptations in the wilderness right after Jesus was baptized.



Isn't it ironic that Satan did not quote verse 13 which shows he will be destroyed? Peter refers to him as a roaring lion in 1 Peter 5:8. In Genesis 3:15, he was a serpent whose head will be crushed - a fatal blow.

This is a classic example of selective scripture reading by Satan. He quotes this promise of God to Jesus, and yet the very next verse prophesies his own destruction. It is a lesson for us. We should not engage in selective scripture reading to fulfill some kind of predetermined notion of what God's promises should do for us. Rather, we should read the scriptures in the context in which they are given so we can determine what God's intention is for His promises. This is how we can benefit from them.

The end of Romans 8 is a powerful group of promises.

Romans 8:28,35: (NASB) ²⁸*And 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.* ³⁵*Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

We have heard Christians quote only that first part - *God causes all things to work together for good*, and they stop there. But the qualifier is that it is for *those who love God AND who are called according to His purpose*.

The question is, did you answer that call? Have you given up your will to do God's will? If so, this promise is for you.

God will have everything *work together* for our good because we are His children. He has given us His spirit and He will walk us through life as long as we continue to rely on Him. God is talking to us through this promise. *Who will separate us from the love of Christ?* God gives us a list. The answer is none of those things will separate us if we are walking in Christ and our lives are about Christ.



Psalms 91:14-16: (NASB) ¹⁴*Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name.* ¹⁵*He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.* ¹⁶*With a long life I will satisfy him and let him see My salvation.*

What are the qualifiers for this promise?

1. We love God.
2. We know His name.
3. We call upon Him.

Then He will deliver us and set us securely on high.

These scriptures focus on the hope and reward:

Romans 8:38-39: (NASB) ³⁸*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,* ³⁹*nor 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.*

Nothing created can separate us from the love of God if we choose to stay there. The only thing not on this list is me. I am the only one who can separate me from the love of God because whatever comes into my life, if I have God's spirit and I am working toward letting that spirit run and rule my life and have that humility and prayerful approach and come to the throne of grace, I can be delivered not from the trials, but from the end result of disaster in the trials. This is how deliverance works.



BEING A TRUE
PROMISE SEEKER
FROM THE GREAT PROMISE KEEPER:

God's promises are all encompassing. He gives them to Jesus' disciples as tools of living. All of the instruction and protection and deliverance and courage and assurance and hope and reward He promises are there not to rescue us from our life experiences and tragedies but to walk us through them. In so doing, He prepares us for an eternity of a heavenly life and loyalty to Him.

Remember, these are the promises given to true Christians - there is an entire other set of promises given to the world in the resurrection. They are given the promise of prosperity, hope, happiness, sinlessness and deathlessness - all when they get themselves in line with the will and the ways of God through Christ. But for now and for here in this age, these are the promises given to the true church.

Hebrews 10:35-36: (NASB) ³⁵Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was *promised* <1860>.

We can do it, or we can fall and we can fail and we can get up and ask for forgiveness - God counts that as having done it. "I know you messed up, but you are My child. I love you and I know you are trying hard. Get up and do it again. This is the promise I give you. The promise of My providence, My grace, My love, My care and My direction." That is how God works in the life of a Christian. What are we going to do about it?

*So, what does God promise for us as Christians?
For Jonathan, Rick, Julie and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

All quoted scriptures are from the 1995 version of NASB unless otherwise indicated.





Bonus Material and Study Questions

Recommended additional study:

Abrahamic Promise

Ep. 1159: How Can I Persevere When Life Gets Tough? (Part I)

Scripturally pinpointing the extent and reach of Jesus' ransom

Understanding how to apply perseverance through trials and afflictions

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1034-jesus-die-everyone/>

Ep. 874: God's Three Great Promises! Which One is For You?

How the Old, Grace and New Covenants work together

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/874-gods-three-great-promises-which-one-is-for-you/>

Abraham and Sarah

Ep. 1253: How Do I Let Go and Let God?

The value of God's timing, not ours. Lessons from Abraham and Sarah

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1253-let-go-and-let-god/>

The Holy Spirit/Speaking in Tongues/Healing:

Ep. 1047: Why Did the Tongues of Fire Touch the Apostles?

How God's spirit and speaking in tongues really worked in the Bible

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1047-tongues/>

Ep. 1217: Should Christians Be Practicing Laying on of Hands?

Discovering the meaning and use of "laying on of hands" for Christians

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1217-laying-on-of-hands/>

Ep. 1188: Do We Have the Purpose of the Holy Spirit Backwards?

Distinguishing God's power from our own desires in our daily life

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1188-holy-spirit/>

Spirit Begotten/Born Again

Ep. 1110: Are Christians Really Born Again?

Finding the true meaning and implications of being "born again"

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1110-born-again/>

Parents and Bible class teachers, continue your studies on this topic with these short, animated videos for kids at ChristianQuestions.com/YouTube:

- **What is the Armor of God?** <https://youtu.be/iMLZmPGQOn8>

The root word for *promise*:

Promise: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #1861 *epaggello*; to announce upon (reflexively), i.e. (by implication) to engage to do something, to assert something respecting oneself: – profess, (make) promise

The King James Version translates this word as "promise" 11 times, "profess" 2 times, "(make) promise" 2 times

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) to announce that one is about to do or furnish something
1a) to promise (of one's own accord) to engage voluntarily 2) to profess
2a) an art, to profess one's skill in something



All uses (KJV for all below):

Mark 14:11: *And when they heard it, they were glad, and **promised <1861>** to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.*

Acts 7:5: *And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he **promised <1861>** that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.*

Romans 4:21: *And being fully persuaded that, what he had **promised <1861>**, he was able also to perform.*

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

1 Timothy 2:10: *But (which becometh women **professing <1861>** godliness) with good works.*

1 Timothy 6:21: *Which some **professing <1861>** have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.*

Titus 1:2: *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, **promised <1861>** before the world began.*

Hebrews 6:13: *For when God made **promise <1861>** to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself...*

Hebrews 10:23: *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that **promised <1861>**).*

Hebrews 11:11: *Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had **promised <1861>**.*

Hebrews 12:26: *Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath **promised <1861>**, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.*

James 1:12: *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath **promised <1861>** to them that love him.*

James 2:5: *Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath **promised <1861>** to them that love him?*

2 Peter 2:19: *While they **promise <1861>** them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.*

1 John 2:25: *And this is the promise that he hath **promised <1861>** us, even eternal life.*

Promise: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #1862 *epaggelma*; **noun**, a self-committal (by assurance of conferring some good): — promise

Only two uses:

2 Peter 1:4: (NASB) *For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent **promises <1862>** so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

2 Peter 3:13: (KJV) *Nevertheless we, according to his **promise <1862>**, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*



Promise: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #1860 *epaggelia*; from 1861; an announcement (for information, assent or pledge; especially a divine assurance of good): — message, promise

The King James Version translates this word as "promise" 52 times, "message" 1 time

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) announcement 2) promise 2a) the act of promising, a promise given or to be given 2b) a promised good or blessing

All uses (KJV for all below):

Luke 24:49: And, behold, I send the **promise <1860>** of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:4: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the **promise <1860>** of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Acts 2:33: Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the **promise <1860>** of the holy ghost (spirit), he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Acts 2:39: For the **promise <1860>** is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Acts 7:17: But when the time of the **promise <1860>** drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt.

Acts 13:23: Of this man's seed hath God according to his **promise <1860>** raised unto Israel a saviour, Jesus.

Acts 13:32: And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the **promise <1860>** which was made unto the fathers.

Acts 23:21: But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a **promise <1860>** from thee.

Acts 26:6: And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the **promise <1860>** made of God unto our fathers.

Romans 4:13: For the **promise <1860>**, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Romans 4:14: For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the **promise <1860>** made of none effect.

Romans 4:16: Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the **promise <1860>** might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.

Romans 4:20: He staggered not at the **promise <1860>** of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.

Romans 9:4: Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the **promises <1860>**.

Romans 9:8: That is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the **promise <1860>** are counted for the seed.

Romans 9:9: For this is the word of **promise <1860>**, at this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son.



Romans 15:8: *Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the **promises <1860>** made unto the fathers.*

2 Corinthians 1:20: *For all the **promises <1860>** of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*

2 Corinthians 7:1: *Having therefore these **promises <1860>**, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Galatians 3:14: *That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the **promise <1860>** of the spirit through faith.*

Galatians 3:16: *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.*

Galatians 3:17: *And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the **promise <1860>** of none effect.*

Galatians 3:18: *For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of **promise <1860>**: but God gave it to Abraham by **promise <1860>**.*

Galatians 3:21: *Is the law then against the **promises <1860>** of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.*

Galatians 3:22: *But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the **promise <1860>** by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.*

Galatians 3:29: *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the **promise <1860>**.*

Galatians 4:23: *But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by **promise <1860>**.*

Galatians 4:28: *Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of **promise <1860>**.*

Ephesians 1:13: *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy spirit of **promise <1860>**.*

Ephesians 2:12: *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of **promise <1860>**, having no hope, and without God in the world.*

Ephesians 3:6: *That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his **promise <1860>** in Christ by the gospel.*

Ephesians 6:2: *Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with **promise <1860>**).*

1 Timothy 4:8: *For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having **promise <1860>** of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*

2 Timothy 1:1: *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the **promise <1860>** of life which is in Christ Jesus,*

Hebrews 4:1: *Let us therefore fear, lest, a **promise <1860>** being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.*



Hebrews 6:12: *That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the **promises <1860>**.*

Hebrews 6:15: *And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the **promise <1860>**.*

Hebrews 6:17: *Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of **promise <1860>** the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:*

Hebrews 7:6: *But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the **promises <1860>**.*

Hebrews 8:6: *But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better **promises <1860>**.*

Hebrews 9:15: *And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the **promise <1860>** of eternal inheritance.*

Hebrews 10:36: *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the **promise <1860>**.*

Hebrews 11:9: *By faith he sojourned in the land of **promise <1860>**, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same **promise <1860>**.*

Hebrews 11:13: *These all died in faith, not having received the **promises <1860>**, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

Hebrews 11:17: *By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the **promises <1860>** offered up his only begotten son.*

Hebrews 11:33: *Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained **promises <1860>**, stopped the mouths of lions.*

Hebrews 11:39: *And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the **promise <1860>**.*

2 Peter 3:4: *And saying, Where is the **promise <1860>** of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

2 Peter 3:9: *The Lord is not slack concerning his **promise <1860>**, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

1 John 1:5: *This then is the **message <1860>** which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

1 John 2:25: *And this is the **promise <1860>** that he hath promised us, even eternal life.*



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Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1287: What Does God Promise Us As Christians?

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1287-gods-promises>

See:  CQ Rewind
SHOW NOTES

1. What is a promise? What can we specifically say about promises from God? (2 Peter 1:4, 3:13)
2. What is the Abrahamic Promise? (See Genesis 22:15-18, Hebrews 6:13-15, 11:11, Galatians 3:16-8)
 - a) Why did the fulfillment of this promise seem impossible? How did the pathway to its fulfillment begin?
 - b) Explain the two pathways God set up to fulfill this promise. What is its objective?
3. The night before his crucifixion, what two promises did Jesus make to his followers? How do we know these are promises from God? The promises of the New Testament are directed to whom? (John 14:1-3,15-17, Acts 1:3-5)
4. How do we know we are not appropriating promises to ourselves that were made only to those in the Old Testament? Who are the "sand of the seashore" people of the Old Testament who God dealt with? What are two applications of the "stars of heaven"? (See Galatians 3:29)
5. What do "God's promises promise"?
 - a) **Peace** - Philippians 4:7, How do we live in the peace of God? What are the four conditions in Philippians 4:4-7? What do we have to do, what is our responsibility to claim the promise of peace? Thoroughly dissect the following scriptures: Colossians 3:14-16, Isaiah 26:3-4, Psalm 29:11.
 - b) **Strength and Deliverance** - 1 Corinthians 10:13, What were the failures of the Israelites after their delivery from slavery in Egypt? Compare and contrast a "way of escape" and a "way to endure." What is our way of escape from a difficult trial? How do we prepare to endure trouble? In what way should we think about these trials? (See 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Romans 8:15-18, Ephesians 6:10-13)
 - c) **Belonging** - John 17:22-24, What is the "catch" to being unified with the Father and Jesus? How should we expect our lives to flow? Do you understand what is being promised in these scriptures? Explain these promises: John 17:22-24, 1 Corinthians 3:21,23, 2 Corinthians 6:18.
 - d) **Protection and Instruction** - Psalms 91:1-2, How do we claim His protection? How does He teach us? Why does He watch us? (See Psalm 21:8)
 - e) **Deliverance from Evil** - Psalms 91:3-4, How does the picture of tucking yourself under the sheltering wings of the Almighty move and comfort you? What about the picture of the angel of the Lord encamped *around* you? What do we have to do to claim these beautiful promises of deliverance? (See Psalm 34:7)
 - f) **Courage** - Psalms 91:5-10, How does this promise assert that evil, plague, terror will be eliminated from our lives? What exactly does it promise? What is our end of this promise? (See 2 Corinthians 4:7-10)
 - g) **Assurance** - Psalms 91:11-13, We are assured that all will "work together for good," but under what conditions? Have you been "*called according to His purpose*?" Have you answered that call? What have you given up to do God's will? (See Romans 8:28,35)
 - h) **Hope and Reward** - Psalms 91:14-16, What can "separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus?" What keeps us from being separated from the love of Christ? What do the promises do for those who love God? What are the rewards? How do you know God will keep His promises? (See Romans 8:38-39, Hebrews 10:35-36)