

Getting Started

Romans 4:18-25

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. ²⁰ **Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.** ²² This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” ²³ The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

- In reference to this passage, discuss what Pastor Lee meant by these two statements ...

When you try to help God fulfill His promises, it is never good. When God makes a promise, He will rearrange the universe to make it happen.

There are many, many promises of God in Scripture. In each promise, God pledges that something will (or will not) be done or given or come to pass. These are not flippant, casual promises such as we often make; these promises of God are rock-solid, unequivocal commitments made by God Himself. Because God is faithful, the recipients of the divine promises can have full assurance that what God has pledged will indeed be realized.

"God is not a man that He should lie nor a son of man that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?" (Numbers 23:19)

Discussion

- God has made many promises in His Word. Some are specific to His chosen people Israel, others are for all people and still others are true for those who have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Share a few promises that God has made to each of these groups of people.

"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through Him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the Glory of God" (2 Cor. 1:20). Read this verse carefully. All promises are YES in Christ, but they must become AMEN through us. Amen means; it is true and certain. We must take God at His Word because His Word is true and just and we must use those promises in faith when praying. We add the AMEN with our lives because a promise means nothing if we do not claim it for ourselves.

Promises predict the answers to prayer. They are the molds into which we pour our prayers. They foretell what to expect. They shape our praying. They motivate, direct and determine our supplication. This makes Christian praying different! How? He promises - we believe. We act on His Word. In this way answered prayer not only satisfies us; it delights the heart of God by fulfilling His Own Word."

- Get the Bible Promises App that Pastor Lee referenced on Sunday. Take time this week to share some of God’s promises and explain the significance each has had on your life. How have you experienced (or been experiencing) the fulfillment of these promises?

Prayer

It is a blessing to pray God's promises into your life and the life of others. We never need to wonder what to pray about when we have God's Word and His promises. Many promises are list below.

Promises of God in the Old Testament ...

God promised to bless Abraham and, through his descendants, the whole world ([Genesis 12:2–3](#)). This promise, called the [Abrahamic Covenant](#), pointed to the coming Messiah for whom Abraham looked ([John 8:56](#)).

God promised Israel to be their God and make them His people ([Leviticus 26:12–13](#)). Old Testament history is teeming with examples of God fulfilling this promise.

God promised that if we search for Him we will find Him ([Deuteronomy 4:29](#)). He is not playing hard-to-get. "Our God is near us whenever we pray to him" ([Deuteronomy 4:7](#)).

God promised protection for His children ([Psalm 121](#)). He was the vigilant watchman over all Israel.

God promised that His love will never fail ([1 Chronicles 16:34](#)). He is faithful in every way.

God promised Israel that their sin could be forgiven, their prosperity restored, and their nation healed ([2 Chronicles 7:14](#)). Repentance opened the road to fellowship and blessing.

God, under the terms of the [Mosaic Covenant](#), promised prosperity to Israel for obedience and destruction for disobedience ([Deuteronomy 30:15–18](#)). Unfortunately, Israel eventually chose to disobey, and the nation was destroyed by Assyria and Babylon.

God promised blessing for all who will delight themselves in His Word ([Psalm 1:1–3](#)). Simple faith has its rewards.

Promises of God in the New Testament ...

God promised salvation to all who believe in His Son ([Romans 1:16–17](#)). There is no greater blessing than the free gift of God's salvation.

God promised that all things will work out for good for His children ([Romans 8:28](#)). This is the broader picture that keeps us from being dismayed by present circumstances.

God promised comfort in our trials ([2 Corinthians 1:3–4](#)). He has a plan, and one day we will be able to share the comfort we receive.

God promised new life in Christ ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). Salvation is the beginning of a brand-new existence.

God promised every spiritual blessing in Christ ([Ephesians 1:3](#)). Whereas, in the Old Testament, Israel had the promise of physical blessing, the church today has been promised spiritual blessings “in the heavenly realms.” Our inheritance is reserved for us ([1 Peter 1:4](#)).

God promised to finish the work He started in us ([Philippians 1:6](#)). God does nothing in half measures. He started the work in us, and He will be sure to complete it.

God promised peace when we pray ([Philippians 4:6–7](#)). His peace is protection. It will “guard your hearts and your minds in Christ.”

God promised to supply our needs ([Matthew 6:33](#); [Philippians 4:19](#)). Not that we get everything we *want*, but our *needs* will be taken care of. We are more valuable than the birds, and our Heavenly Father feeds them ([Matthew 6:26](#)).

Jesus’ promises in the Gospels ...

Jesus promised rest ([Matthew 11:28–30](#)). Burdens are lifted at Calvary.

Jesus promised [abundant life](#) to those who follow Him ([John 10:10](#)). Following Jesus brings us more spiritual fulfillment than we could have anticipated. We leave boring behind.

Jesus promised eternal life to those who trust Him ([John 4:14](#)). The Good Shepherd also promised to hold us securely: “No one will snatch them out of my hand” ([John 10:28](#)).

Jesus promised His disciples power from on high ([Acts 1:8](#)). In this power, they “turned the world upside down” ([Acts 17:6](#), [ESV](#)).

Jesus promised that He will return for us ([John 14:2–3](#)). From then on, we will be with Him always.

There are many more promises of God that could be listed. All of them find their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ, “the radiance of God’s glory” ([Hebrews 1:3](#)). “No matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ” ([2 Corinthians 1:20](#)).

Promises for different needs ...

God keeps His promises - God is not a man that he should lie, nor a son of man that He should change His mind ([Num.23:19](#)); [Heb.10:23](#); [Isa.46:11](#); [Ps.89:34-36](#); [Isa.30:18](#)

God listens to our prayer - For the Eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His Ears are attentive to their prayer ([1 Pet.3:12](#)) [Ps.34:17](#); [1 John 5:14](#); [2 Cron.16:9](#); [Ps.4:4](#); [Ps.102:17](#)

God answers our prayer - Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear ([Isa.65:24](#)). [Jer.33:3](#); [Mark 11:24](#); [John 16:24](#); [John 15:7](#); [Isa.58:9](#); [Eph.3:20](#); [Matt.7:7](#)

Promises about salvation - For God did not send His Son into the World to condemn it but to save the World through Him (John 3:17). Rom.10:9-10; 10:13; Eph.2:8-9; 1 Tim.2:3-4; Heb.6:18

Promises about new life - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, the old has gone the new has come! (2 Cor.5:17) John 10:10; 1 Pet.2:24; Gal.2:20; Rom.6:4; 1 John 3:9; 2 Cor.3:18; Ezek.36:26

Promises about freedom - Then you will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed (John 8:32,36) Rom.6:14,22; Rom.8:1-2; 2 Cor.3:17; Acts 13:38

Promises about forgiveness - If we confess our sins, He is Faithful and Just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9) Ps.32:1-2; Isa.43:25; Ps.103:12; 1 John 2:12; Eph.1:7; Rom.8:33.

Promises about justification - God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor.5:21) Rom.8:10; 1 Cor.1:30; Rom.3:21-22; Rom.4:4-5; Rom.5:17

Promises about the Holy Spirit - If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give The Holy Spirit to those who ask Him (Luke 11:13) Isa.44:3; John 14:16-17; John 16:7; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:38-39 Gal.4:6; Gal.3:14; 1 John 4:13; Matt.3:11; Ezek.36:27; Eph.1:13

Promises about faith in God - Think of yourself... in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you (Rom.12:3) Eph.2:8; Heb.11:6; James 1:3; 1 Pet.1:7; Rom.1:17; 1 John 5:4; Mark 9:23; Eph.6:16; John 20:29; Matt.21:21-22; John 16:24

Promises about The Word - All Scripture is God-Breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim.3:16-17) 1 Pet.1:25; Isa.40:8; Matt.4:4; Deut.29:29; Jos.1:8; Isa.55:11; Heb.4:12

Promises about protection from the Evil One - But The Lord is Faithful and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one (2 Thess.3:3) 2 Tim.4:18; Col.1:13; Col.2:15; 1 John 5:18; Rom.8:38,39; Ps.91:9-13; Heb.2:14-15

Promises about His presence - And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age (Matt.28:20) Isa.43:5; James 4:8; John 14:15-16; Matt.18:20; Ps.23:4; Heb.13:5

Promises about Spiritual growth - Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil.1:6) John 17:18-19; 2 Pet.1:3-4; 2 Cor.3:18; 1 Cor.1:8; Eph.3:17-19; Phil.1:9-10

Promises about Spiritual gifts - God's gifts and His call are irrevocable (Rom.11:29) Rom.12:5-8

Promises about the Truth - When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about Me (John 15:26) John 8:31-32; John 16:3; Eph.5:9

Promises about the Love of God - But God demonstrates His own Love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom.5:8) Jer.31:3; Isa.54:10; 1 John 4: 9-10; John 15:9; 1 John 3:1

Promises about joy - I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete (John 15:11) Ps.16:11; Rom.14:17; Isa.55:12; Isa.35:10

Promises about the Peace of God - But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed (Isa.53:5) John 14:27; Rom.5:1; Phil.4:7 Rom.5:22

Promises about the Hope of the Christian - For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope (Rom.15:4) Col.1:27; 1 Pet.1:3; Heb.6:18-19; Rom.5:2; Rom.15:13

Promises about eternal Life - For God so loved the World that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal Life (John 3:16) 1 John 2:25; Rom.6:23; John 10:27-28; John 5:24; 1 John 5:11-13

Promises about the Second Coming of Christ - In my Father's House are many rooms; if it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you I will Come Back and take you to be with Me (John 14:2-3) John 14:28; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess.4:16-17; Col.3:4; Heb.9:28; Rev.1:7

Promises about Heaven - I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud Voice from the Throne saying: "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people and God Himself will be with them and be their God (Rev.21:2-3) 1 Pet.1:4-5; 2 Pet.1:10-11; 2 Pet.3:13; Luke 23:43

God promises power - He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak (Isa.40:29) Ps.29:11; Isa.26:4; Neh.8:10; Eph.6:10; Phil.4:13; Isa.58:11

We can trust in God - Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared (Prov.3:25-26) Prov.14:26; Isa.30:15; 1 John 3:21; 1John 5:14-15

God promises wisdom - To the man who please Him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness (Eccl.2:26) Prov.2:6-7; Prov.9:10; Job 12:13; Dan.2:20-22; 1 Cor.1:30

The Lord will teach us - He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His Way. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of His covenant (Ps.25:8- 10) Ps.25:12-14; Ps.32:8; 2 Tim.3:16-17; Prov.15:33

The Lord will guide us - Whether you turn to the right or to the left your ears will hear a Voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it" (Isa.30:21) Ps.48:14; Ps.23:1,3; Ps.139:9-10

The Lord will make us prosperous - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight. (Prov.3:5-6) Jos.1:8; 2 Chron.20:20; Prov.16:3; 2 Cor.3:5b; 1 Chron.22:12-13

God will comfort us - Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted (Matt.5:4) 2 Cor.1:3-4; 2 Thess.2:16-17; Isa.49:13; John 14:18

God will give us the desires of our heart - May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed (Ps.20:4) Ps.21:2; Prov.10:24; Ps.103:4-5; Mark 11:24

Promises about the family of the believer - The Lord blesses the house of the righteous (Prov.3:33) Prov.12:7; Deut.12:28; Isa.54:13; Ps.112:1-3; Prov.22:6; Ps.128:1,3; Deut.4:40; Eph.6:2-3

Promises about health and healing - By His wounds we are healed (Isa.53:5c) Jer.30:17; Deut. 7:12,15; Ps.91:5-6,10; 3 John 1:2; Jer.33:6; Ex.15:25-26; Ps.103:3; Mal.4:2; 1 Pet.2:24; James 5:13-14,16; Matt.8:16-17

Promises about the protection of God - The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe (Prov.18:10) 1 Sam.2:9; Ps.125: 1-2; Ps.91:3-4,11-12; Ps.34:19-20; Ps.121:1-8; Prov.29:25

Promises about practical/physical needs - And my God will meet all your needs according to His Glorious Riches in Christ Jesus (Phil.4:19) Matt.6:25-26,31-33; Deut.28:1,11,12; Luke 12:30-31; Deut.29:9; Ps.111:5; Isa.1:19; Zech.10:1; Lev.26:3-5

Promises for times of fear and doubt - So do not fear for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My Righteous Right Hand (Isa.41:10) Isa.41:13; Isa.43:1; 2 Tim.1:7; Luke 12:6-7; 1 John 4:18; Rom.4:21; Ps.112:7; Isa.58:9

Promises for times of depression - Why are you downcast O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him my Savior and my God (Ps.43:5) Ps.73:26; Ps.37:23-24; Ps.34:47; Isa.49:15; Heb.13:5

Promises in times of failure and helplessness - Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; Trust also in Me (John 14:1) Isa.61:1-3; Ps.147:3; Rom.8:28; Isa.41:13; 2 Cor.12:9; Rom.8:26; Heb.13:6; 1 John 4:4

Promises in times of anxiety - If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith...Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself (Matt.6:30,34) Phil.4:6-7; Luke 12:25-26; 1 Pet.5:6-7; Gal.5:1; Matt.11:28-30

Promises in time of temptation and demonic attacks - No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is Faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it (1 Cor.10:13) 2 Pet.2:7-9; Heb.4:14-16; 1 Thess.5:22-24; James 4:7; Gal.1:3-4; Rom.16:20; John 16:33; 1 John 4:4

Promises in suffering, difficulties and attacks from people - The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; He is their stronghold in time of trouble. The Lord helps them and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them because they take refuge in Him (Ps.37:39-40) James 1:12; Rom.5:3; 1 Pet.1:4-7; Jer.15:21; Ps.27:1-2; 1 Pet.3:9; Rom.8:31; Ex.14:13-14; Matt.5:10-12; Luke 21:12-15; Rev.2:10

God gives power for His service - This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit" says the Lord Almighty (Zech.4:6) Acts.1:8; Isa.40:31; Eph.6:13; Phil.2:13; Eph.3:16; Col.1:11

Promises about financial and material provision - Consider the ravens; They do not sow or reap, they have no store room or barn yet God fees them and how much more valuable you are than birds! (Luke 12:24) Phil.4:19; Luke 11:9; Ps.84:11-12; Matt.6:32; Ps.37:3,25; Luke 12:30-31; Luke 6:38