

I HAVE EXCEEDINGLY GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES FROM GOD!

A promise is only as good as the one who makes it. A promise from an unreliable person is a recipe for heartbreak and resentment, but a promise from someone with a proven track record is a source of hope and perseverance in trying times. Slowly consider each of the following promises from God and remember that when God promises something, it's a guarantee! Let it stand as an anchor through the turbulent waters you find yourself presently navigating.

- When you seek the Lord with all of your heart, you will find him (Deuteronomy 4:29).
- God will strengthen and protect you from the evil one (2 Thessalonians 3:3).
- In all circumstances, he will work to the good of those who love him (Romans 8:28).
- God *will* comfort you in your afflictions (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
- Your eternal inheritance will be secure and will be held for you (1 Peter 1:4).
- God will finish the work he began in you (Philippians 1:6).
- God will supply everything you need (Matthew 6:33, Philippians 4:19).
- God will give rest for your soul when you bring your burdens to him (Matthew 11:28-30).
- God will give the presence of his Holy Spirit to fill you with his power everywhere you go (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8).
- Jesus will always be with you. He will never leave or forsake you (Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5).
- When you pass through the waters, they *will not* sweep over you. When you pass through the fire, you *will not* be burned because he *will* be with you (Isaiah 43:1-4).
- God will fill you with peace deeper than you can understand as you bring your heart before him (John 14:27, Philippians 4:4-9).

"Through these He has given us *very great and precious promises*, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires" 2 Peter 1:4 – Emphasis added.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- 1. You can only follow God as far as you **trust** him. We trust him more as we realize the depths of his love for us. Are you struggling with grasping his love for you or with believing his promises in any area of your life? What is it?
- 2. Is there any place you need to "forgive" God an area it feels like he didn't come through or answer the cry of your heart? Talk to him and ask him to give you his wisdom and peace for the situation you find yourself in. Don't be afraid to be vulnerable! Seek outside help if needed.
- 3. Look at the short list of God's promises above. Which promise(s) do you really need to stand on today? Spend a few minutes declaring that promise over your life!

PRAYER:

Lord God, thank you for continually leading my heart to trust in your precious promises. I am grateful that I can take part in your very nature and escape the corrupt ways of the world around me. I receive and stand firmly in your promises of salvation, healing, deliverance, resurrection, transformation and eternal life through Jesus Christ, my Lord.

LISTENING TIME:

Stop for a few minutes and ask the Lord what he wants to say to you. He might bring to mind a picture, a word, a song, an encouragement, a Scripture or an answer to a burden in your heart. Don't rush or feel pressure to figure out the meaning of your impressions. Just invite him to speak and draw or write down what you sense. Afterward, ask God to help you discern and understand what he is saying to you. You might want to ask other trusted friends in the Kingdom for their input as well.

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TOOLS FOR FAMILY DEVOTIONS:

Ask, "How do you feel when someone breaks a promise? Do you trust that person again? Can a person always keep all of their promises?" Take some time to ask for forgiveness for broken promises, intentional or not, among your family. Parents, ask your kids: "Are there any places you feel we have broken a promise to you?" Make it a safe place for them to share. Be ready to repent and work toward healing any place that is needed.

TOOLS FOR PRAYING FOR OTHERS:

Pray for someone who is hardened for God because they feel that God has broken his promise to them. Pray that they would see his goodness and his heart for them.