

The Lights of Christmas

Part 1: The Light of Promises Kept

A Promise kept brings **security, stability, and satisfaction**

The importance of keeping a promise, even to our hurt

Psalm 15:4; *'He swears to his own **hurt** and does not change'*

How do you know if you should trust a Promise maker:

Is the Promise maker a **PERSON** of noble character?

Does the Promise maker have the **POWER** to keep the promise?

Does the Promise maker have a **PATTERN** of keeping promises?

God has kept His Christmas Promises

His promise in the **Garden** Genesis 3:15; 1 John 3:8

His promise to **Noah** Genesis 9:11; 1 Peter 2:24

His Promise to **Moses** Deuteronomy 18:18; John 6:14, 7:40

His Promise to **Isaiah** Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23

God's Promises for today

He will **build your life** better than you can John 10:10, 15:1-5

He will **supply all you need** to follow Him
Matthew 11:28-29; Philippians 4:19

He will **come and receive** you to Himself John 14:1-6

Auburn Grace Community Church – December 3rd, 2023

Life Group Discussion Questions – December 3, 2023

Hebrews 6:13-14 *For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU."*

DISCOVER

1. Discuss some of the ways we enter into a promise or understanding without using the words, "I promise to...". Is it more substantial when you actually say these words? How so? Why do you think promises carry a tangible psychological weight?
2. Share with your group about a time when someone you trusted didn't come through with a commitment they made. How did that make you feel? What role did this person's character play? What life lessons did you take away?
3. What happens when we break a promise? Is there ever a time when it's OK to break a promise? Give some examples. Why is a promise kept so important? Have you ever kept a promise even when it was no longer to your advantage to do so?
4. Your Kept Promise Ratio (KPR) is the ratio between your promises made and your promises kept. How would others rate your KPR? Has your score improved or degraded over time?

EXPLORE

1. Read Luke 1:18-25. Make a list of all the verses that give hope resulting from promises. How can we cultivate an attitude that diligently identifies and holds on to the more everyday assurances from God? How might this be transformative in you?
2. Read Judges 6:36-40. How is this a transactional agreement (and promise)? Did a faithless Gideon use the fleece to test God's will? How have you tested God like Gideon? In what ways have you broken a promise you made to God? (see Deuteronomy 23:21-23)
3. Read Luke 2:25-35. Love and peace came over Simeon at one point. Why was that? Does this imply he was not at peace prior to meeting this particular Baby? Why was it enough for Simeon to meet a Baby rather than the Consolation of Israel as a full grown man years later? What inspires you about Simeon's story?
4. Read Malachi 3:8-12. How is this a way that God is inviting us to validate His KPR score? Read Acts 5:1-11. Regarding Ananias and Sapphira, how might their destinies have changed if they had acted on the Malachi passage? Was God too harsh in His judgment? (see Ecc. 5:4-6)

EXPERIENCE

1. How do you know if you should trust a promise maker? If someone doesn't practice keeping little commitments (like being on-time to meetings), then how does this impact our confidence when they make bigger promises? What does it take to fully trust this person? What does this say about the grace you should extend to a person with a consistently low KPR score?
2. What attributes do you look for in a promise keeper? Are these your attributes as well?
3. According to one source, there are over 400 documented promises that have been kept by God. Can you think of any promises He has not kept? If God has a perfect KPR score, how might you convince an unbeliever of God's perfect and unshakeable faithfulness? How might you encourage them to trust in God as a result?

PRAY

Pray...Father in Heaven, thank You for Your perfect and eternal faithfulness. You have never failed me. But I have failed You and others by not keeping my promises. Help me to be a better promise keeper. And when others fail to keep their promises to me, remind me that Your promises and grace extend to all eternity. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

10 Promises of God

1. God promises to strengthen you.

*“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he **may grant you to be strengthened with power** through his Spirit **in your inner being.**” (Ephesians 3:14-16)*

2. God promises to give you rest.

*“Then Jesus said, ‘Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, **and I will give you rest.** Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will **find rest for your souls.** For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.’” (Matthew 11:28-30)*

3. God promises to take care of all your needs.

*“And this same God who takes care of me will **supply all your needs** from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)*

4. God promises to answer your prayers.

*“**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7)*

5. God promises to work everything out for your good.

*“And we know that God **causes everything to work together for the good** of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” (Romans 8:28)*

6. God promises to be with you

*“I will not fail you or abandon you. This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. **For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**” (Joshua 1:5, 9)*

7. God promises to protect you.

*“This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, **my place of safety**; he is my God, and I trust him.” (Psalm 91:2)*

8. God promises freedom from sin.

*“But if we **confess our sins** to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse us** from all wickedness.” (1 John 1:9)
“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)*

9. God promises that nothing can separate you from Him.

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

10. God promises you everlasting life.

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but **have eternal life.**” (John 3:16)*