

STANDING
on the
PROMISES
of

GOD



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2025

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The other day I was sitting at my computer wanting to start another bible study or book, but could not come up with what I wanted to talk about. As I was praying about it I heard in my mind, what about the promises I have made?

My brain immediately went where it always does. “And just where am I going to come up with all the words for a study like that?” That’s when Jesus reminded me of the promise He had made the disciples 2000 years ago when He had sent them out to proclaim the Good News. He had said in **Matthew 10:19-20**, But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

He tells us the same thing even in just our daily lives. We have the Holy Spirit or as some say, the Spirit of God in us. So knowing what to say is as simple as, Hush and just listen, you will be given the words you need! That is a promise that we have been made and the first promise I want to stand on for this study.

I would like to present a study based upon that first principle or promise. For many of us, these are simply reminders of Biblical teachings we already understand. But we STILL need reminding from time to time, even of the basics.

Philippians 3:1, Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. Sometimes just a simple reminder is what we need. And as Peter said in **2 Peter 1:13-15**, I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

This is the main reason I do these studies. I do them so that after I leave this world behind, maybe these studies will help others grow as I did. Studies help us focus on growing, but also helps us prepare to share God’s word with others. And understanding His promises helps us draw closer to Him.

We have been soured in our lives about promises. I mean, we live in a time when we are used to people not keeping their word. It is no surprise when a politician makes promises and does the complete opposite. Expansive contracts are signed because they are more valuable than one’s word. Often hidden in “fine print” are deceptive details that cause disappointment when enacted upon. Our news media and information sources do not have the integrity they used to have, usually spinning a story to their side.

With all the deceit and half-truths around us, people wonder about whether or not God will keep His word or His promises. But one of the characteristics of God that ought to give us comfort is the fact

that He does keep His promises. In **Hebrews 6:18** it says it is impossible for God to lie. So if God has made a promise, we can stand on it as the Gospel, so to speak.

In this study that is what I would like to talk about. How and why we should stand on the promises of God.

So let's start with **2 Peter 1:4**. It says, Through these he has given us his 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. That is the main purpose of God's promises. To give us hope in this evil world in which we live.

The bible says that God has "very great and precious promises." The bible describes God's promises as being "very Great." Indeed that is true! It has been estimated that there are approximately 30,000 promises in the bible. They are too numerous to count and too numerous to bring all to mind! But God has given to us many promises such as **Psalms 37:4** which says, Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart, and **John 15:7** that says, If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

But so many times people take these two verses out of context. They act like God is some type of Genie they can use to get what they want. Many of the TV preachers of today do the same thing with these verses. These two verses say, the desires of your heart and whatever you wish. So you can see where people would think Genie instead of the creator of the universe. They ask questions like, want to be rich, pray it! Want to be all healthy, pray it! Then they say if you don't get it, you're a doubter! Don't doubt, just believe and it's yours. Then the next line spoken is, if you send a donation we will pray it for you also!

But if you put those two verses into context, you will see the true meaning. Starting with **Psalms 37:3-6** it says, Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.

Did anyone catch that? Trust in the Lord, delight in the Lord, Commit your way to the Lord. Yes I know, these are called catch phrases. People don't want to live for God, they want to live for this world and what it offers. But in the same sentence they want God to give them the desires of their heart so they can enjoy this life with pleasure. I'm not saying we can't enjoy life, but I am saying we must commit and trust God to know what is best for us and what we need.

So let's move on to the second verse I used above. **John 15:1-8** says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the

branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

First thing I want us to notice is the word "remain" is used eight times. Five of those times says, remain in me. Even the verse used earlier says remain in me and my words remain in you. But the verse starts with "IF." That word "IF" is the key to the whole set of verses. If we are living for Jesus and not ourselves, then we have a better understanding of what it means, ask what ever you wish. The New King James Version says, ask what you desire. Both of these seem open ended unless you understand the full set of scriptures.

So that, "IF", means that when we remain in and live for Jesus and the Father, our attitude changes to the point where we want the Father's will in our lives. If we get to that point, then the rest will fall into place in our lives. God knows our needs and wishes, and He has promised to grant them if we try to live our lives for the Glory of God, instead of living for self.

So with a better understanding, If we commit to the Lord, Trust He knows what is best for us, Remain in Him, as in going to church, studying the word and reading our bibles, then the answer is, "yes" he will give us the desires of our hearts and wishes because our motives will be to have God's will done in our lives to bring the Father Glory. Just as Jesus said in **John 14:13-14**, And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

And with that said, it leads us into the promises of prayer. The Bible emphasizes that God hears and answers prayers, promising that He will fulfill requests made in faith and according to His will. There are several key verses highlight the importance of praying in Jesus' name, believing, and seeking His guidance.

The first promise verse I want to look at is **Matthew 7:7-8**. In these verses it says, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Jesus encourages persistent prayer, stating that those who "ask, seek, and knock" will receive, find, and have the door opened to them, emphasizing that God is ready to answer sincere prayers. The Greek verbs used here imply continuous action, suggesting that we should "continue to ask, seek, and knock."

It always bring to mind the TV series of Big Bang Theory. Sheldon, one of the main cast members, use to make me laugh when he would knock on Penny or Leonard's apartment door. Picture a very fast knocking and speaking with out stopping, "knock knock knock Penny, knock knock knock Penny, knock knock knock Penny." This would continue until someone open the door. This is sometimes how we need to be in our prayers. It says knock and it will be open, but seriously, in real life how often have you ever seen someone open the door on the first knock.

Jesus even had a parable about a persistent widow. And the King finally give in because he said she was going to wear him out if he didn't do what she ask. Now why would Jesus tell that parable if we were not to be persistent in our prayers.

Listen to the The Parable of the Persistent Widow in **Luke 18:1-8**. Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' " "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

So the promise is our prayers will be answered if we persist. But it will be in God's timing and in His will. Then in **Matthew 7:11** it says, 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 good gifts to those who ask him!

It emphasizes that God is ready to give good gifts to those who ask, and that His responsiveness to prayer is not based on the goodness of the one who prays, but on the goodness of God. This promise is universal, meaning that God is ready to respond to the sincere asking, seeking, and knocking of each of His children.

These passages come from the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus is teaching his followers about how to live a life that pleases God. Jesus encourages believers to be persistent in prayer, knowing that God is listening and ready to answer. It also speaks to those with doubts and questions about faith, suggesting that those who pursue truth will find it in Christ. The message is that God is a loving and gracious Father who cares deeply for His children and wants to provide for their needs.

Another promise of prayer is from Matthew. **Matthew 18:18-20** says, "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. " "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

These verses are within the context of church discipline and reconciliation, and they emphasizes that decisions made by believers in agreement, especially when seeking God's will, are considered God's decisions, and Jesus promises to be present among those who gather in his name.

Verse 18 speaks to the authority given to believers to make decisions that have spiritual consequences, particularly in matters of church discipline and reconciliation. "Binding" and "loosing" in this context refer to declaring something forbidden or permitted, or, in a broader sense, to making decisions about

who is in or out of the community of faith. It's a powerful statement about the weight of decisions made by believers acting in unity and following God's principles.

Verses 19 and 20 emphasizes the power of united prayer and the importance of gathering together in Christ's name. "Two or three" refers to a small group of believers who are united in faith and purpose. Jesus promises to be present in the midst of those who gather in his name, signifying his ongoing presence and blessing. The promise of God's presence and action in response to united prayer is a source of encouragement and assurance for believers.

Prayers must be offered with faith, believing that God will answer. Prayers should align with God's will and character. God hears the prayers of those who are obedient to Him. Prayers should be offered in Jesus' name, recognizing His authority and mediation. **John 14:6** says, Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Jesus is our mediator before the Father.

So the promises of prayer all pretty much say the same thing and I believe it is all summed up in **John 14:12-14**. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Which leads us into another promise. The promise of whoever believes in me, which is Jesus Christ. **John 3:16-18** says, 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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Eternal life is a free gift from God, not something humans can earn through good deeds or following rules. The Bible emphasizes that eternal life is obtained through faith in Jesus Christ, who died to atone for the sins of humanity. Jesus himself defines eternal life as knowing the only true God and Him, Jesus Christ, whom he sent. Eternal life is not just a future reward but a present reality for those who believe in Jesus. Eternal life is not merely about living forever, but about living a life filled with God's presence, peace, and joy. Eternal life begins the moment you place your faith in Jesus, the moment you believe, the moment you repent of your sins. Eternal life is about having a relationship with God, a relationship that is built on love, trust, and obedience. God **promises** eternal life to those who believe in him. Eternal life is a real and tangible reality for those who believe in Jesus. Eternal life is a journey, not a destination. It is a transformation, a change in our hearts and minds as we come to know God and Jesus. Eternal life is a hope, a promise of a future filled with joy, peace, and love.

Jesus makes us a promise in **John 6:37** where He says, All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. This verse highlights that it's the Father who gives

people to the Son, implying that God initiates the process of salvation. Jesus's words, "I will never drive away," offer a powerful assurance that those who come to him will be welcomed and not rejected. This verse is often interpreted as a promise of eternal security, meaning that those who are truly saved in Christ will not lose their salvation. While God initiates salvation, the verse also emphasizes the importance of faith, as people must "come to" Jesus for salvation. This promise is a source of comfort and hope for believers, affirming that their salvation is secure in Christ and that they can come to him with confidence.

We have a Promise of the resurrection in **John 6:44**. It says, No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. Here we have the assurance of our resurrection when Christ comes back to get us for eternity, which leads me into **John 14:2-4**. It says, My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that 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 that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Jesus uses the image of a "house" to represent heaven, emphasizing that there is ample room and provision for all believers. The term "mansions" can be interpreted as a place of eternal dwelling, a symbol of comfort and security. This assures the disciples that Jesus is not deceiving them, and that he is actively working to make a place for them in heaven. Jesus's departure and preparation are not a separation, but a necessary step in fulfilling God's plan for their eternal home. But Jesus promises a future reunion, a time when he will return to take his followers to be with him in heaven. This reinforces the idea of a shared destiny and a place of eternal fellowship with God. Jesus's words here are a reassurance that the way to the Father is through him. By knowing Jesus, the disciples know the way to the Father and the place he is preparing for them.

The same goes for us. This is the promise Jesus has made to everyone who believes upon Him. When God calls us to a saving faith in Jesus Christ His Son, we are not only forgiven of all sin, we are promised a place in heaven and a home to live in. Jesus promises He will come back to get those who believe in Him.

Jesus made us a promise that if we become a witness for Him while we are on this earth, He will not forget us. He said in **Matthew 10:32-33**, Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

The bible also describes God's promises as being "precious." God's promises are priceless and invaluable. They are comforting to the soul and encouraging to the heart. Promises such as **1 John 1:9**, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness and **Psalms 37:23-24**, The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds him with His hand. These promises bring comfort and encouragement to our hearts.

How are God's promises made possible to us? It is only because of the Lord Jesus Christ. He alone is worthy and who made us worthy to come before God and who which he has freely given us in the One he loves as it says in **Ephesians 1:6**. The bible says in **2 Corinthians 1:20** that 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.

So when you go to God in prayer claiming His promises, you will not receive these promises unless you go through Jesus Christ. The bible says in **John 14:6** that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life and no one comes to the Father except through Him and **1 Timothy 2:5** that there is one Mediator between God and men who is the Lord Jesus Christ. So if you want to be heard by God and want to receive His promises, you need to go to God through Jesus Christ.

In **Numbers 23:19** it says God's promises are also based on His immutable nature. It says, God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

God's promises are sure and steadfast and are based on His nature! The bible says in **Romans 3:4**, Let God be true, and every human being a liar. **Hebrews 6:17-19** says, Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,

So God's immutable and unchangeable nature should be of a great comfort to us. And so how are we to treat God's promises? The bible says in **Hebrews 6:12** that, We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. God commands us that we should not become lazy and to continue in our hope. It say in the verse just before it **Hebrews 6:11**, We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized.

God will not and does not break His promises. One day we will fully realize that, but for now all we have is that "HOPE." A hope that does not disappoint as it says in **Romans 5:5**. It says, And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 15:13 says, May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Which leads us into the promise of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is called several things in the bible. When Jesus speaks of the spirit He might have said, the Advocate, Helper, spirit of Truth, or Spirit of God.

In **John 14:26** Jesus said, But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. In earlier verses, **John 14:15-17**, Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth.

Even Paul talked about the promise Jesus made about the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 1:13** says, when you believed, you were marked in Christ with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

But why were we promised the Holy Spirit. The promise of the Holy Spirit was made to empower believers to live out their faith, understand God's truth, and carry out God's mission, ultimately enabling them to become witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to give believers the power to be witnesses to him in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The Spirit is promised as a guide and teacher, helping believers understand God's word and discern truth. The Spirit would help the disciples remember and understand what Jesus had taught them. It is described as an advocate and helper, comforting and guiding believers through difficult times to empower believers to carry out their ministry and fulfill God's purpose in their lives. And is seen as a seal of God's promise to believers, guaranteeing their inheritance and assuring them of God's presence.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us with God and enables believers to understand and apply God's word in their lives. It convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, drawing people to repentance and faith.

The Holy Spirit helps us. He teaches us and reminds us of all the things Jesus said. As we read God's Word, we can trust the Holy Spirit to help us understand what we are reading. Not only that, but we can also expect the Holy Spirit to bring to our remembrance the truth about who God is, who we are, what God promises, what God has done, and what God will do. He also helps us when we feel weak and inadequate, especially in our prayer lives when our understanding and spoken language feels limited.

The Holy Spirit guides us. He produces in us the very nature of Christ. As born again believers, we are no longer slaves to sin and death, but we are now alive to the Holy Spirit and to God's Kingdom. When we make a daily choice to seek the Holy Spirit and remain attentive to His leading, we develop very little tolerance for sin, but rather, we grow in the fruit of the Spirit over time. Just as a flower doesn't force itself to bloom, but simply yields to the watering and sunlight it receives, we too cannot force ourselves into consistent right living, but we need to yield to the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We can all relate to finding it challenging to love or be patient with certain people in our lives. For whatever reason, despite our best efforts, our love and patience can grow thin. But with the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, He is able to produce in us the fruit of love and patience that is needed so that we can reflect Christ to those around us.

The Holy Spirit renews us. He allows us to walk in newness of life each day because of what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross. This renewing work begins the moment we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, but it also continues each day as we respond to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. In other words, we receive God's forgiveness for our sins once and for all at salvation, and we continue to receive His forgiveness as we walk humbly before Him, being ready to confess our sins as the Holy Spirit leads us to.

As you might have guessed, that leads us to the next promise, the promise of Forgiveness.

When God makes a promise to forgive sin against Him, He is faithful to forgive. God promises the Israelites through the prophet Isaiah that despite their sinfulness against God, He will forgive their sins and never think of their sins again in **Isaiah 43:25**. This promise to forgive did not remove the consequences of their sin because God still allows them to experience captivity by their enemies, the Babylonians, which God warned them of this consequence. Still, they ignored His warning and continued to sin against Him. Consequences for sin do not change the promise that God forgives sins. David also knew the promise of forgiveness from God. David is described as a man after God's own heart in **1 Samuel 13:14**, yet David sinned against God. However, in Psalm 103, David records God's promise of forgiveness toward sin.

Listen to **Psalm 103:1-12**. It says, Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

God's promise to forgive extends to all people, not just the Israelites and David. Through the apostle John, God shares the truth that Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection provide God's forgiveness and cleansing of all sin. People who claim they have no sin are only fooling themselves and not living in the truth. God promises to forgive sin through confession of sin to Him.

1 John 1:9-10 says, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

The apostle Paul teaches the believers in Jesus in Ephesus and Colossae that God is rich in kindness toward them because of His promise of forgiveness through Jesus.

Forgiveness is a promise from God that you receive through faith in Jesus. God's promise of forgiveness is continuous toward you. It provides freedom for you to embrace the life God intended for you to live with Him. God's consistent forgiveness of your sin doesn't negate the reality of your sin but rather magnifies your awareness of your need for God's promise of forgiveness.

Forgiveness is a promise for you to experience from God, but forgiveness is also a process for you to extend toward others. You sin against God, and His promise of forgiveness is available to you. As a recipient of God's forgiveness, God expects you to offer forgiveness to others.

You will experience hurt, injury, wound, or injustice at the hands of others. God is aware of everything you experience, yet God knows that your unforgiveness toward others ultimately harms you. God models how to offer forgiveness toward others who have offended, hurt, or injured you.

Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourself with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you.

Ephesians 4:31-32 says, Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Forgiveness is a choice or commitment God makes toward you, and God asks you to offer forgiveness to others. The anger and intense emotions associated with the hurt, injury, or injustice can return at any moment, and that is why forgiveness is a process, an ongoing act on your part. You are in constant communication with God asking Him to strengthen you to extend mercy and allow God to handle the person or situation. You confirm in your heart and mind that you want to release the person or situation to God to handle perfectly. You ask God to send away the intense emotions that have been ignited within you again and help you let go of the associated thoughts in your mind. This deliberate release by you gives you the freedom to live again because you let go of vengeance because God promises to complete this responsibility on your behalf.

When Jesus taught His disciples about prayer, He connected their willingness to forgive to God's response to their prayers for their own forgiveness of sins.

God knows that factors are associated with the process of forgiveness, such as the severity, acknowledgment, intentionality, and frequency of the wrong or injustice. Yet, God still asks you to forgive as He forgives you. Forgiveness does not remove or change the reality of the injustice or wrong. Forgiveness affirms the reality of the wrongdoing or injustice and positions it in its proper place, God's hands, to allow you to pursue life with God.

You may come to the realization that you have a permanent and adverse impact from an injustice or injury. This realization doesn't mean you are stuck or the injustice or injury defines you. This

realization just means you may need more time and more communication with God requesting His supernatural strength to make progress in forgiveness. The process of forgiveness deepens your self-awareness and promotes spiritual growth in you because you are confronting your beliefs about injustice, forgiveness, yourself, and God. You can develop the strength to extend forgiveness to others because you are a recipient of constant forgiveness from God.

When it comes to forgiveness, you have a choice: remain in your current state of unforgiveness or seek strength and courage to embrace a change of heart and mind. If you are willing to consider the process of forgiveness, God is ready to help you. Remember, forgiveness is a process, not a one-time choice. It's a consistent spiritual journey with God whereby you acknowledge the reality of the injustice or injury, but you work diligently to send away, release, and let go of your thoughts and actions of vengeance, knowing God is responsible and that consequences exist, but you are free to live your life with God.

Finally, forgiveness does not mean reconciliation, nor does it mean the injustice, injury, or wrong is less real, forgotten, or even acceptable. Forgiveness aims to free you to live with God the life He intended for you before you experienced injustice, injury, or wrong. In other words, the Promise of Forgiveness is there for all and is a promise of God through Jesus Christ.

With God's promise of forgiveness, comes the opportunity for a fresh start, a renewed relationship with Him, and the freedom to live a life of purpose and peace, embracing His love and grace. Forgiveness signifies a clean slate, allowing individuals to move forward without the burden of past mistakes. It also strengthens the bond between a person and God, fostering a deeper sense of connection and trust. Our forgiveness is a testament to God's boundless love and grace, encouraging individuals to embrace His unconditional acceptance.

Next let's study the promise of God's grace? It means no matter what we endure, no matter how hard or exhausting the situation, God promises that His grace is more than enough for us to bathe in joy and contentment right now, no matter what we're facing. We can endure hard things, and we can endure them well because of God's grace.

In **2 Corinthians 12:8** Paul tells us he pleaded with God three times to take the thorn away, which may literally mean three specific occasions of prayer or it could be a euphemism for pleading with God *a lot*. Paul wanted that thing gone, and I don't blame him. But God didn't take it away. Instead, God responded to Paul's prayers with this in **2 Corinthians 12:9**, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness".

I've read that verse many times, but I'm not sure I've ever stopped to meditate on it. This verse is a promise from God that His undeserved favor and goodness and kindness dispensed over Paul is enough for Paul not just to endure this tent peg-sized thorn but to find gladness in it. With God's grace, Paul could still thrive under affliction as God shined brighter through Paul's persistent weakness.

Through much suffering Paul gained the secret to contentment. Writing to the Philippians in **Philippians 4:11-13**, he said, "For I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how

to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me”.

How did Christ strengthen Paul? Through the ever-flowing endowment of God’s grace. His measureless and satisfying and empowering divine favor gifted to us through Christ’s powerful presence at all times.

Do you know what this means? It means no matter what we endure, no matter how hard or exhausting the situation, God promises that His grace is more than enough for us to bathe in joy and contentment right now, no matter what we’re facing. We can endure hard things, and we can endure them well because of God’s grace.

Grace isn’t just the avenue by which we gain salvation; grace is the platform in which we thrive physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually until the day we eternally experience that salvation.

Galatians 1:15 says we are called by grace. **Ephesians 2:8** says we are saved by grace. **2 Corinthians 12:9** says we are sustained by grace. And we look forward to more grace at Christ’s return. All through eternity, we will experience the immeasurable riches of God’s grace.

In the meantime **Galatians 5:4** says, we can fall away from grace, or we can grow in grace **2 Peter 3:18** tells us, the choice is up to us. We can also pray for an extension of grace over one another. And we can gain more grace by living humbly before God as it says in **James 4:6**, for God is the keeper of all grace.

God didn’t save us only to leave us empty-handed. But every time we ignore the Holy Spirit, set aside God’s Word, and choose our ways over His, we live as though we’re empty-handed. If you long to experience God’s grace but aren’t sure where to begin, start with humility. There’s a continuous outpouring of grace upon grace for those who seek refuge in Christ.

In Closing:

We have noted some of the promises of God. In difficult times like these it becomes apparent that you can’t place your trust in the things that we were able to count on in the past such as the government, schools, our economy, relationships, and the list goes on and on. It is comforting to know that in the world that we live in today there is one thing we can place our trust on which never wavers or lets us down. It is the promises that God has made to us. His promises ought to give us reason to faithfully serve Him and hope as we live in a world that does not want to serve Him. Are you standing on the promises of God? Something to think about!