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Standing on the Promises

*Standing on the promises of Christ my King;
Thru eternal ages let His praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear
assail,
By the living word of God, I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
Listening ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.*

Refrain:

*Standing on the promises, standing on the
promises,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior,
Standing on the promises, standing on the
promises,
I'm standing on the promises of God.*

WORDS: R. Kelso Carter (w. 1886)

MUSIC: R. Kelso Carter (w. 1886)



**Not one word of all the good promises that
the LORD had made to the house of Israel had
failed... Joshua 21:45**



PROMISES FOR STORMY DAYS

"For all the promises of God in Him, [Christ Jesus], are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." 2 Corinthians 1:20 KJV

Usually when we think of the promises of God, our thoughts and inclinations are toward good things. The promises that lift our spirits, give us confidence, and assure us of His presence with us in the now and into the future and this is good. Life, however, is not always on the up. Sometimes we hit a hard patch. Sometimes, it is not just a patch but a very long stretch.

There are three patriots in the Bible into whose lives we may look at such times – David, when he was being hunted by Saul after he had been anointed king by God's direction and Joseph when he was sold into Egypt by his own kin after having been shown by God what his future held. And then, there is Job! Let's remind ourselves of God's own testimony of Job. "Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." Job 1:8 NIV

Question: Do the promises of God still hold in unfairly tough times? I had a series of conversations with a friend who has had a very difficult life. From an early separation from her family, losing some of them to war, and at the time of this exchange, having her mother die suddenly after what she hoped would be a short hospital stay leading to recovery. Her heart was broken, as was mine for her. In the months that followed she struggled with her faith and questioned her life in the light of her most recent crisis. She felt abandoned by God because her years of faithful living and prayers had not yielded the results she desired. She asked, what do you do, "when the only place you can run is God and things don't turn out the way you want...?" I shared these words, that God

has used to minister to me since. Just last year when my own mother died and the sorrow was heavy, ... a story for another time, if the Lord permits. God is always true to His promises, even in our darkest hours.

"First, let me preface my thoughts by stating again that I don't have all the answers. I really wish I did. I have no doubts, however, that God does. He does not promise that even if we follow Him faithfully and never once sin, we will have a life free of pain, suffering, and disappointments. In fact, here are some of His promises:

1. He promises to answer our prayers, according to His will/plan for us. "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." 1 John 5:14 NIV

2. He promises that His will/plan for us is always good. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

3. He promises that in this world, we will have trouble. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33 NIV

4. He promises to be with us even in these troubles because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5b NIV. Also, "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8 NIV

5. He promises to always allow only burdens we can bear, so we are not overwhelmed. "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." 1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV

6. He promises to work the bad things for good. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 NIV

7. He promises the best is yet to come. Death is not our end. It is only our translation into His eternal blissful presence. "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." Romans 8:18 NIV

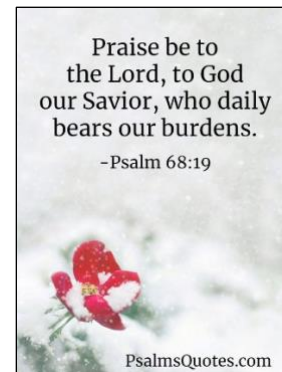
You are of great worth in God's eyes. Your hurts and tears matter to Him. Take them to Him so He can bear these

burdens daily, on your account." "Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens." Psalm 68:19 NIV

End note: ¹ Christ Jesus as used here, not in KJV

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PROMISES

Promises are oaths or declarations made to others about something we will do or promises made to stop doing some particular thing. There is a mindset in society today that "promises are made to be broken." We see it in government, the business world, the financial world, marriage, and home—every aspect of our lives, including our Christian lives.

Have you ever told someone you would pray for them, only to forget? I have, to my regret. It makes me sad when I finally remember. If I don't write everything down, including those to pray for, I forget. I'm sure many of us do the same thing. It's easy to make promises and even easier to break them. The alcoholic says, "I'm going to stop drinking! The gambler says, "I'm not going to gamble anymore." The adulterer promises to be faithful.

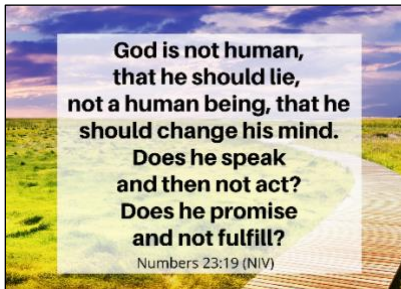
Aren't you glad God's promises are not like ours? Just before Joshua's death, he gave a farewell speech to the leaders of God's people in Joshua 23:14, "*Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled, not one has failed. But just as every good promise of the Lord has come to you, so He will bring on you all the evil things He has threatened...*"

God's promises are always right, true, and faithful. Numbers 23:19 says, "*God is not human that He should lie, not a human being, that He should change his mind.*" We make promises even to ourselves, especially at the beginning of a new year; but soon we break even those promises.

I am **so** grateful that my Lord is not like me! He doesn't forget His promises. He is true and faithful. He is trustworthy and just. I can depend on Him in all things every day, even to forgive me. (I am a sinner covered by the blood of Jesus). He is trustworthy to provide my every need, both physically and spiritually. As long as I remain faithful to Him, I can rest on His promises without fail.

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, Missouri

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Standing on the Promises

It never ceases to amaze me when I encounter someone who professes atheism. Of course, I realize that person does not know of all the thousands of promises God has made throughout the ages and has kept; or, based on past history, has kept every single one.

When a literal count is made, there are over 7,000 promises made by God recorded in scripture. Joshua 21:45 tells us, "Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; everything came to pass." Only a few of those are listed below.

- God promises to strengthen you. ... 2 Thessalonians 3:3
- God promises to give you rest. ... Matthew 11:28
- God promises to take care of all your needs. ... Philippians 4:19
- God promises to answer your prayers. ... Matthew 7:7
- God promises to work everything out for your good. ... Romans 8:28
- God promises to be with you. ... Matthew 28:20
- God promises to protect you. ... Psalm 121:7-8
- God promises freedom from sin. ... John 8:34-36

Granted, some of the promises God made were fulfilled ages after they were made. Abraham did not live long enough to see the fulfillment of the promise God made that through him all nations would be blessed. Can you imagine Abraham dying and stomping up to God and

demanding, "What happened?" It was thousands of years later that Christ came and died on the cross and offered salvation to all people of the world. Abraham did not live long enough to see his prodigy become that physical bridge to the birth of Jesus, but God did keep that promise to him.

Joshua 21:45

New American Standard Bible

Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.

When we look around us, nature itself screams God's control. Hebrews 1:3 speaks of God's power over all things. I simply do not have enough faith to believe the complexities of the human body, cellular makeup of plants and trees, or the complete control of the heavenly stars and planets just happened and continue to happen. If God can and does control those things, is He not capable of fulfilling each and every promise He has ever made?

Do we believe the many promises made to us? Do we become impatient waiting for the answer we want to our prayers? Do we lose faith because we don't see instant results, or we receive a no? When we doubt, we need to go to scripture and renew the knowledge that God has never failed his people. Neither will He fail us.

Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, Louisiana

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WHAT LASTS FOREVER?

One September day in 2021, I drove past the remains of a building that was at least a hundred years old. It was slowly falling to the ground, not from the long-term effects of wind and weather. It was falling under constant, eight-hours-a-day bombardment of a wrecking ball, as it was being intentionally destroyed. Its demise inched along for two weeks as the front face of the building defiantly held its ground.



Nothing built by man lasts forever. Ruins of old Roman structures can still be seen in the Middle East. The old building in Rolla was a landmark for most of the 20th

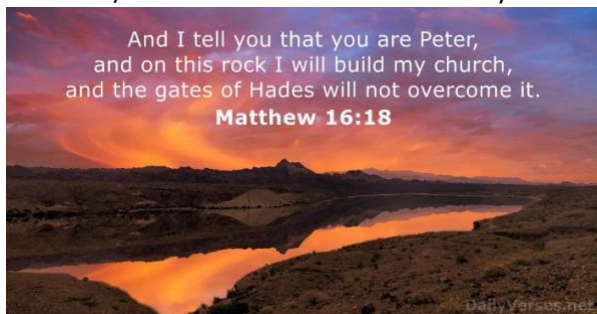
century and well into the 21st century. It would not have lasted forever; but obviously, its “bones” were durable, and the initial construction was sound.

Washington, DC is the home of numerous historical monuments and buildings. The two oldest ones are the White House and the US Capitol. Both were built in 1800 and are constantly being maintained. Missouri’s current capitol building, built in 1917, is the third capitol building the state has constructed. None of these important structures will last forever, regardless how well they are maintained. There will come a day when none of them are still standing.

So, what *is* indestructible? What *will* last forever? What will remain into eternity? God’s promises are the only things we can “bank on” forever.

Some of Jesus’ long-term promises were: “I will be with you...,” and “I will send the Helper...”

In Matthew 16:18, He said, “...I will build My church...” His church is vital. Only those who are in this “vehicle” (the church) will be saved and live in eternity with God.



In Matthew 27:63, Jesus said, “After three days, I will rise.” He did. He said in Acts 2:17, “...I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh...” That happened for the first time in Acts 2:38-39. At that time, it was Jewish people who received the spirit. “Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.’” The gift of the Holy Spirit was later to include Gentiles (all who are not of Jewish ancestry) beginning with Cornelius and his household.

In John 14:16, He said, “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever...” Christians have that Helper, the Holy Spirit, from the moment they are baptized into Christ. Some of His promises are yet to come, as in John 6:44 where He said, “...I will raise him up on the last day,” (speaking of those who come to Him).

One of my favorite songs is, “Standing on the Promises of God.” The scriptures cited above tell us that He made promises, that His promises were fulfilled, and we are still benefitting from His promises. Humans sometimes break promises, but He never does. We need endurance, Hebrews 10:23, *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.* When God makes a promise, it is rock solid. We can depend on Him.



Paul had every confidence in the promises of God. He wrote in 2 Timothy 4:6-8, “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.” John the Apostle sums it all up in 1 John 2:25, “This is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.” The confidence, the assurance that John and Paul had was not misplaced, nor will our confidence be in vain if we are faithful and steadfast to the end. We have the promise of eternal life. Nothing can be better than that!

We must be steadfast. James 1:12 says, “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.”

What lasts forever? The promises of our Savior!

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri

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