

"I Give You My Word"

It is a very powerful gift when someone offers us "their word" on a particular matter. "I give you my word" is something we speak to solidify our commitment to action on a particular promise. It's been used in financial transactions, marriage commitments, political arenas, and among friends. To give someone our word is a promise of dependability, of being faithful to living as the people we say we are, doing the job we say we'll do.

God has "given us His word" about a variety of topics. Where many humans and institutions fall far short of the word they give and the promises they make, God always keeps His word. In God's invitation to us to meditate on His word, God is inviting us not just to think about things He says, but to begin to trust that His word is trustworthy and that what He says will surely happen. What He promises to do, He will surely do. The consequences God outlines, good or bad, for our behaviours, actually await us. His commitment to forgive and heal us when we repent and turn to Him is solid. He will always be there.

God invites us to action based on our own response that says, "I believe." Does God have "our word" on that? To believe is to act as though something were true. In "giving us His word" God invites us to trust His love. He invites us to real friendship and partnership for good. God offers us the "deal of the millennium". It's a deal worth serious investigation and our whole hearted acceptance. It's a deal worth staking our life on. God believed that and gave us the life of Jesus Christ on the cross. He's made the first move. He has taken the challenge to "put up or shut up." How about us? Are we as good as our word?

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6)

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. Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8)

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4)

For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need. (Philippians 4)

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make them well. And anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. (James 5)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What kind of person can be trusted to "give us their word" and have it mean anything?
2. How are we meant to be "people of our word"?
3. When is it difficult to live up to what I've promised someone?
4. What does God want to do for us when someone breaks their word to us?
5. How do we go about building trust in God that He will really keep His word?
6. How do we go about finding out what God promises to do?