

## Great and Precious Promises

*As for God, his way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.* (2 Samuel 22)

*God, I bow before your holy Temple as I worship. I will give thanks to your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness, because your promises are backed by all the honor of your name.* (Psalm 138)

There are many things that people say, many promises they make. Children hear parents promise them time and attention only to have them be too busy with "important things." They remember the pain for years. Friends promise to help each other out. Sometimes they come through. Sometimes they disappoint us. Spouses make promises when they stand before a minister at a wedding ceremony to love and honor each other through the good and the bad times. Then hard times comes and someone gets "left behind." We hear politicians make all sorts of promises so we'll vote for them on election day. We know they won't keep their promises and we get frustrated months and years down the way when they don't. In many places voters have simply started staying away from the polling stations because they don't believe it will make any difference who they vote for. Who believes the promises of a politician? We hear so many words without any actions to follow them up that we often speak of "empty promises." Empty promises bring disillusionment and sadness, pain and frustration.

The Bible is full of information about many wonderful things God has promised us. God's promises are great because they are filled with love. They are precious because we can depend on them with absolute certainty. God keeps His word. God does make promises He will not keep. God has given us His word about many things so we can know how to stand against the attacks of the devil and be strong. God has told us how He will be with us because He wants

to encourage us and support us and give us the strength to do our part to make each day something wonderful. God promises us many things because He loves to do good to us and He loves to provide for our needs.

Because we've been disappointed and disillusioned by the empty promises of many around us throughout our life, we are often bitter and fearful to put our hopes in promises God makes for us. We wonder if we are good enough or if God will notice us or if there's not some kind of "hook" or requirement to having God come through for us. As followers of Jesus Christ we can be secure and at peace in God's precious promises



- *I will never leave you nor forsake you.*
- *Seek first God's kingdom and God's righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.*
- *Cast all your cares on me for I care about you.*
- *My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness.*
- *If we confess our sins he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*
- *My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus.*
- *Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.*

What promise of God do I need to incorporate into my life today? How do I need to exchange my own reactions for God's provision? How do I need to grow in trusting God's desire to express His goodness in my life?

God's promises are full of hope and provision. They will satisfy my heart as I bring my actions into line with God's word.