

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



PROMISES

PROMISE – “A declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen.”
Synonyms – “assurance, pledge, vow, guarantee, oath, bond, commitment, covenant.”

The way some people use the word **PROMISE** – it’s nothing more than a good intention, easily discarded or broken if it doesn’t work out. But when God makes a promise, His word is absolutely trustworthy.

BACKGROUND: Old Testament Hebrew does not have a specific word for the concept of promise, but the idea is still there. The Hebrew word “**amar**” and “**dabar**” are translated “promise” and literally mean “to say” or “to speak.” The New Testament follows the same pattern. The Greek word “**angelia**” means “an announcement” or “a message.”

The promises of God are the heart of the Bible. Everything God has spoken, every announcement, every message, is a promise based on God’s trustworthy, good, and perfect character.

God always keeps His promises. Some promises of God are unconditional. Other promises have conditions (or directions) we must follow if we are to enjoy all He has promised.

Some examples of conditional promises include:

- Joshua 1:7-9
- Matthew 5:1-12, 6:25-34
- John 3:16-18
- James 4:7

Note: Here are some additional examples:

- Judges 7
- Psalms 1, 15, 23, 37
- Proverbs 2 & 3
- Isaiah 1
- Ezekiel 18
- Jonah 3
- 2 Peter 1:3-11
- 1 John 1:9, 5:14-15

Read 2 Peter 1:3-4 and discuss the following promises for believers. Decide which ones are conditional (and why) and which are unconditional.

- Provision for our needs – Matthew 6:25-34
- Answers to Prayer – Matthew 7:7-11; 1 John 5:14-15
- Eternal Life – John 3:16, 5:24
- Assurance of salvation – John 10:29
- Forgiveness for sins – 1 John 1:9
- Ability to make Satan flee – James 4:7
- Resurrection to glory – 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Note: Here are some optional additional examples:

- Everything needed to live for Him – 2 Peter 1:3-4
- Help in our praying – Romans 8:26
- Peace of mind – Philippians 4:7
- A way to defeat temptation – 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Wisdom in times of testing – James 1:5
- Power for living – Ephesians 1:19; 3:20
- Access to God through prayer – Ephesians 3:12
- Mercy and Grace in times of need – Hebrews 4:16
- Freedom from sin – Romans 6:22
- Loving discipline – Hebrews 12:3-11
- Rewards for Service – 2 Corinthians 5:10
- The Holy Spirit within – Ephesians 1:13-14
- Spiritual Gifts – Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12
- A home in Heaven – John 14:1-4

CHALLENGE: To enjoy God's promises, we must take Jesus at His word. Read John 5:24. His offer is conditioned only on our acceptance of His free gift. Jesus has proven that He can be trusted. He came to earth, lived a perfect life, died on the cross in our place, and rose from the dead. If He can't be trusted, nobody can.

INVITATION: If you've never done so, why not choose right now to take God at His word? Admit you are a sinner, in need of forgiveness. Believe that Jesus died for you and rose from the dead. Confess your sin to Him and ask Jesus into your heart, accepting His offer of new life. Then you can build your life on the promises of God.