

God's Promises Prayer Guide

GOD MAKES PROMISES

GOD KEEPS PROMISES



QUESTIONS FOR INTERPRETING GOD'S PROMISES:

Is this promise for me?

Some of the promises in the Bible are for specific people living in specific spaces on the timeline. Just because God promised to protect Abram by cursing those who might curse him (Genesis 12:3), this doesn't mean God promises you'll have no enemies. Jesus had enemies! Be careful to check the context.

Is it a principal or a promise?

Even when a promise is not made specifically to us, there is often a principal that we can apply because God is unchanging. For instance, God promised his people that he would restore the years the locusts had eaten (Joel 2:25). This isn't a promise meant for anyone today, so if you gave this promise to someone suffering from crop damage, it could create painful misunderstanding. However, there is a principal that still rings true today: Our God is a restoring God. He often does make up years lost to rebellion, sinfulness, or selfish living when we cry out in repentance to him.

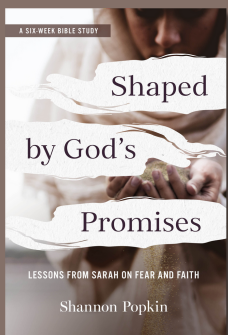
Is it conditional?

Many promises in the Bible are conditional. For instance, not everyone should expect to be welcomed into Jesus's kingdom on the new earth. Jesus himself said there is coming a day when he will say to some, "Depart from me, I never knew you." (Matthew 7:23). The promises of the Bible only belong to those who have put their faith in God. And even then, some promises are conditional on obedience or faithfulness. When you're reading the promises, watch for if / then promises or those that could be restated with an if / then. Make sure to include these conditions when you cling to these promises or share them with others.

Is the promise for now or then?

Most of our promises for now are intangible, spiritual blessings. For instance, Jesus promises to never leave us and to hear our prayers. But we have plenty of tangible promises coming! One example: We'll eat from the Tree of Life and life forever! God will fulfill these tangible promises on the New Earth. We have much to cling to—both now and then, but we must be careful not to confuse the two.

Adapted from "Shaped by God's Promises" by Shannon Popkin.



Here and Now: Promises of Forgiveness and Salvation

You promise to forgive me.

God, I feel so guilty about _____. I know it was wrong, and I confess that I sinned by _____. You promise that you are faithful to forgive my confessed sin, so I believe you forgive me. Thank you for grace!

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9*

You promise that my sins are erased.

God, my sin of _____ weighs on me and I can't forget, but you promise that you forgive my sin and blot it out. I trust that when I come to you, you aren't counting _____ against me, and you see me as righteous.

*I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.
Isaiah 43:25*

You promise I won't go to hell.

Lord, you are just and promise to punish sinners. But you also promise that, because Jesus died in my place, I will escape hell and be spared. When I think of this, I am full of _____. Thank you for sending Jesus.

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

You promise me your grace.

Father, sometimes I am so ashamed because I have repeatedly _____, and I worry that this time you won't forgive me. But you promise that I can never out-sin the riches of your grace. This makes me feel so _____.

In him we have... the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. Ephesians 1:6-7 NIV

You see me as righteous.

God, when I come to you, I believe that I don't have to cower in shame or hang my head because of my sin. I trust that you see me—not as a sinner, but as righteous because of Christ. This motivates me to _____.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. II Corinthians 5:21

You promise you'll always love me.

God, sometimes I don't love me. Yet you promise that even if I _____, it does not keep you from loving me. This fills my heart with _____ for you.

For I am sure that neither death nor life...nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

Here and Now: Promises of God's Power and Presence

You promise to free me from sin's power.

God, I feel like I'm a slave to my sin of _____. Yet you promise that I am not a slave to sin. You promise that I have all that I need for godly living. Break the power that the sin of _____ has over me today.

We know that our old self was crucified with him... so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. Romans 6:6

You say my troubles aren't wasted.

God, I am struggling under the pain and frustration of _____, but you promise that my troubles are producing something good.

Outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. II Corinthians 4:17

You promise I am protected from the enemy.

God, sometimes it seems like the enemy has overwhelming power to tempt or deceive me to _____. But you promise that your armor will help me stand firm against the enemy's schemes to _____.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Ephesians 6:11

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. II Peter 1:3

You promise me peace when I'm afraid.

Father, I am so anxious about _____. I am afraid that _____. But I trust you to give me the peace you have promised. I don't want to be a slave to fear! Please guard my heart and mind whenever I think of _____ today.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

You promise me the power to not sin.

Lord, I feel so weak and unable to change my habit of _____. But you promise that the power that raised Jesus is living in me. Please give me the power not to _____ today.

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you. Romans 8:9, 11 CSB

You promise to comfort me and never leave.

Father, I feel so alone. I am grieving over _____. But you promise to be near to me and to remind me that I'm your child (Rom. 8:14-16). Please give me your promised comfort regarding _____.

The Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction... II Corinthians 1:3-4 [God] has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

There and Then: Eternity Promises for Those in Christ

You promise to raise your people from the dead!

Father, sometimes I am so afraid of my own death or of _____ dying. But you say that I am no longer a slave to fear of death because, in Christ, I will be raised to new life! Help this radical truth to transform my thoughts about health, safety, and _____.

That through death [Jesus] might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. Hebrews 2:14-15

You promise to lift the curse.

God, I am suffering because of what _____ has done. The corruption of _____ makes me feel angry and hopeless. Yet I know I can't control _____. Help me to set my eyes on the day you promise to eradicate the corruption of sin.

No longer will there be anything accursed. Revelation 22:3

You promise there will be no more pain or sorrow.

God, I am mourning over _____. I am in physical pain with _____. It hurts me to watch _____ suffer. But I believe that one day you will wipe my tears and relieve every pain and sorrow, and this gives me hope!

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Revelation 21:4

You promise I'll see your face and live forever with You!

Lord, I have been so invested in trying to make my life great by _____. Help me remember your promises for the life to come.

When I see your face, my temporary _____ won't matter because my life with you on the new earth will last forever.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

You promise I'll receive back what I've lost.

Jesus, as your follower, I've lost out on _____ and _____, but I believe your promise to give me abundantly more than what I've left behind in heaven. One day my suffering with _____ will be worth it!

"Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life." Matthew 19: 29.

You promise I'll be rewarded.

God, you promise that my faithfulness and generosity will be rewarded in the life to come.

Help me to live like this is true!
I want to be faithful with _____. I will be generous toward _____.

But when you give to the needy... your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:3-4

Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. Matthew 25:21



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