

Destiny Center
Sunday, March 25, 2012



"Revealed In Red" Series

"Promises"

Numbers 23:19-20 NLT – *"¹⁹God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through? ²⁰Listen, I received a command to bless; God has blessed, and I cannot reverse it!"*

Exodus 24:3-8 – *"³When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, 'Everything the LORD has said we will do.' ⁴Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. ⁶Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, 'We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.' ⁸Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.'"*

Pinky promises \ blood promises - knife, finger, blood, friends...CLOSE friends only!
These promises were made between bests of friends and were considered eternally bonding.

Broken promises can be devastating. When I make promises to my kids, I am conscious of keeping them. Promises that are broken can have an extremely negative effect on people.

"Will Power" – Russell Edward Herman

II Peter 1:4 NLV – *"Through His shining-greatness and perfect life, He has given us promises. These promises are of great worth and no amount of money can buy them. Through these promises you can have God's own life in you now that you have gotten away from the sinful things of the world which came from wrong desires of the flesh."*

Just how many of these great and precious promises do you think are in the Bible?
100? 1000? 10,000? It might surprise you to know that there are approximately

30,000 promises in the Bible! God ALWAYS keeps His promises. And He doesn't forget even one because there are so many to keep track of. Whatever God promises, He fully intends to keep! No matter how things may look to you right now, God is working things out for you!

When God makes promises to us, we want Him to keep them. When we make promises to God, He also expects that we keep them. *"It is better to never promise than to promise and not keep it."* God is serious about His promises.

We mean it! – ALL CAPS! I am tickled when people text or post on FB in ALL CAPS. It sounds like you're shouting...and you MEAN IT!

God is so serious about promises that He writes them in red, NOT IN ALL CAPS. His promises are NOT just in the Bible in red ink, He wrote them in red with His blood that He shed on Calvary's cross. He is SERIOUS about His promises! He revealed His heart and put it in RED BLOOD. God writes His promises in **BLOOD!**

1. **Know the Promises**

Ephesians 2:11-13 NLV – *"¹¹Do not forget that at one time you did not know God. The Jews, who had gone through the religious act of becoming a Jew by man's hands, said you were people who do not know God. ¹²You were living without Christ then. The Jewish people who belonged to God had nothing to do with you. The promises He gave to them were not for you. You had nothing in this world to hope for. You were without God. ¹³But now you belong to Christ Jesus. At one time you were far away from God. Now you have been brought close to Him. Christ did this for you when He gave His blood on the cross."* Study of the Word \ promises

How can we know what our heavenly Father has promised unless we hear His voice in the pages of the Bible? We can't and that is why many people go astray. Many assume that God has made certain promises to them, when in fact He has not. They might assume He has promised them physical healing; a job; fair treatment; or a good marriage. But the bottom line is that our Christianity is no insurance policy against severe trials and pain.

2. **Wait for the Promises**

Romans 15:4-5 NLT - *"...⁴the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled. ⁵May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus."*

Have you waited that long for God to fulfill a promise? Maybe you have. We must not rush God. Let Him do His own work in His own time. It's hard to wait...sometimes I get impatient with a 30 second download on my computer!

3. Live in obedience to His Word

Hebrews 10:35-36 NLT – *"³⁵So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! ³⁶Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised."*

Often the Lord's promises are conditional. We have to fulfill our responsibilities before we can receive the rewards of God. Take God's greatest promise for example: I am talking about salvation in Jesus Christ. Our Heavenly Father does not give the salvation of His Son to us automatically. Before He becomes ours, we must trust Him as our Lord & Savior and obey the gospel.

4. Have Faith in the Promises

Hebrews 1:1,6 NLT – *"¹Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see...⁶And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."*

Not all promises are of the same importance. I break many promises to myself for which I do not need to make amends. However, there are promises I need to take more seriously in terms of loving as I should. By the grace of God, we need to be courageous in keeping our promises, just as God keeps promises to us.

For further reflection:

- * What has been your experience of promise-making and promise-keeping with God? Your own self? Others?
- * What are the consequences of making, breaking, or keeping promises?
- * Consider what a friend of mine once said about his marriage promise: "I'm not a quitter."
- * Are there promises you need to renew?

How serious are you with your promises to God? How serious are you in your personal relationship with Christ? God is so serious about you that He wrote His love in RED BLOOD. What are you willing to do to prove how serious you are about Him? Give your life to Jesus today!