

Assurance

Part # 5:

How to be certain...of God's Promises

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A familiar saying is, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is".

One of the plagues of our time is fantastic promises that lead to false hope and certain **disappointment**.

As a result, many of us condition ourselves to believing the greater the promise, the greater the chances of it **failing**.

Central Point...

Certain Differences

God's promises highlight the differences in the reliability of our **agreements**:

Hebrews 6:16-18 *When anyone wants to settle an argument, they make a vow by using the name of someone or something greater than themselves. ¹⁷So when God wanted to prove for certain that his promise to his people could not be broken, he made a vow. ¹⁸God cannot tell lies! And so his promises and vows are two things that can never be changed. We have run to God for safety. Now his promises should greatly encourage us to take hold of the hope that is right in front of us.*

Our promises communicate our **intentions**; God's promises announce His **actions**.

Focal Point...

Certain Promises

God has promised to:

1. Never **accept** the presence of **sin**.

Genesis 3:22-24 *The LORD said, "These people now know the difference between right and wrong, just as we do. But they must not be allowed to eat fruit from the tree that lets them live forever." ²³So the LORD God sent them out of the Garden of Eden, where they would have to work the ground from which the man had been made.*

2. Never leave us without **hope**.

1 Peter 1:3-7

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

3. Never place us in **impossible** situations.

1 Corinthians 10:13 *No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.*

4. Never give up on us reaching our **potential**.

Philippians 1:6 *And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

5. Never give up on the hope of spending eternity with **Him**.

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slow in doing what he promised—the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their hearts and lives.*

Turning Point...

From the beginning of time, God's promises have demonstrated...

... His **character** and His eternal commitment to our **needs**.

...His ability to turn the **impossible** to **possible**.

...His **never-ending** love for us.

2 Corinthians 1:20-22 *Whatever God has promised gets stamped with the Yes of Jesus. In him, this is what we preach and pray, the great Amen, God's Yes and our Yes together, gloriously evident. God affirms us, making us a sure thing in Christ, putting his Yes within us. By his Spirit he has stamped us with his eternal pledge—a sure beginning of what he is destined to complete.*

Our challenge: To trust that God's Promises are thoroughly tested, true and worthy of our complete trust.

Believers – simply ask, “Father God – Am I willing to stake my life on the reliability of your promises?”

Seekers – we can only truly discover our purpose when we embrace the One who provides it. To invite Christ into your heart, simply pray,

*Father God, I come before you today, asking you to save me.
I invite your Son Jesus Christ into my heart to be my Lord and Savior. Please forgive me of sin in my life; cleanse my heart and my spirit. Father, I want to trust in your promises and accept that they are totally true. And with your help, guide me toward being the person you created me to be.
In Jesus' name -- Amen*