

Promises of God

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OT Formula for Promises

Most promises people claim for themselves are based on the Old Testament formula in the book of Deuteronomy.

*For **if** ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him; **then** will the LORD drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves.*
Deu 11:22-23

In other words, we embrace the formula that says if we diligently keep His commandments, then God will drive out our problem and do wonderful things for us.

There is a BIG problem with that formula.

- Do you love Go with ALL your heart?
- Do you walk in ALL His ways?
- Do you cleave ONLY to Him?

Sadly, the answer to all three questions is NO. Therefore, if I'm not doing the "ifs," I won't receive the "thens."

If you read **Galatians 3:24-25**, you'll discover that the purpose of the law is to show you that you are not righteous. You can't possibly keep His standard of righteousness. You can't earn salvation. Although you wish you could receive the blessing, you are unable to fulfill the obligations.

The amazing thing is that because Jesus has fulfilled all the "ifs" in the Old Testament, the promises are all "Yea" and "Amen" in Him.

- Jesus loved the Lord His God.
- He walked in all His ways.
- He clave unto Him.

By His grace and for His glory, when you open your heart to Jesus, God places you (weak and foolish as you are) in Christ, **1Cor 1:26-29**.

Not only is all that you enjoy because of Him, but all you crave is found in Him.

- You think you need Jesus to give you bread, but He says He is the Bread, **John 6:35**.
- You think you need for Him to give you direction, but He says He is the Way, **John 14:6**.
- You think you need for Him to open a door to a job, relationship, or ministry, but He says He is the Door, **John 10:7**.

The promises of God are not something that come from Him. You find them in Him. Little by little, as you lean on Him and grow closer to Him, you realize that your cravings are irrelevant compared to being with Him. You may not realize it yet, but what you are truly craving is Him.

Some Things God Hasn't Promised

Immediate Justice on Earth:

- He does promise to heal the wounded, reward the faithful, and punish the wicked (**2Cor 5:10**); however, He doesn't promise that those will happen immediately.
- God is patient with us all (**2Pet 3:9**) even those who harm, oppress, or offend us.
- God does not give us permission to enforce our own interpretation of justice (**Rom 12:9**). He tells us to wait on His perfect plan and timing (**Psa 37:7**).

Physical Comfort:

- Despite what some television preachers promise, God does not promise that obeying Him will lead to material prosperity and success.
- He does not promise us an easy life. He warns us to expect the opposite (**John 16:33**), hardship, persecution from the world, and even His correction (**Heb 12:7**).

Instant Change:

- Believers still wrestle with their entrenched habits and besetting sins (**Heb 12:1**).
- God does promise to change you, but does not promise an instant change. He promises to complete the transformative work that He has begun in you (**Php 1:6**).

Some Things God Has Promised

- **Anxiety replacement:** When you offer everything to Him in prayer, He replaces anxiety with peace (**Php 4:6-7**)
- **Closeness to Him:**
 - Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you. (**Jas 4:8**)
 - When the Spirit and His Word clean you, you see His truth, His love, and His purpose. (**Mat 5:8, John 1:50**)
 - He will be with believers always. (**Mat 28:20**)
- **Comfort:** He will comfort believers. (**John 14:18, Mat 5:4**)
- **Direction / Guidance:**
 - Trust God and lean on Him and He will direct your steps. (**Pro 3:5-6**)
 - He will guide you if you let Him. (**Isa 58:11**)
 - He will fight the battle if you wait to hear the sound in the top of the mulberry trees. (**2Sam 5:24**)
- **Emotional health:** He loves you. (**John 3:16**)
- **Eternal life:** If you believe and confess Him as Lord, you will have eternal life. (**Rom 10:9, Rom 6:23, Titus 1:2, 1John 2:25, John 3:15-16**).
- **Eternal security:**
 - Once you make Him your Lord, nothing can separate you from Christ. (**Rom 8:38-39**)
 - If you come to Him, He will not cast you out. (**John 6:37**)
- **Family status:** If you do His will, you are a member of His family. (**Mark 3:35**)
- **Fear overcome:** He will not forsake you if you belong to Him. (**Josh 1:5**)
- **Finances:** He will supply all your needs, not necessarily your wants. (**Php 4:19**)
- **Forgiveness:** He will forgive you if you have accepted Christ. (**Rom 8:1**)
- **Giving rewards:**
 - God rewards cheerful givers. (**2Cor 9:6-8**)
 - God rewards anonymous givers. (**Mat 6:3-4**)
- **Glorified body:** He will give each Christ-follower a new glorified body. (**Php 3:21**).
- **Growth:** Intensely meditate on God's Word and He will make your spiritual growth apparent. (**1Tim 4:15**)

- **Help:** With Christ as Your Lord, He is your helper. (**Heb 13:6**)
- **Humility** —> **Grace:** He gives grace to the humble. (**Jas 4:6**)
- **Inheritance:**
 - Your substance here doesn't compare to what is waiting for you in heaven if you are a Christ-follower. (**Heb 10:34**)
 - If you are a Christ-follower, He has prepared a place for you in heaven. (**John 14:1-3**)
- **Mercy:** Be merciful to others and God will be merciful to you. (**Mat 5:7**)
- **Needs:** He will supply all your needs, not necessarily your wants. (**Php 4:19**, **Rom 8:32**)
- **Peace:**
 - If you rely on Him, He will give you peace. (**Pro 1:33**, **John 14:27**)
 - Give Him thanks and He will give you peace. (**Php 4:6-7**)
 - God's Word will give you peace during tribulation. (**John 16:33**)
- **Plans:** His plans are for your benefit even if they don't make sense now. (**Jer29:11**)
- **Prayer, hearing:**
 - When you persevere in prayer, He will answer you, though not always in the way you expect. (**Luke 18:1-8**)
 - Abide in Him and He will honor your requests. (**John 15:7**)
 - If you worship God, He will hear you. (**John 9:31**)
- **Protection from evil:** If you let Him, He will protect you from evil. (**2The 3:3**)
- **Rest:** He will give you rest if you come to Him. (**Mat 11:28-29**)
- **Reward:**
 - Mental and spiritual "fatness" come from generous thoughts toward God. To gain, you must give. (**Pro 11:25**)
 - Those persecuted for His sake will have great reward in heaven. (**Mat 5:12**)
 - God has prepared great rewards for those that love Him. (**1Cor 2:9**)
 - God rewards the good deeds of His followers. (**Eph 6:8**)
- **Righteousness:** He will fill those who hunger for righteousness. (**Mat 5:6**)
- **Sorrow overcome:** When Christ returns, He will wipe away the tears of believers. (**Rev 21:4**)

- **Strength:** If you trust God, He will strengthen you. (**Isa 40:29-31**)
- **Victory:** You have victory through Christ. (**Rom 8:37**)

Believe His Promises

<i>You Think</i>	<i>God Promises</i>	<i>Scripture</i>
I can't do it.	You can do all things.	Php 4:13
I can't figure it out.	I will direct your steps.	Pro 3:5-6
I can't forgive myself.	I forgive you.	Rom 8:1
I can't go on.	My grace is sufficient.	2Cor 12:9
I can't manage.	I will supply all your needs.	Php 4:19
I feel all alone.	I will never leave you.	Heb 13:5
I'm not smart enough.	I will give you wisdom.	1Cor 1:30
I'm afraid.	I have not given you fear.	2Tim 1:7
I'm not able.	I am able.	2Cor 9:8
I'm too tired.	I will give you rest.	Mat 11:28-30
It's impossible.	All things are possible.	Luke 18:27
It's not worth it.	It will be worth it.	Rom 8:28
Nobody loves me.	I love you.	John 3:16

Believe Journal

adapted from Grace Church Grace Kids Believe Journal

The intent of the journal is to help you apply and actively believe God's promises for your life.

Week-1

Questions:

- What do you think it means to believe in something?
- What is something that is easy for you to believe? Why?
- What is something that is difficult for you to believe? Why?
- In Matthew **Matthew 14:28-29**, what did Peter believe? How did that belief give him an amazing life experience?
- In **John 3:16**, what is God's promise to us? What do you need to believe?
- Tell about the time you believed Jesus for your salvation.
- Believing in what you can't see is "faith." Tell about a time when you actively believed God and His promises to work in your life.
- God gave a promise to Abraham through Moses that He would lead His people to a Promised Land. In Numbers 14, what did the people's unbelief do to their ability to enter the Promised Land?

Application:

- Pray that God helps you grow in faith and your belief in Him. Ask Him to open your eyes to His promises and your heart and mind to His truth.
- Pick one or more of the following verses to memorize. **Rom 10:17**, John 3:16, John 6:29, John 11:25:26, Heb 11:6.

Week-2

Questions:

- Read Psalm 139:1-4. Do you know that God knows you better than you know yourself? Would anything you tell Him surprise Him?
- When do you talk to God?
- What types of things do you ask Him? Are you specific enough that you can tell when He answers you?
- How can you keep track of your prayers and how He answers?
- What are some examples of how He has answered your prayers?

Application:

- Write a letter to God asking Him for His help.
- Pick one or more of the following verses to memorize. Jer 29:12, Psa 139:1, Psa 139:4, 1John 5:14-15, Luke 11:9-10

Week-3:

Questions:

- In Exodus 16, how did God provide for Moses and the Israelites in the wilderness?
- In Matthew 6, why did Jesus tell us not to worry?
- How does God provide for the birds and flowers?
- What are you worrying about that you can trust God to provide?

Application:

- Plants are one way that God provides for us. Make a list of 5 things God has provided in your life. Say, "thank You" to Him.
- Pray, thanking God for providing for you. Tell Him that you know He is good and trustworthy. Thank Him in advance for the way He will provide for you in the days to come.
- Pick one or more of the following verses to memorize. Php 4:19, 2Cor 9:8, Mat 6:31-33, Eph 3:20, Jer 32:17, Luke 18:27

Week-4

Questions:

- In 2Chr 20:1-30, where did Jehoshaphat need guidance?
- What did God tell Jehoshaphat to do?
- How was praise part of the answer?
- Where do you need God's guidance?

Application:

- Reflection: God gives us direction and guidance. To root yourself in God, you must spend time with Him. Try some of the following ways to spend time with God.
 - Take a walk outside. Focus your thoughts on God.
 - Ask someone in your life for advice or encouragement. Listen.
 - Read a verse or chapter in the Bible. What did God bring to your mind as you read it?
 - Listen to a worship song. What did God bring to your mind as you listened?
- Pick one or more of the following verses to memorize. Pro 3:5-6, Jas 1:5, John 16:13, Pro 16:19

Week-5

Questions:

- What do you think heaven will be like? What do you think the place Jesus is preparing specifically for you will be like?
- Do you believe God has good things planned for your life while still on earth?
- How can you trust God with your future? What kinds of things can you pray for your future?

Application: Pick one or more of the following verses to memorize. 1Cor 2:9, Mat 25:34, John 14:2-3, Rom 8:18, Jer 29:11, Php 3:20-21