

Standing on the Promises **A Sermon in Song**

Call to worship:

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. (2 Pet. 1:3-4)

Opening prayer:

Last week we talked about the challenge of fear in our lives and how every person must overcome fear with faith. One of the things that helps us do that is the many promises of God.

When problems come it is easy to get self-focused, to think about the way things used to be and to begin our sentences with “if only.” And it is easy to start questioning God: “Why do I have to go through this? Why now?” I like the way Warren Wiersbe once put it. In times of trouble there are three things we need to do:

- 1. Stop looking at ourselves and start looking at God.**
- 2. Stop looking at the past and start looking at the future.**
- 3. Stop searching for reasons and start resting on promises.**

When the storms of life come, we need to remember what Peter called in our reading today “His precious and magnificent promises.”

Today as we read the word and sing together, we are remembering the many promises that God has given to assure us through life. As Christians we have the advantage in tough times, because we have the promises of God; and we need to stand upon them! That is our theme for our sermon in song today:

#452 *I'm Standing on the Promises* (v. 1,2)

The Scriptures record numerous promises of God to His people; and His promises are not like those made by humans. Sometimes people make promises with no intention of keeping them. Sometimes people make promises and circumstances cause them to be unable to keep them. But as we just sung, God's promises “cannot fail when the storms of doubt and fear assail.” He is a covenant-making and covenant-keeping God. He pledges His faithfulness to us!

For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. (2 Cor. 1:20)

Daniel acknowledged in his prayer that God keeps His promises:

And I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, (Daniel 9:4)

The Bible is filled with promises that we can count on!

He promises He'll never forsake us!

Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," (Hebrews 13:5)

While the world is engulfed in darkness, we can walk in heavenly sunlight; and we can know that whatever life brings, He will take care of us!

#461 Be Not Dismayed Whate'er Betide (v. 1,2,4)

He promises to provide our needs! (Promises for the financially burdened)

When we find ourselves worried about economic problems, we need to do as Weirsbe says! Stop looking at ourselves and start looking at God, stop looking at the past and start looking to the future, stop searching for reasons and start resting on promises.

"And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

And so Jesus taught His disciples not to worry food, clothing, and a shelter over our heads; but rather trust the Lord to provide.

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. (Mt. 6:33)

#555 Seek Ye First (v. 1,2,3)

He promises to give us peace (Promises for the anxious)

How great it is to trust God with our physical needs; but many of our life challenges are spiritual rather than material. Life gives us plenty to worry about; but God has made a promise to us. Our last song reminds us of the words of the Lord:

"Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8, NASB)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. "And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

#139 In Heavenly Love Abiding (v. 1,2)

What comfort these promises offer God's people!

He promises to help us in time of temptation (Promises for the tempted)

We not only have to deal with worry in life; we also have to deal with temptation. Have you been at times frustrated? Weak? Faith about to break? God has made a promise:

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Cor. 10:13)

We'll never be tempted beyond our ability; and God has promised to help in time of spiritual need through our great high priest.

For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. (Hebrews 2:18)

Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

Christ is ready and able to help. He knows what it is like. And we have this assurance through the promises of His word:

#457 How Firm A Foundation (v. 1,2,3)

He promises to forgive us when we fail (Promises for the failing)

What an inspiring hymn, full of the promises of God. God promises to not only to help us in temptations, but to forgive us when we are overcome by temptation.

The principle teaching of the gospel is that what man could not do for himself by perfectly keeping the Law, God has provided on the basis of a promise.

But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. (Hebrews 8:6)

For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” (Hebrews 8:12)

And even if we fail after becoming a Christian:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

The promise of God through Isaiah to God's people still applies today:

#501 Though Your Sins Be as Scarlet (v. 1,3)

Lord's Supper

Today as on each first day of the week, we gather to remember what has made all these promises possible for us, especially the forgiveness that we just sung about.

The bread and fruit of the vine remind us of the body that Jesus gave for us and of the blood that He shed for us.

“for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:28, NASB)

God offers us the promise of forgiveness because Jesus faithfully and sacrificially gave Himself for us. Let us be thankful for the promise of His forgiveness and all it brings to as we eat the bread and drink the cup.

He promises to care for us in our time of suffering (Promises for the suffering)

As we think about God's promises, we need to remember that God has not promised us a life without hurt, disappointment, or pain. Paul tells us that being a child of God like Jesus requires that we also share his sufferings. *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. (Rom. 8:16-17)*

He explains that we are a part of a painful world subjected to futility because of sin; and longing for the freedom of that day when it will be released. Until then, we will experience pain. But there are promises:

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:6-7, NASB)

#507 Does Jesus Care? (v. 1,2)

He promises us eternal life in His presence (Promises for the hopeless)

There may be times when we are ready to give up? Fear and despair can take hold of courage and hope. We need to remember God's promises:

'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

(Revelation 2:10)

Our reward is waiting in heaven; and to assure us, God gave an oath to Abraham for our sakes to assure us that His promise will not fail. The Hebrew writer explains:

For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, "in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

(Hebrews 6:18-20, NASB)

Let's sing about that hope which anchors the soul in the storms of life.

#467 We Have An Anchor (v. 1,2,3)

Invitation: The promises of God are for those who believe. They do not have to be explained; just accepted as true, and acted upon. You can experience the blessings of God's promises when you express the faith to become a Christian.

As we just sung, one of the greatest promises of God is yet to be fulfilled:

As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. (1 John 2:24-25)

There is eternal life if we are true to the truth revealed to us. Do you have that faith? Do you have that hope? If not, please come and let us help you begin that life.

#679 Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus (v. 1,2,3)