

God Is Able ... To Keep Promises!

Romans 4:21

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Introduction:

- I. "Integrity" is a critical factor in any person's life. The New Testament Greek has an interesting word that explains the essence of "integrity" – "sincere" (adj); "sincerity" (n). Philippians 1:10.
 1. "Sincere" is a compound Greek word (εἰλικρινής) –
 - a. HELE – poetic of the bright sunshine.
 - b. KRINO – to judge/discern.
 2. The root meaning is that of judging the purity of an object. The object is placed under the brightest light and carefully checked. Thus the term means an intense examination and found to be 100% pure.
 3. It was used in the marketplace of Paul's day to refer to marble statues that were discovered to be sculptured without flaw when held up to the sun; they were "without wax" covering up flaws!
 4. Paul thus encourages Christians to live so their lives will pass the scrutiny of examination under the brightest sunlight!
 5. Such an admirable goal should be before all of us today!
- II. One of the ways that sincerity and integrity is often ruined is discussed in this lesson.
 1. One of the most devastating lessons a child ever learns is that people break promises! Children naively assume that if someone says "I promise," then it will be done. However such confidence is often shattered as a promise made is quickly broken!
 2. Someone may share a secret in confidence only to discover that everyone has heard the facts. Their spirit is crushed! (Psalm 55:12-14, 20-21).
 3. In contrast to the promise breaking of man, is God's promise keeping! God is able to keep His promises regardless of how impossible they seem. Great personalities affirm this Truth.
 - a. Abraham (Romans 4:19-21). God promised him a son.
 - b. Joshua (Joshua 21:45; 23:14).
 - c. Solomon (1 Kings 8:15).
 4. The Bible provides ample proof that God is able to keep His promises. Put God under the brightest examining light and see how pure He is! Yet many do not have this assurance. Look at this wonderful Truth and discover how it keeps your faith alive!

Body:

I. God's promises are abundant!

- A. The word "promise" (in its noun and verb forms) occurs 63 times in the New Testament referring to God. These references record vows that God has made to man.

B. Some of the more prominent examples:

1. The promise of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).
 - a. God's Spirit is living in every saint (Romans 8:13-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:19).
 - b. Through the Holy Spirit believers are able to show fruits of faith (Galatians 5:22-23).
 - c. This promise is secured at immersion (Acts 2:38; Ephesians 1:13).
2. The promise of abundant life (1 John 2:25).
 - a. This promise is spoken of throughout Scripture (John 10:28; 1 John 5:11, 12).
 - b. This spiritual security is available to all who obey God (John 15:10; 1 John 3:9).
3. The promise of rest (Hebrews 4:1).
 - a. How appealing this is when all we know now is constant weariness! (Job 14:1).
 - b. God invites us to discover this rest by trusting His Word and obeying His will (Revelation 14:11).
 - c. Israel failed to find her promised rest because she failed to follow God (Hebrews 3:16-19). Let us not forget our spiritual rest by refusing to follow God's will (Hebrews 3:7-8, 12-13).

II. God's promises are true!

While some may question the integrity of man's promises, they will never question the integrity of God's promises! Two reasons:

A. *God is truthful!*

1. "Truth" comes from a Hebrew root picturing ultimate security. We get our word "Amen" from this. Thus, "Truth" is unchangeable, certain, and secure.
2. God is Truth (Titus 1:2; Romans 15:8; John 14:6). As "truth" God can never lie!

B. *God is trustworthy!*

1. Hebrews 10:23 (NEB) – "the Giver of the promise may be trusted."
2. God can always be trusted to make His promises absolute (Lamentations 3:21-24).
3. Some think they are great sinners and can never be saved because their past deeds have made God's promises impossible. However God promised them salvation if they obey and He can be trusted to give it to them!
4. You can depend on God. Men may not be trustworthy or truthful — But God is! All have the opportunity to recv the promises of God IF they choose to do so! (Titus 1:2).

III. God's promises must be received!

These blessings are offered to all, but not all will recv them. What must we do to be able to recv them?

A. *Diligently study the Scriptures.*

1. The Bible reveals God's promises. Unless you know about the promises you will not be able to recv them.
2. Those who ignore the Bible, ignore God! John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople (Fourth Century), "The cause of all evil rests in ignorance of and imperfect acquaintance with Holy Scripture."
3. Those who fail to study, fail to understand God's promises and accuse God of wrong. Some fail to study and think God made certain promises when He did not. Examples are common:
 - a. "I have had cancer for a year. I've prayed for healing but nothing has happened. I guess God's promise is no good." Such fails to understand that Paul suffered from an incurable illness (2 Corinthians 12:7-9). This show us that healing is not something we can always claim as a promise.
 - b. "I've been out of work for ten months. I've prayed about a job but God has not helped he to find a job!" God has promised to provide us with daily bread. Even Jesus did not have many physical blessings (Matthew 8:20). In fact Christ's entire life was marked with poverty (2 Corinthians 8:9).
 - c. "If God keeps His promises why am I being slandered by someone I thought was my friend. All I want is to be treated fairly." Where does the Bible promise us fairness? (2 Timothy 3:12). Christ's death was not "fair." Why should we expect better than the Son of God received?
 - d. "When my marriage started to get bad, I made a deal with God. I promised that I would be the best wife in the world if He would keep my husband home. But my husband left and we are now divorced. Where is God's promise now?" God wants marriages to be happy, but He cannot force people to do things they do not want to do. Each spouse has a choice. If one chooses to hurt the other, that is his/her freedom to choose, but one day s/he will have to answer to God!
4. Diligent study of the Scriptures will help you determine what are God's promises and what are not.

B. *Patiently wait for an answer.*

1. Abraham waited (Hebrews 6:15). He waited 25 years for the promise to come true.
2. Do not rush God! God will keep His promises!
3. God promised the Savior, but it took centuries for the promise to come true (Galatians 4:1-4).
4. Luke 18:1 – be patient because God's promises will come true!

C. *Obedience to God's will.*

1. Hebrews 10:36 – obedience is the key.
2. Do what God commands and trust that He will fulfill His promise.

D. *Faith*

1. Hebrews 11:33; Romans 4:20; 2 Corinthians 5:7
2. Our faith can be est by diligent study of the Bible. Since God has always fulfilled His promises, He will continue to do so.

Conclusion:

I. What promises from God do you need to claim?

1. Peace/Contentment (Philippians 4:4-7)
2. Victory over temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13)
3. Difficulties in daily life (1 Peter 5:10)
4. Freedom from guilt (1 John 1:9)

II. God is able to keep His promises! Let all rejoice in this wonderful ability! Let all grasp the offer of divine promises and obey God's will today!