

# Promises Promises

*“Promises, promises, all I ever get is promises.”*

Have you called a retailer or a service company requesting information about the product or service you ordered days or even weeks ago, only to be told, *“Oh, we promise to get that out to you first thing tomorrow.”* The only problem seems that tomorrow in their world never seems to become today!

*“The cheque for what we owe you is in the post.”*

*“The person who handles payments is sick, but we promise to send a cheque as soon as they return to work.”*

This is an age when many promises are made, but few are kept.

Politicians in an election year make promises that can never be fulfilled or were never intended to be fulfilled.

Advertisers promise *“instant success, happiness and almost eternal youth if you use their products.”*

As Christians, our way of life demands that promises are kept.

**A promise made should be seen as a debt unpaid.**

Satan was the first being to make a promise to human beings that he could **not** keep.

**Genesis 3:4** [NIV] *“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman.”*

Satan promised Adam and Eve eternal life which was **not** his to give.

**Luke 16:10-12** [NIV] *“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. **So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?**”*

The first ingredients of Christian character are integrity and honesty. We must practice what we preach as Christians.

**The Handbook For Life, the Christian Bible, is full of promises made by God and we can always trust Him to keep them.**

**Romans 4:13-14** [NIV] *“It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless,”*

The promise given to Abraham that through His heir the Messiah [Jesus Christ] would come.

**Galatians 3:16** [NIV] *“The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say “and to seeds”, meaning many people, but “and to your seed”, meaning one person, who is Christ.”*

**These promises made to Abraham are central to our salvation by faith.**

**Ephesians 1:13** [NIV] *“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,”*

The promise of the Holy Spirit to empower all who trust is Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 6:2-3** [NIV] *“Honour your father and mother”, which is the first commandment with a promise, “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”*

A command with a promise.

**It takes work to develop the character to keep promises.**

We may slip up at times but we should view every promise as important, even the casual ones like *“I call you tomorrow”* or *“I’ll return this book to you as soon as I finish reading it.”*

The value we put on our word should **not** vary with circumstances.

**Be sure that you can really fulfil what you are about to promise.**

If you cannot keep a promise because of unforeseen circumstances, which are out of your control, contact the person to whom you made the promise immediately.

Replace a promise that we were unable to keep with another that we can keep.

Break a promise just once and real damage is done to our relationship.

It will not be easy to promise much to a person to whom you have already broken a promise.

**Christian character is what we are, reputation is what others think we are.**

Human beings are very much like a box of apples.

The apples on top that are seen are their reputation, but the apples down below are their character.

A reputation once broken may be repaired, but other people will always keep their eye on the spot where the crack was.

**The promises we make to ourselves could be the most important of all.**

My wife helps me with these promises to make certain changes in my life. She reminds me to not *“make it a nine day wonder”*.

**Christians must not forget the promises we made at baptism before God and other Christians.**

Promises to submit to Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord and Master.

Promises to seek for the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and develop godly character in us.

One characteristic of God is that He always keeps His promises; He is a faithful and trustworthy God.