



DEVOTIONAL

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Promises for a New Year

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Day One

It's a new year! This is a good time to focus our minds on God's promises to us for the new year.

The Bible gives us hundreds of promises, yet we often don't avail ourselves of the comfort, strength, and guidance there for us. I want to remind you of some of God's promises for you in 2026.

In 2 Peter 1, we are told,

His divine power has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires (2 Peter 1:3-4).

Peter tells us God's promises are great and precious: Great because they are powerful, and precious because of God's great love for us. And through these promises we are encouraged and equipped to become more like Jesus, to live a life of glory to God.

Here are some important promises to focus on today—this fifth day of 2026:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Is there a more important promise than this? Just to know you have forgiveness—forgiveness for all the stuff you've done, all the sin in your life, all your unrighteousness. He is faithful and just and will always forgive you when you confess. This promise is absolutely essential—because without forgiveness we have no hope of eternal life. But God has promised us eternal life when we have received his forgiveness and been made a new creation in Christ. In the same book of 1 John, we read:

And this is what he promised us—eternal life (1 John 2:25).

As you begin this new year, make it a regular practice to remember this promise—he has forgiven your sins and cleansed you from all unrighteousness, and he will always do so. It's a great and precious promise just for you.

Day Two

This is program number 10,092 of The Christian Working Woman daily edition. That means for over 2000 weeks I have been broadcasting the good news that God's Word is relevant to our lives. For over 41 years God has sustained this ministry so we can encourage you to put God's Word into practice in your life; to live out your faith on your job and everywhere else.

And we've made it all these weeks and months and years because God has kept his promise to me. When I was presented with the opportunity to enlarge our ministry from one station in Chicago, I knew

this was bigger than me, and I needed assurance God would see me through. I asked God to give me a promise from his Word that I could cling to—that would assure me of his guidance.

My reading that day took me to Isaiah chapter 50, and from that chapter God gave me two verses which have become my “go to” assurance verses of God’s promise to me. Here is that promise:

The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary...Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore, have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame (Isaiah 50:4-7)

I couldn’t count the many times I’ve said to the Lord, “God, you promised I will not be disgraced; I will not be put to shame, and I claim your provision and your promise now today.”

Another promise from Joshua 23:14 assures us *not one word has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed.* I can testify that God’s promises are reliable.

Could it be you need a promise today? Something to help you face your future with hope and peace? There’s one in the Bible just for you. Just take time to sit down with your Bible, pray for guidance, and ask God for his promise for you. It’s there—I promise!

Day Three

As you begin this new year, are you wondering what lies ahead? Does the future seem confusing or unclear? Are you trying to determine what your next steps should be? God’s Word has some great and precious promises to help you. For example, Isaiah 30:21 is a great promise:

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it” (Isaiah 30:21).

God promises guidance for you. He wants you to walk in the right way and make the right decisions even more than you want to. If you have ears to hear, there will be a voice behind you, showing you the way. That “voice” can come in many different ways—through God’s Word, through a trusted advisor, through some unusual circumstance. But if it’s God’s voice, you will know.

It’s that “ears to hear” thing that causes problems—right? There was a time in my life when I only wanted God to tell me what I wanted to hear, so I just didn’t have ears to hear. This verse from Jeremiah 6 warns us about shutting our ears to God’s voice:

This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, ‘We will not walk in it’ (Jeremiah 6:16).

If that’s where you are today—standing at the crossroads—are you ready and willing to hear God’s voice showing you where the good way is? Or are you saying in your heart, “My way, God, not yours”? Sometimes we mouth the words, “I want to know God’s way,” but when he shows it to us, we decide it’s not exactly what we had planned, so we say, in some words or other, “I will not walk in it.”

But here’s the good news—when you walk in God’s way, you will find rest for your soul. I remember well when I finally came to the end of my way and told God I was ready to walk in his way, and my words to God were, “Please give me peace.” I desperately wanted rest for my soul, and that’s when I began to walk in the good way. I’m so very thankful I did.

Let me encourage you today to choose God's way—to listen to that voice behind you. You will never regret it. I promise!

Day Four

I can well remember as a child singing the great gospel song, "Standing on the Promises". Maybe you sang it, too. I remember the words well:

*Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.*

It's not a song we sing much anymore, but the message is still relevant. As Christ-followers, we can stand on the promises given to us through God's Word. What does that mean—to stand on the promises of God?

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:23).

Promises are as reliable as the one who makes them. God has made many promises to us, and he never forgets any of them. He is a trustworthy and faithful God.

Standing on the promises of God is confident assurance in what God has promised us. That means you keep standing, even when your faith is weak. Hebrews 10:36 exhorts us to *keep on patiently doing the Lord's will so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised*. If your faith is starting to waiver, if you haven't yet seen God's answer to your need, I encourage you to keep standing—keep on doing the Lord's will, and you will receive what he has promised.

Ephesians 6:13 says *after you have done everything, to stand*. Just keep standing on the promises of God. Stand when you're tired; stand when you want to quit and run away; stand when your faith is weak. After you have done everything, keep standing on the promises of God, for he who promised is faithful.

Day Five

I've been talking this week about God's promises and his faithfulness to keep his promises. A promise is only as good as the one who promised, right? We've had far too many examples of politicians who promise so much and deliver so little, so that now in general we just don't trust politicians. The Pew Research Center reports only 20% of Americans today say they can trust the government to do what is right.

It may be true that because you have been sorely disappointed in what others have promised you, you have difficulty trusting God. I just want to encourage you today that, no matter how much you've been disappointed or let down by others, you can trust God, because he is trustworthy.

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22–23).

Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations (Psalm 119:89–90).

God is faithful and therefore his eternal Word is faithful.

We learn to trust God by getting to know his character. And we get to know his character through his Word and through our own history of his faithfulness to us. Have you forgotten God's faithfulness to you in the past? Sometimes when you're in the midst of a troubling situation, you just forget how God has helped you in the past; how he has proved himself true. I encourage you right now to recite out loud God's faithfulness to you in the past. By remembering his past faithfulness, you will learn to trust his future faithfulness.

Here is one last promise as this new year begins, from our trustworthy God. It's a go-to promise for you for the entire year, from Isaiah 41:10:

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:10).