

The Comeback - Part 2
August 15-16th, 2020
"...to the Promise!"

Intro:

- One of the most powerful things in life is a Promise.
 - When a promise is kept, it builds Trust & Hope!
 - But when a promise is broken, it does the opposite!
 - It breaks trust, destroys hope & erodes the relationship.
- ? When was the last time someone broke a promise?
 - Marriage vow - Business Partner - Friend backstabbed you.
- ? When was the last time someone kept a promise?
 - Company got a job done on time? - A Friend came thru for you!
 - A Spouse or Parent kept their word.
 - Your favorite restaurant gave you the reward they promised you.

***** We serve a Promise Keeping God!!!**

- He is faithful. He is trustworthy. He is all we need. He is sure. He can be counted on. He is dependable. He is steadfast. He is unshakable. He is our rock. He is our redeemer. He is our strong tower. He is more than enough.

- And... the Bible is a book of Promises to us as God's Children!

Genesis - Abraham - Father of many nations - Genesis 17:4

Exodus - Children of Israel - I will deliver you - Exodus

I Samuel - David - one day be king

Isaiah 40:31 - Wait on the Lord... He will renew your strength

Jeremiah 29:11 - 70 years of oppression - God would deliver them!

- "I know the plans I have for you says the Lord..."

John 1:12 - Promise to become sons and daughters of God

Romans 8:28 - God works all things together for our good

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and self-control."

Hebrews 4:16 "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence..."

Revelation - We win!!! Jesus will return for His Church one day & take us to be with Him!!!

It really is true that...

2 Corinthians 1:20 "For all the promises of God in Him are yes, and in Him amen, to the glory of God through us."

- In Uncertain times, one of the devil's tactics is to get us to Doubt the Promises of God.

- To Doubt the Goodness of God!!!

Genesis 3 - Satan came to Eve & planted doubt in her mind...

v. 1 "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say..."

- The same thing can happen to us during times like the ones we are living in.

PRAY... Today, I want to talk about ...

4 Truths about the Promises of God:

1. God's Promises are true in the Dark, not Just in the Light.

A. It's easy to believe God's Promises when everything is going great in our lives.

- Kids are getting along. - Work is going great! Got a raise!
- Marriage is amazing. - It's NOT an Election Year!
- But... when everything ISN'T going great, what then?

B. Church family: The devil's strategy is to get us to doubt in the dark what God told us in the light!!!

C. MWK/SJK - So many times through the years, when things are going great, it's Easy to Trust God!!!

- Attendance is Up, Church is growing, Good things are happening
- But then... when the tide turns & it's going the other way...
 - We are misunderstood - People are making assumptions
 - People are gossiping about us, questioning our decisions...
 - People are leaving,
- Those are the moments when the devil has tempted us to Question the call of God & the Promises of God!

D. Satan wants us to Quit in the Dark, what God called us to in the Light!

- MWK AGAIN - God called us here in 1993 - 27 years ago!!!
- We ain't quitting! - We ain't Leaving!!!

2. God's Promises require Faith.

A. it requires Faith to Please God!!!

Hebrews 11:6 " And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

B. Our Faith is what pleases God!

Matthew 21:21 " Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done."

C. Faith and Hope are connected.

- Hope is one of the most powerful forces on the planet!!!

Hebrews 11:1 " Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (KJV)

D. The season we are living through right now has created a Hopelessness like I've never seen in my lifetime!

- People are losing hope in Everything & Everyone!

- People, Processes, Politicians, Institutions, Medicine, Law Enforcement, Leaders, the News Media, Everything!

E. MIP: Good News Church: We have Hope!!!

- The Promises of God have the Power to Give us Hope even in the Midst of so much Hopelessness around us!!!

3. God's Promises require God's Timing.

A. God's Timing is not our Timing!

B. JOSEPH ILL - At 17 God have him a vision of mighty influence.

- Thrown in a Pit, Left for Dead, Sold into Slavery, Falsely Accused, Falsely Imprisoned, Forgotten, Finally Promoted!!!
- It took 13 years from Dream to Palace!!!

C. CHILDREN OF ISRAEL ILL -

- God gives them the Promise of a Promised Land!
- A Land flowing with Milk & Honey!
- B/c of their lack of faith, God took them around the Wilderness for 40 YEARS!!!

D. MWK - In 25+ years of serving God, almost never has a Promise from God come to pass in OUR Timing!!!

- We make our plans, but God always seems to take us the long way around the mountain!
- A Few years ago, God told Sarah why: "B/c if I gave you the short & easy way, you wouldn't learn anything. And I've called you to teach others from what you learn taking the long way around!"

Proverbs 16:9 "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps."

E. MIP: ? Is it possible God is taking us the long way around to teach us things we can't and wouldn't learn any other way???

- MIP: ? What if we stopped being angry at God & started embracing what He's teaching us???

4. God's Promises are Our Anchor in Stormy Seas.

A. DISCIPLES CROSSING THE LAKE ILL.

Matthew 14:22-24 "Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

v. 25-27 "Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

- They lost sight of the promise of Jesus to meet them on the other side so quickly when the storm came up.

B. MIP: Church: If God has called you to it, then He's going to make sure you get through it!!!

- He's calling us to hold on to His Promises even in the midst of Uncertain, Stormy Times!
- His Promises are our Anchor in times of struggle!!!

Challenge:

- It's time to Comeback to the Promises of God!!!

? How are you doing at trusting God's promises?

- ? Is your faith growing in proportion to your trouble???
- That's the goal!

? Have you doubted God's Word or His Promises?

- We need to repent!

? What's your anchor been through this storm?

- ? Is it in some worldly system or something?

- ? Or is it in God's Word & His Promises?

- One will leave you hopeless, the other will leave you Hope-Full!!!

PRAY

SALVATION