

His Promises

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? (Exodus 23:19 KJV)

The Amplified version put it this way; God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken and will He not make it good and fulfill it?

I remembered when I was young, our parents used to hammer it to our ears that;

1. We should never make any promise we can't fulfill.
2. A promise is a debt that must be paid.
3. An unfulfilled promise is a sin because it implies you have lied.
4. Anybody making unfulfilled promises is unfaithful and should never be trusted.

Advance English Dictionary put it this way; a *promise* is a declaration that something will or will not be done, given, executed, among others.

Or better still, it is an expression of assurance on which expectation is to be based.

Biblically, going back to our opening text (Exodus 23:19), we can see that promises are pronouncements that can be written or spoken.

There are 2 components or patterns as regards the flow of promises;

a. the horizontal pattern

This is the kind of promise that flows between or among people of the same rank, level, achievements, age, and others. The flow of this pattern is, either way, it flows to the left or the right.

Examples are among colleagues, between lovers, between friends, and others.

b. the vertical pattern

This pattern just like the horizontal pattern has two directions of flow. In this regard, there is a downward and upward flow. The only difference is that there is a special pattern that flows in one direction.

- (i) The one that flows either way; downward or upward, from superior to subordinates, older to younger ones, among others.

Examples are: - promises of parents to children and vice versa, boss to a junior or lower rank, and vice versa.

- (ii) The other type of vertical pattern is the one that flows in one direction. The direction of flow is always downward, this is from God to us.

In the past, promises were from the heart, they were commitments. Nowadays, promises are more or less like slogans, mere saying, lips saying, sweet saying, words of deception, among others.

At the foundation level;

- Husbands don't keep their promises to wives and vice versa.
- Parents are no longer keeping their promises to their children, thereby creating, and building distrust in them. Children believe wholeheartedly and blindly but after many disappointments, they learn and understand one of what they call '*realities*' of life.

At working places

- Organization don't fulfill their promises and obligations to their employees and vice versa.

Society

- Followers do not believe the promises of their leaders and vice-versa
- Electorates do not have any belief in their party's candidates and vice-versa.

Religious body particularly the Church

- The situation has gone so bad that it has filtered into the body of Christ. Everywhere is filled with distrust, nobody is watching anybody's back anymore. Caution is now the watchword in Church's dealings and interactions.

What are His Promises?

Have you heard Him directly? Glory be to God. If not, His word (i.e. the Bible contains His promises, starting from Genesis to Revelation). As redeemed children of God, the package in Revelation 5:12 is even enough to celebrate and make a mark in life. He received these for us: power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessings. Salvation is not only a route to heaven or eternal life but a fulfilling life on earth, heaven on earth as well

Let us look at a few other promises as contained in the Scriptures;

- a) I will neither leave nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)
- b) Your battle is my battle; I will contend with anybody that contend with you (Psalm 35:1)
- c). I will supply all your needs (Philippians.4:19)
- d). I will bless you. (Deuteronomy 28:3)
- e). I will order your steps. (Psalm 37:23)

The promises are loaded, waiting for us to be claimed. Despite the assurances and guarantees, most of the time we still make them be our last resort.

My prayer is that God will forgive all those taking His promises for granted.

Why do I need to believe his promises?

- 1) He can't lie, His words hold under all conditions (Titus 1:2)
- 2) He created everything and owns everything; these include my needs (Hebrews 11:3)
- 3) Vain is the help of man (Jeremiah 17:5-8)
- 4) His promises give peace (Proverbs 10:22)
- 5) He is an all-sufficient God (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- 6) The earth is His footstool (Isaiah 66:1)
- 7) He owns the earth and its fullness (Psalm 24:1)

It must be noted that those who keep pace with God don't lose their peace.

What Must I do to enjoy His promises?

We must have it at the back of our mind that we can't do anything for Him to fulfill His promise, we can only do certain things to enjoy His promises.

There is a line of a song: "He will do what He says He will do because He is unstoppable."

This line describes the modalities and operations of God's promises. Let us look at some of the things we can do to enjoy His promises;

- 1) Have a relationship with Him.

There is a need to return to your maker, only the children are entitled to the father's inheritance (Jeremiah 3:22). For example, only the children are entitled to divine healing (Matthew 15:26).

2) Be patient

Remember, no matter your condition or situation, you cannot rush God in fulfilling His promises.

The Scripture says; “those that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles” (Isaiah 40:31).

Waiting upon the Lord is not a waste of time, He is a good God that works with time.

3) Meditate on the Word of God.

You must dwell or meditate on the Word all the time (Joshua 1:8)

4) Love your God.

There are many ways by which you can demonstrate your love for God. When you are filled with love for God, an abundance of revelation is guaranteed. (1 Corinthians 2:9 & Romans 8:28)

You can demonstrate your love for Him by:

- obey His Commandments (Deuteronomy 28:1)
- win souls (John 21:15-16 & Mark. 16:15)

Soul winners are the wise, go all out for Him, He is not a robber but a rewarder.

(1 Timothy 5:18).

Jesus Christ is Lord