

REVIVE!

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Genesis 9:13

What for you are the most prized/ appreciated qualities in a person? Caring, loving, fun to be with?

I am sure keeping **promises** would be right up there. It communicates a depth of character and solidity which we consider of immense value.

How are you with keeping **promises**? Politicians are one group of people who stereotypically don't keep theirs. When this happens, it undermines their integrity and our respect for them. If I am honest, I know if I were to make three good **promises**, I would be hard pressed to keep them, especially in moments of feeling low or particularly tempted.

Some folks, even more geeky than me, have calculated that there are over twenty **promises** in the Bible for each day of the year. That means God has made over 7,000! Can you imagine the degree of attentiveness, the depths of strength and love that is needed to ensure every single promissory word spoken comes to pass? Especially

when we consider how fragmented and broken our world is as a result of so many wrong choices made outside God's will!

Does God really keep all His **promises**? The writer of Psalm 77, in the midst of his anguish and depression (v1-6), seriously questioned God's central attributes of love, mercy and compassion. Had they vanished, been forgotten or even deliberately withheld (v7-9)? From this place, he cried out (v8) '*Has His **promise** failed for all time?*' It's OK to have honest questions!

The same Psalmist took a moment then to remember that God had indeed intervened to help, to save, to lead, to be present... even when chaotic waters threatened to overwhelm (vs10-20). He is indeed a faithful, **promise-keeping God**. And He is not slow in keeping them either (2 Peter 3:9)!

Shall we explore some of His great promises together? What word of **promise** do you need God to speak over you now?

With love and prayers, David

Open wide the gates!



Which promises come to mind when you think of God's promises? If you are struggling to remember some, take a moment to read **Psalm 34**. There are at least twenty in this short Psalm! How many can you find? Write them out on a sheet of paper ... and begin to thank God for each one!

Here are some other amazing promises from the Bible. Do look up the verses to receive their full impact.

- ▶ **Jeremiah 29:11-14**
I have plans to give you hope and a future. Seek me with all your heart and I will be found.
- ▶ **Matthew 11:28-30**
Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.
- ▶ **Romans 8:38,39**
Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
- ▶ **Philippians 4:6,7**
Don't be anxious about anything, present your requests to God, and His peace will guard your hearts and minds.
- ▶ **Isaiah 40:28-31**
Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength, and soar like eagles.

Do one of these promises strike a chord with you? Take a few minutes to repeat it out loud, to ponder what God is saying, and to receive by faith what He desires to give you.

The Lord is with you!

The Lord is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9)!

In Joshua chapter 1 we find the people of Israel on the brink of crossing the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land, following years of wandering in the desert after they left Egypt. Moses has died, and Joshua is the new leader. The other side of the river means a new start and a new life.



It equates well to this current season as we prepare to leave lockdown and emerge into a freedom we haven't known for months. We know it is an issue for many because folk have spoken of their fears during their time at CCHC. It is scary treading a path into the unknown, to follow a direction that we haven't taken before. In Joshua 1:5-9, God tells Joshua three times to be strong and courageous (and one of those times it is '**very courageous!**'), while at the same time saying 'I will never leave you or forsake you' and 'I will be with you wherever you go' – the promise for Joshua **and** a promise for us now.

One more thing. That strength and courage is not something the people have to hunt within themselves for; it is rooted and grounded in God.

So, be strong and courageous as we move ahead into this new future, because the Lord is with us wherever we go!

Suzanne

God promises you all things!



God promises His followers all things! We see this in Matthew 6:33 (*a conditional promise* – Seek first His kingdom and all these things will be added unto you) and Romans 8:32 (*an unconditional promise* – He graciously gives all things, including Jesus). Followers of Jesus walk by faith, not by sight. We choose to walk in the promises, even the ones not yet realised! Why? Because **God promised** them, we know He'll deliver!

BUT, the same enemy that deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, suggesting that God was not to be trusted, still erodes faith and causes us to doubt God's promises, even today. When were you last tricked like this to think (or say) that God is holding something back from you? Our responses under such circumstances can divert us away from God, and sadly this may lead to brokenness, pain and lack of trust.

The Good News is, '*God heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds*' (Psalm 147:3). Take time to sit with the Lord and have a discussion. Speak honestly to Him of any disappointments ... and listen to Him.

Remember this promise from Numbers 28:19 and let your faith be stirred afresh in the God whose promises are irrevocable. '*God is not human that He should lie, not a human being that He should change his mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfil?*'

Steve

You cannot be serious!

With this famously blood-curdling cry, John McEnroe would seriously question the rightness and even integrity of tennis umpires' calls! How can we know God is serious about keeping His promises? In our culture, we seek to affirm the seriousness of our promises with a signature, the raising of a hand over a Bible or the exchange of rings. In the middle eastern culture of the Bible, serious promises were made with the shedding of blood. Jesus said, '*This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins*' (Matthew 26:28). God is **THAT** serious about keeping His promises. *No matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ* (2 Corinthians 1:20). Do we have any reason to doubt Him?

And finally, some big ones!

God certainly hasn't short-changed us with small promises. Some of them are incredible in their scope. In Joel 2:21-32, for example, He has promised to refresh us with '*spring and autumn rains*'; to fill us with good things; to restore us '*from the years the locusts have eaten*' and to pour His Holy Spirit out on ALL of us so that we can be witnesses for Him. Ultimately, He has promised us new, healed and resurrected bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-58), to live forever with Him in a new, restored creation (Revelation 21:1-5) and to sit with Him at the marriage supper of the Lamb when He will wipe away all tears (Isaiah 25:6-9). All this and more is what God wants to give to those who know and follow Him!

So let us stop and look with wonder at what He has promised us. Thank Him and receive by faith all that He has promised to give. He is a wonderful, loving and faithful God!



NUMBERS: Howard's Well re-opened on May 4th. Despite the unpromising weather conditions, people returned to enjoy good food outside, the opportunity to join in the 10am weekday worship and to have prayer. Over recent weeks we have been thrilled to see increasing numbers, including many coming for the first time and from the village. In June, the kitchen served 81 breakfasts and 297 lunches, excluding those who chose a scone or cake for lunch and residential guests requiring evening meals.

We have had 71 guests stay in-house since we opened, a third of whom are new. It is always good to welcome back people we know, but equally good to meet new people and hear them say emphatically that they will return!

PRAYER: These numbers also represent countless hours of prayer provided by chaplains and visiting chaplains. There is no doubt that we are seeing people with greater need than we have ever seen before, some relating to lockdown and others with issues compounded by lockdown. It is a privilege to come alongside, knowing that God listens, hears and answers prayer. We are also grateful for our team who cook, serve, administrate and minister with such grace and compassion.

GROWTH: Jabez Garden is our new project to grow vegetables at the Centre and the kitchen has had its first crop of spinach and courgettes to serve to guests.

TENT OF MEETING

We would like to erect a permanent 'Tent of Meeting' in the grounds – for external prayer ministry opportunities and for use by guests. The Tent will be a wooden structure and will cost £1.5k. If you would like to contribute to this project, please indicate that it is for the **Tent of Meeting**.

CCHC Prayer Requests

Please pray with us as we:

- ▶ give thanks for the way the Lord continues to meet guests here – with an increasing number of drop-in guests to Howard's Well;
- ▶ consider possibilities of improving the patio area - relaying the slabs and installing a covering - with a disabled access door between the dining room and patio;
- ▶ continue to seek the Lord's face going forward with the easing of Covid restrictions and how that will impact us;
- ▶ prepare for the various Retreats coming up; Transformational Encounter, Families, Youth Workers Retreat (please see the website and advertise this in your churches) – and a number of Healing Space opportunities;
- ▶ pray for prosperity and peace, including the ongoing financial provision we need for the Lord's work here. Thank you.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Please contact us on enquiries@[crowhursthealing.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@crowhursthealing.org.uk) or 01424 830204 if your details have changed, or if you no longer wish to receive these publications.

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