

A vibrant rainbow arches across a dark, twilight sky. The colors of the rainbow are bright and saturated, contrasting sharply with the deep blue and black background. Silhouettes of trees and a bird in flight are visible against the dark sky, adding a sense of depth and atmosphere to the scene.

A Spring of Promise

2 Corinthians 1:20

“A command from God is something we should do; a promise from God is something God will do.

A command must be obeyed; a promise must be believed.

When God gives a command He says, “YOU WILL”; when God gives a promise He says, “I WILL.”

Promises of God

- **“The future is as bright as the promises of God.”**
- **“God never made a promise that was too good to be true.”**
- **“God never over-promises and He never under-delivers.”**

1. Put the promises in their context to get their full meaning.

- *Hebrews 13:5: Hebrews 13:5: “I will never leave you or forsake you.”*
- *“Your life should be free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for He Himself has said, I will never leave you or forsake you.”*

1. Put the promises in their context to get their full meaning.

- **Romans 8:28: *“We know that all things work together for the good***
 - 1) of those who love God:***
 - 2) those who are called according to His purpose.”***

2. Be careful about claiming someone else's promise.

- *Jeremiah 29:11* “For I know the plans I have for you”—this is the LORD’s declaration—“plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.””
- *Jeremiah 29:1* “This is the text of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the rest of the elders of the exiles, the priests, the prophets, and all the people Nebuchadnezzar had deported from Jerusalem to Babylon.”

3. Focus on promises that are repeated elsewhere in the Bible.

- **Joshua 1:5** “No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or forsake you.”
- **Hebrews 13:5** “*I will never leave you or forsake you.*”

4. Be willing to accept all God's promises, not just the ones you like.

- John 16:33: *“You will have suffering in this world. ...”*
- *Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”*

5. The ultimate aim of God's promises is to glorify Himself.

- Psalm 119:38: *“Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared.”*

6. Some promises are conditional.

- Deuteronomy 11:22-23: *“For if you carefully observe every one of these commands I am giving you to follow—to love the LORD your God, walk in all His ways, and remain faithful to Him—the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will drive out nations greater and stronger than you are.”*

6. Some promises are conditional.

- James 4:10: “*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you*”

7. Promises must be believed and applied by faith.

- Hebrews 4:2: *“For we also have received the good news just as they did; but the message they heard did not benefit them, since they were not united with those who heard it in faith.”*
- Matthew 13:58 *“And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.”*

8. Don't be passive about God's promises.

- Hebrews 6:12: *“Even though we are speaking this way, dear friends, in your case we are confident of the better things connected with salvation. 10 For God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you showed for His name when you served the saints—and you continue to serve them. 11 Now we want each of you to demonstrate the same diligence for the final realization of your hope, 12 so that you won't become lazy but will be imitators of those who inherit the promises through faith and perseverance.”*

9. Make sure you are prepared to receive God's promises.

- Psalm 66:18: *“If I had been aware of malice in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”*

10. Hold on to hope.

- Hebrews 10:23: *“Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”*
- Hebrews 10:36 *“For you need endurance, so that after you have done God’s will, you may receive what was promised.”*