

January 4, 2026: Basic Christian Values, Part 2: The Promises of God.

Introduction:

This is the second in a series on Basic Christian Values

Values: A person's principles or standards of behavior; one's judgment of what is important in life.

I Timothy thesis: **I Timothy 3:14** Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, **15**if I am delayed, **you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

This is the foundation of this Series on Basic Christian Values. As Believers, and as a part of God's Family, and on a smaller scale, as a part of THIS family, we have instruction, from God's Word, on how we should live. **As BELIEVERS in The Lord Jesus Christ, we must understand The Promises of God.**

1. God Makes the Promise

Joshua 1: 1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: **2** "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. **3** I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. **4** Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. **5** No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. **6** Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. **7** Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. **8** Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

We see God tell Joshua three times to be strong and courageous between verses 6 and 9. God made the Promise. This promise goes back to Abraham the father of our faith in Genesis 17. When God makes a promise, he is faithful to fulfill it.

Joshua 21: 43 So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. **44** The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the Lord gave

all their enemies into their hands. **45**Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

2. God's Timing Is Not Always Our Timing

God is so faithful that He gives us just what we need to get us moving in His direction, the right direction. He does not tell us everything. There is a blessing in that because we would not be able to comprehend what God wants to do through us.

3. God Uses People to Fulfill His Promises

He will use people that we would not necessarily expect or anticipate. We see Joshua is the one used to fulfill the promise that was given to Abraham. But there are two other people in this story who are extremely important. The first one is Moses. Moses was Joshua's leader, and the Israelites leader up to this point. He was full of wisdom. He was a critical piece to Joshua's mission and his assignment.

We need leaders like, that every one of us. Leaders that are going to speak wisdom and life into us.

Deuteronomy 31: 7Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. **8**The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

You can tell that Moses had been spending a lot of time with the Lord. We need these kind of people in our lives. At the same time, we know that people are not God, and people are human and they have their weaknesses and blind spots. If we look at Moses, he was a murderer and he had a hot temper that got him into trouble.

The second person who is important in this story is Rahab the prostitute. God uses people you would not expect. We find Rehab hiding the spies that Joshua had sent over to scope out the land. She makes a statement of faith that changes the course of her life, and not just hers, but her family as well.

Joshua 2: 8Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof **9**and said to them, "I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. **10**We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea ^a for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. **11**When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. **12**"Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign **13**that you will spare the

lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.” **14**“Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land.”

Rahab had to put her faith in action. It is enough to believe; we must do something with that belief. Her actions saved her life for eternity. This woman, who was once defined by her sin, was now defined by her faith and God’s Grace.

Romans 6:14For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

This is God’s promise to all who follow him. This is a promise for ALL of those who surrender their lives to him and follow him. We find Rehab listed in three more significant places in the New Testament:

James 2:25In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? **26**As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Hebrews 11:31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

Matthew 1: 5Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, **6**and Jesse the father of King David.

God uses people to fulfill His promises, and not always people we expect: Moses, a murderer, and Rahab, the prostitute. They had surrendered their lives to Him.

Finally, we see that God used divinely united body:

Joshua 1:16they answered Joshua, “Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. **17**Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you.

That is the body of Christ. God can use us individually, but he also uses us as a body.

‘God puts you in a church, you don’t pick a church.’ (Betty Jo)

God, in His infinite WISDOM, in his never-ending GRACE, He puts us in a church. And that’s true, because God knows us, He knows our strengths and He knows our weaknesses. For us to grow, He needs to put us in the in a church where we will be able to be fed spiritually and produce fruit. God is a God of UNITY, and God blesses UNITY, and He uses a divinely united body to fulfill His promises.

‘Miracles happen when the atmosphere is right when people begin to respond to the presence of God. He responds to the people in greater measure.’

The atmosphere can become so charged with the presence of God, so holy, that we (including sinners) fall under conviction of our need for Christ's saving grace or receive a healing or supernatural deliverance from addiction during a powerful worship service.

4. The Promise is Just the Beginning of the Story

Once the Israelite's got to the promised land it was not over. In the book of Joshua, we see many battles following their entry into the promised land. When you start messing with the enemy's territory, he gets angry and he starts fighting back. We know from Joshua's story that our Lord will always be with us. And He commands us to be strong and courageous. He has given us the people; He has given us the promise and now we too must walk it out.

5. Remember What God Has Done

Joshua 4: 1When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, ***2***"Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, ***3***and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight." ***4***So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, ***5***and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, ***6***to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' ***7***tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. ***These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.***"

It takes courage and strength to see God's promises fulfilled in our lives. And God knows this. We see He has provided this divine miracle to the Israelites and then He commands them to set up a memorial so that they and the future generations can remember. Their children and children's children can remember what God did.

God says, REMEMBER what I have done. Remember what I HAVE DONE says The Lord!

When we remember God is faithful, and what He has done before, our faith rises. We know that if He has done it before, He will do again. We hear multiple times in The Bible, 'be bold and create courageous because the Lord your God is with you.' But there are times when the battle is waging so strong, that it is hard to find that courage and strength. In those moments we need to remember all the things that God has done for us and our faith will rise up. The mountain is not that big, the ocean is not that wide, and Goliath is not that strong! If God is with us, then who can be against us.

Joshua 4: 19On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. ***20***And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. ***21***He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' ***22***tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' ***23***For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea ^b when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. ***24***He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God."

We too are in the first month, a crossroads of sorts, a new year, a new season. We have no idea what we will face this year. But we DO know we have a God who loves us, will protect us, will provide for us, will go before us, and will be with us. We serve a God who keeps His promises.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is a big promise someone has made to you? Did that person keep the promise? What happened? Do you tend to trust promises or react with skepticism? Why? How do you think the promises that people have broken in your life have affected your ability to trust God's promises?
2. Describe a time when God has proven Himself to be faithful in your life. How does God's past faithfulness in your life give you confidence for His future faithfulness? What is an area of your life where you need to be reminded of God's faithfulness?
3. "If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself." -2 Timothy 2:13
What does that verse mean to us as Christians? To you personally? How does it feel to know that even if you are faithless, God is still trustworthy and faithful and will keep His promises? Have you found yourself in a spot where you have needed this reminder?
4. Are God's promises something that you have spent a lot of time thinking about before now? Why or why not? Do you know of any of God's promises other than the eternal life one that we talked about tonight? Can you share any of them? Do you think it is important to know what God's promises are? How can you know them? Have you ever thought about building your life on God's promises? What does that mean to you?