

HANDOUT NEW YEARS 12-30-23 LEANING ON GODS PROMISES IN THE NEW YEAR!

We All Have Something We'll Face in 2024. The Question is "In Whom Will We Trust?" Proverbs 3:5-6.

To Trust God do 2 Things: Look Back and Look Forward. *When You Look Back in God's Word the Bible You'll See God's Sovereignty, Protection, Provision and in Seemingly Impossible Situations.*

The Israelites needed to be Reminded that God had demonstrated that He was Sovereign and faithful before and would continue to be both Sovereign and Faithful.

POINT: We Must Learn to Look Back and see that these are both part of God's character.

- *It is Our Past Experiences of God's Faithfulness that Will Help US Build Our Trust...SO, We Must Look Back and Remember How Far He Has Brought Us.*
- Remember God's Promises and Move Forward By Standing on the Promises in His Word!
Jeremiah 29:11; Isaiah 58:11; Matthew 28:20

The Question Is... WILL YOU TRUST GOD'S PROMISES IN 2024! God Promises to Be With Us Always: *'And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.'*

- Romans 8:28: God Promises to Use Everything He Allows Into Our Lives for Good!

When We Remember that God has Been Sovereign and Faithful Before, We Can Trust in These Promises that God Will Continue to be Both of These Things. Trusting is a "Daily Active Choice"! It can be Hard, But We Know that God is Utterly Trustworthy and Reliable.

I've found God Always Has Good Plans for US...And He Is With US Every Step of the way, Using Every Adversity to Strengthen and Help US Grow in His Grace.

TWO QUESTIONS: *Are You Prepared for Whatever God Has Planned for Your Life in 2024? Will You Respond in Trust When Things Don't Go According to Your Plan?* Joshua 21:45\

When We Experience a Setback, We Tend to Focus on Things that Can Easily Fall Apart. *God says that When Everything in Life is Falling Apart, We Need to Remember that His Promises Can Be Trusted.*

- **KEY:** When You Can't Count On Anything Else...You Can Always Count On the 7,000 Plus Promises God Has Provided in His Love Letter to YOU...God's Holy Bible!

In Acts 27 Paul told his Shipmates When they Were Being Battered by a Storm Paul Trusted God and Vs 27 he said: *"So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me".*

- **KEY:** Paul Didn't Place his Faith in the Ship, the Captain and His Sailers When the Weather Conditions Turned Bad...PAUL TRUSTED GOD! Paul Understood That Boat Wasn't Going to Last Forever. **Paul Knew that in this Storm "PUNY" LifeBoat's Would NOT Get them to Shore!**
- **POINT:** Paul Understood Without a Doubt that Only the Promises of God Would Last.

Question as You Enter 2024...Will You Try to Put Your Trust in a "PUNY" Lifeboat?

Maybe Your Lifeboat is Your Sparkling Personality. You're Sure that You Can Get Through Anything Because Your Charm or Persuasiveness Will Shine Through. **Maybe it's Your Looks.** They've Always Been the Key to Your Success. You Believe You Can LEAN on Your Appearance When Troubles Hit. **Maybe it's Your Money.** You Plan to Buy Yourself Out of Whatever Problem You Face. **Maybe it is Your Health...Maybe it's a Relationship...Or Something Else!**

FACT: All of Those PUNY LIFEBOATS Will Someday Perish. The Only Safe Place to Be in the Middle of a Storm is Directly in the CENTER of GOD'S WILL.

- Standing Firm...Trusting God...Waiting Patiently for His Answer!
- Acts 27 ends with an incredible comeback Verse 44: *"The rest were to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land safely."*

God's Promises Came True for Paul and his Shipmates—Everyone was Safe. We Need To Trust God Too.

- **FACT:** *When You Lean On God's Promises During a Storm, You Can Trust that Every Single One of Them Will Come True. And You Won't Be the Only One Who is Helped.*
- **YOU NEED TO TRUST that Setbacks Can Not Derail God's Purpose For YOU In 2024!**
- **KEY:** God's Purpose For You is Greater than Any Setback You'll Ever Go Through.

An Angel told Paul in Acts 27 That this Setback Would Not Thwart God's Plan for His Life. Paul Would Stand Before Caesar and Share His Testimony as God Had Purposed!

- **Embrace this POINT: *God Doesn't Have a Plan B for Your Life. Hitting a Setback—Whether it's Your Fault or Someone Else's—All Fits Into His PLAN "A"***
- *Because God Uses All Things For Good To Each One Who Puts Their Faith in HIM...It Is ALL Part of His Perfect Plan to Grow YOU and for Others to See Christ In YOU!*

KEY: When You Feel like You've Lost Everything...God Does the Incredible so You Can Do the Impossible... You Can't Sink God's Purpose. Neither Can Anyone Else!

- *Faith that Does Not Result in a Changed Life Where Actions and Works are Altered is Worthless!*
- **True Faith Works!** But True Faith is a Work of Both the Mind and the Heart. Our minds are definitely (crucially) involved. But Without the Heart's Moving Us to Action to Stand on those Promises FAITH IS ABSENT OR PERHAPS...FALSE!

Trusting God's Promises are the Building Blocks for a Solid and Firm Stance in the Face of Our Sin. Our Suffering. And Every Adversity You Face in this Life!

Spurstowe describes the Christian's Experience with the Promises of God. He Says, At first they seem Too Good to Be True...So Distant they Do Us No Good. *But Spending More Time Meditating On Gods Promises, Is like sitting by the Fireplace, It will Warm Our Hearts with Indescribable Truth and Comfort.*

KEY: If We Truly Trust the Promises of God Our lives Will Be Radically Impacted. Our View of this World would Gain More of God's Perspective and Less of the Worlds. We would Never Look at Our Circumstances the Same. We Wouldn't Fall into Despair, With Every Turn of Events We Didn't Expect. Because Leaning on GOD'S Promises...Makes JOY Amidst Adversity Possible. Wear God's Promises Around Your Neck and Cling to them when the Waves of Life Crash Against You.

3 Of The Ways You Can Practically Trust and Apply God's Promises.

1. Know the Promises of God: This Requires Intentional Bible Reading...EVERY DAY.

- Know those Promises that *You Can Lean On* when You Face Areas that Tend to Cause You to Worry...Things You Fear...Even Things that Anger You! **Respond with Gods Word**
- Stand Firm on His Promises! Then You will know Joy, Peace and God's Presence Midst a Storm!

2. Meditate on the Promises of God: It isn't enough to have a list of Bible verses of God's Promises. In order to Know how to Apply them in Your Life... "Meditate On Them". **READ PSALM 1: 1-3**

- **KEY:** Fix Your Mind on God's Promises...As You Stand On Them...You Will Turn Them Into A Supernatural Trust that Leads to an Experience of the Holy Spirit's Peace!

3. Memorize the Promises of God: If You Don't Have God's Promises Memorized... When the Time Comes that You Need to Use It ...You Won't Have IT!

As You Act with Faith in the Promises of God, You Will Be Radically Transformed and Freed to Live and Love to the Glory of God in ALL Circumstances.

"LIFE" POINT Wisdom Comes When We Lean On God's Promises in Both the Good and Difficult Times.