

Promises Are Like Presents

What's the difference between "We should go to a baseball game," and "I promise to take you to a baseball game"?

A promise is when a person says he will or will not do something, and he really means it. He is not just thinking about it. He has decided to do it. You can count on it. He will do it.

Suppose your mom says, "I promise I will not pull your tooth out. I will only wiggle your tooth to see how loose it is." If she says that, she is telling you something she will do—wiggle your tooth—and something she will not do—pull it out. You do not need to worry that your mom will pull out your tooth, because she has made a promise. You can be sure of it.

The Bible is full of God's promises—things God has said that He will or will not do. These are promises you can count on for sure. Some of God's promises tell us what He will do. For example: **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go."** (Psalm 32:8).

Some promises tell us how things are for the Christian, the person who is trusting in Jesus: **"[Nothing] in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"** (Romans 8:39). Nothing can ever take away God's love for those who trust in Jesus. God loves His children . . . everywhere . . . all the time . . . forever! He *promises* this, so we can be sure that this is really true, that God really is like this and will always be like this.

Sometimes God's promises are found in things He tells us about Himself. When God tells us who He is, He is making a promise about what He is like and what He will do. For example: **"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love"** (Psalm 103:8). Since this verse tells us what God is like, it also has in it a *promise* about God. God is kind and doesn't become angry quickly. He is patient and full of love. This is who

God says He is. Because God is kind and patient, He is promising to act with kindness and patience. This is what He will do.

What does God promise by saying this about Himself? **“The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made” (Psalm 145:9)**. God says He is good and kind. This is what He says about Himself. But God is also promising here to show goodness and kindness to EVERYONE!



This is a wonderful promise! It is like a present. All of God's promises to bless us—to do good to us—are gifts. We don't deserve them. He doesn't have to give them to us. He gives them because He is good and loving.

Do you like to get presents? What is one present that you really liked? You will find that God's promises are the very best presents of all. Not only are God's promises wonderful, but they don't wear out or break—they are forever!

The Bible is full of God's promises—things God has said that He will or will not do. Promises that tell us what God is like and who He will always be. Promises you can count on. God's promises are sure.

In this book, you will discover some of God's many promises. They will be like opening wonderful presents—gifts from God that we don't deserve, which show us how good and loving He is.

Here is a verse for you to remember as you read this book and discover God's gift of His wonderful promises to His children.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (James 1:17)



LEARNING TO TRUST GOD

- * Read James 1:17 again. What does this verse tell you about God? If God never changes, what does this mean about who He is today and about His promises?
- * Look through your Bible and find some of God's promises. Who is each promise for? How is each promise like a present? Look at one or two promises and thank God for that promise and what it means for your family.
- * **Activity:** Get a box with a lid (big enough to hold 25 3"x5" index cards). Wrap the box and lid in very pretty paper, or decorate the box. Make a label that says, "God's Promises," and glue it to the box. Tell someone why God's promises are like presents.