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Your Promise Gives Me Life

A Family Devotional Guide about Knowing
and Trusting God's Promises

by Sally Michael



Truth:78

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by Sally Michael

Our vision at Truth78 is that the next generations know, honor, and treasure God, setting their hope in Christ alone, so that they will live as faithful disciples for the glory of God. Our mission is to inspire and equip the church and the home for the comprehensive discipleship of the next generation.

We equip churches and parents by producing curricula for Sunday School, Midweek Bible, Intergenerational, Youth, and Backyard Bible Club settings; vision-casting and training resources (many available free on our website) for both the church and the home; materials and training to help parents in their role in discipling children; and the Fighter Verses™ Bible memory program to encourage the lifelong practice and love of Bible memory.

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Published in the United States of America by Truth78.

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ISBN: 978-1-952783-58-6

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Equipping the Next Generations to Know, Honor, and Treasure God

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Sample Preface

Do you love to see the tulips and daffodils poking up through the soil? They are announcing that spring is coming. New life is blooming! Things are being renewed! The cold winter nights are over, the snow has been stored away for another season, and green leaves will soon open on the trees!

God's promises are like the tulips and daffodils of spring. They bring new life into tired souls. They renew our hope and strengthen weary saints. They help us to stand strong and true against the sweeping tides of changing ideas. They bring words and vision to our prayers. They encourage us that "Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning!"¹ God's glorious enduring promises give us life!

One of the greatest means of fighting the fight of faith is to cling to the precious promises of God. There is a promise for every trial we endure, every emotion we feel, and every temptation we face. God's promises are a sword and a shield for the soul. But, like any other spiritual weapon, God's promises languish in our souls if we do not *know* them and *trust* them. We cannot find refuge in God's promises if we are unfamiliar with them.

This book has been written to encourage your family to study God's promises, memorize them, store them in your soul, run to them in time of need, pray them, and trust them when the winds of adversity blow. They will breathe new life into your soul.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:28-31)

This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life. (Psalm 119:50)

¹ Psalm 30:5b

Sample How to Use this Devotional

It is our hope that this resource will help your family spend some time around the Word and create opportunities for spiritual discussion throughout the days and weeks that follow. You can put as much or as little time and effort into this devotional time as your life permits. Some of the ongoing discussion may happen more intentionally around the kitchen table or informally as you go through your days together.

The elements of this devotional are:

Ask: This is simply a quick starter question (or questions) to launch the topic of the verse. Then read the introduction to the verse and the verse itself. If you have younger children, you may need to define some of the words in the Bible verse.

Discuss: Ask as many questions as time and your children's attention spans permit. Discuss them to any depth you desire. You can pick and choose questions or ask them all. Some of the questions are more suited for older children and some for younger ones. But even younger children can benefit from all the questions and answers if you rephrase them more simply or explain them.

Read: Read the short devotional. There are two versions to choose from—the first one for parents and older children, the second one for younger children. If your children have a wide span of ages, you may want to read the summary for the older children first and then have an older child read to the younger children the summary intended for them. Or you may choose to read the younger children's summary first and then follow up with the older children's summary.

Pray: End with prayer. There is a suggested prayer topic for you as the parent, but you may want to encourage your children to pray about the topic of the devotional as well. You may want to

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encourage your children to pray using the verse highlighted in the devotional.

Optional: Encourage your whole family to memorize the verse. A memorized verse will not only give your children truths to ponder when the verse comes to mind, but it is also a means to fight the fight of faith.

Note: God is faithful to keep His promises to His children. But your children may not yet be saved. Keep confronting your children with the blessing of being God's child and the claim that His children have on His promises, without assuming that your children are at this point true believers. Unless you are convinced that your children are saved, continue to pray for their salvation while you acquaint your children with the promises of God. Keep holding out the hope of the gospel to your children as you discuss spiritual truths from the devotional guide.

It is our prayer that you may experience a time of spiritual bonding as a family around God's Word, and that His promises might be a means of strengthening your faith.

Promise: God Will Not Withhold Any Good Thing

Ask

Can you think of something I would not let you have or do when you were younger? Why didn't I give you what you wanted?

God does not give us everything we want either...and He has a very good reason when He doesn't give us something.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. (Psalm 84:11)

Discuss

- What is this verse telling us about God by using the words “sun” and “shield”? What else does the first sentence tell us about God?⁴³
- What is the promise in this verse? Who is it for? What does the word “withhold” mean? What does the word “no” in the phrase “no good thing” show us?
- If God does not withhold any good thing from His children, what does it mean then when God does withhold something?⁴⁴
- Because we do not always understand God's ways and plans, what is the temptation we sometimes face when God does not give us what we ask? Explain. How can we fight that temptation?

⁴³ God cares for His people, and He is a protector of His people. God is good and generous; He is kind to His children.

⁴⁴ God will not withhold anything from His people that is good for them. If He withholds something, it is because it is not ultimately good for them. Note that the verse does not say that God will not withhold *anything* from His children but *no good thing*.

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- How is God’s definition (meaning) of “good” different from ours?⁴⁵
- What are some examples of God’s generosity toward you? (What good things has God given you or done for you?) Do you think more about the good that God has done for you or about what He has withheld from you?

Read

It is true that we want what we want...and when we don’t get it, we aren’t always very happy about it. But that shouldn’t be the case because God has promised,

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. (Psalm 84:11)

That is a very comprehensive promise. In fact, it couldn’t be more comprehensive! *No good thing*—not even one! So we can have the assurance that anything that God withholds is not good for us. God is so very generous that He has given His very own precious Son. Any other thing would be a lesser thing to give.

He is so very wise that He knows what is good for us. And He loves us enough to *not* give us something that isn’t good for us. Why should we not trust such a good and wise Father?

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)

For Younger Children: We want what we want. And when we don’t get it, we aren’t always very happy about it. But that is not the right way to think or feel because God has given His children this promise:

⁴⁵ Our definition of “good” is something we like, not necessarily something that is good for us. God’s definition of a “good thing” is something that is good for us; not something that makes us more comfortable but something that makes us more like His Son. We are often interested in fun and comfort, but God is interested in our faith and godly character.

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For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. (Psalm 84:11)

This is a broad, sweeping promise covering all things. God will not withhold even *one thing* that is good for His children. *Everything* that is good for His children He will give them. So if God withholds—holds back or does not give us—something, you can know for sure that it is not good for us. God is so generous that He has given us what is most precious to Him. He has given us His very own precious Son to die on the cross for our sins. Anything else is not as precious as His Son and would be less to give us.

God is so wise that He always knows what is good for us. And He loves His children so much that He will not give us something that is not good for us. What reason could we possibly have to *not* trust such a good and wise Father? There is no reason. We can trust God to do what is best for us!

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)

Pray

Thank God this week for His unending generosity. Thank Him for not sparing His own Son. Ask Him for the faith to believe that He will not withhold any good thing from His children and the conviction to trust Him when He does withhold something. Pray that your children will see God as immensely generous.