

# God's Promises Will Never Fail!

**Scriptural Reference:** Joshua 21:43-45; 23:14

**Key Verse:** “Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.”  
(*Joshua 23:14, NIV*)

## Life Principle

God's promises will be fulfilled according to His specifications, not ours. His Word is sure and certain.

## Introduction

Throughout Scripture, there is one truth that stands sure and steadfast—that is the fact that God is the ultimate promise keeper. As we review our lives, it is important that we be men and women who keep our word so people can depend on us. It may be true that while we sometimes fail, God never fails. One songwriter picked up on this tremendous truth and wrote these words: “God never fails. . . . He abides in me. He gives me victory. No, God never fails!” It is His nature to never fail. No matter what we are called upon to face in life, we need to always remember that God is still God.

## BIBLICAL EMPHASES FOR STUDY

### I. God's Promises Are Gifts to Us (*Joshua 21:43*)

One of the lasting truths we discover in God's dealings with Israel in general, and Joshua in particular, is that the more we learn about God's promises that He has fulfilled, the easier it becomes to trust Him for the fulfillment of His other promises. Many people become impatient and expect God to act or respond to them in a certain way. We need to realize, however, that God is God and He will do things His way, which is always the best way. Underlining God's relationship with His people and those whom He has called to leadership is the fact that He gives gifts commensurate or in proportion to our ability to be obedient and faithful.

Joshua 21:43a states that the Lord *gave*. We especially need to assess the complexity of the meaning of a gift. A gift is not an obligation; it is not given

with the expectation that we will receive something back; it is a simple gift. With that understanding, we need to recognize that a gift from God can never be repaid. We do not have the resources or the ingenuity to repay God. Why? Well, all that we have already belongs to Him and came from Him. We also need to understand that a gift from God is designed to bless, to enrich, and to lift up. Whatever God gives is never intended to add sorrow to one's life.

## **II. God's Promises Provide Rest** (*Joshua 21:44a*)

Joshua 21:44a reads, "The LORD gave them rest." The word *rest* is one of the most important words in the book of Joshua. In fact, it can be stated explicitly that rest is the goal of *all* of God's promises. We live in an overly tired world in which rest is a prized commodity. If we are honest with ourselves, most of us are all overly stressed and tired, experiencing bodily weariness. Additionally, we are the recipients of stressful relationships. We are stressed about things going wrong in our lives. We are stressed about overextending ourselves with too many commitments, and not having enough resources; this results in our getting weary. Many people may not want to admit it, but we all need rest. We need eternal rest. In fact, it can be rightly concluded that rest goes hand in hand with peace. One writer said that rest is peace with a pillow.

In the book of Joshua, biblical scholars tell us that half a dozen times there is a reference to the people finding rest from war. A review of Joshua 1:13 shows us that God promised the people rest as they entered the land.

## **III. God's Promises Provide Strength** (*Joshua 21:44b*)

Joshua 21:44b tells us that not one of Israel's enemies withstood them. What an acknowledgment! God's desire is for us to always have confidence and strength in Him. When we look back at what He has already accomplished, we can look forward in hope knowing that He is the same God, with the same power. It is a certainty that God will take care of you—and in the process, you will be changed and will be able to stand up to your enemies that may be trying to tear you down. God's promises always bring about a transformation: we will be changed into stronger people with integrity and high moral character.

## **IV. God's Promises Will Be Accomplished** (*Joshua 21:45*)

In Joshua 21:45 (NIV), we find these words: "Not one of all the LORD's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled." God will always complete what He has started. We understand and acknowledge the fact that a promise is only as good as the ability and the character of the one who makes

the promise. Biblical history and our experience affirm that God has the ability and the compassion to do what He said He would do. His words will never return to Him void and fail to accomplish what He has willed it to accomplish.

Israel was assured through God's promise that He would be dependable and fulfill what He has said that He would do. It is important, however, to recognize the process that took place in the fulfilling of those promises. We do recognize that God's promise was not fulfilled quickly. Biblical scholars suggest that it took approximately seven years from crossing the Jordan to dividing the land, keeping in mind that the original promise was made hundreds of years earlier. The important lesson for us is that we not become impatient as God does His work. We are also told that the promises did not come without a struggle; there were many battles. We learn here that being faithful to God and what He has told us to do will not come easily. Those Christians who are considered amazing are those who keep on keeping on when it would be so easy to quit—to curse God and die, to give up and let the enemy have the victory.

Finally, the promises of God did not come without some failure along the way. God's promises never fail even when we fail Him. He is a forgiving God. In fact, we have the assurance that God's promises are *not* conditioned on our toeing the line and getting rid of all sin and wrongdoing.

## Conclusion

This lesson is designed to remind us that as long as we keep our focus on God—turning back to Him every morning, recommitting ourselves to listening to His voice—He will keep receiving us back and forgiving us so that His promises will be fulfilled just as He said they would be.

## Biblical Principles for Men

1. The promises of God are what give us hope so that we are not guided by what we see in this world of failure.
2. All that we have in life is the assurance and the certainty of God's doing what He has said He will do. He is still God.
3. God's promises are nothing we deserve or can earn. His promises are given to undeserving people and are designed to be a blessing.

## Closing Prayer

*Dear Lord, thank You for the awesome promises You have made to us. Help us to maintain faithfulness to You and obedience to Your demands for our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*