WHEN GOD’S PROMISES TEST US

Blessed be the name of our Lord Jesus Christ forever! Today, the Lord has graciously given us another day of life, and I invite you to reflect deeply on His Word as the day of our redemption draws near.

When God gives us a promise, it often comes with a period of testing. His promises are not always fulfilled immediately because God desires our faith and character to grow as we wait. Scripture shows us that God allows trials not to punish us, but to prepare us for the fulfillment of His promises and to demonstrate His sovereignty (James 1:2–4, ESV).

Consider the life of Joseph. When God gave him a vision that his father, mother, and brothers would bow before him (Genesis 37:5–10, ESV), Joseph naturally expected this would happen quickly. But life unfolded in ways he did not expect. First, his brothers sold him into slavery. Then he was falsely accused by

Potiphar’s wife and imprisoned in the king’s prison (Genesis 39, ESV).

These trials were not from the devil but were God’s sovereign testing of Joseph. They were part of God’s plan to prepare him to save not only Egypt but his own family from famine (Genesis 45:7–8, ESV). God’s promises are always accompanied by processes that refine our character and teach us trust (Romans 8:28, ESV).

> *Psalm 105:17–19 (ESV)reminds us:*
>
> *“He sent a man before them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with fetters; he was laid in irons. Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him.”*

Joseph’s story illustrates a principle central to Christian theology: God’s providence and testing work together. Promises are fulfilled according to His timing, not ours. His testing is an expression of His love, preparing us to receive what He has promised.

Similarly, Abraham’s life demonstrates God’s testing of faith. God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations and that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars (Genesis 15:5, ESV). But the promise did not materialize immediately. Many years passed, and Abraham remained childless into old age. Then God tested him by asking him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice (Genesis 22:1–3, ESV).

This test was not a contradiction of God’s promise but a confirmation of Abraham’s faith (Hebrews 11:17–19, ESV). Abraham obeyed, fully trusting that God would fulfill His covenant. This act foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice of Christ (Romans 8:32, ESV), showing that God’s plan often involves trials that prepare the faithful for greater glory.

Theological Reflection:
The pattern is clear: God’s promises are real, but they require faithful endurance. Trials are not evidence of failure; they are opportunities to grow in trust, patience, and holiness. The New Testament calls this *“perseverance”* or *“steadfastness”* in faith (Romans 5:3–5, ESV). Just as Joseph, Abraham, and Job faced testing, so too do believers today encounter challenges that refine their faith.

As the Church, we have received promises even greater than those given to Abraham or Joseph. We are heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven, called to reign with Christ (Romans 8:16–17, ESV), to be pillars in His spiritual house (Revelation 3:12, ESV), and to inherit eternal glory in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1–4, ESV).

Yet, God allows testing to confirm whether we truly desire His Kingdom. Our trials are not obstacles to His promises; they are instruments of divine preparation. Therefore, when opposition comes, do not doubt God’s Word. Keep your eyes fixed on His promises, as Abraham and Joseph did. Even when signs are not yet visible, hold fast to the hope of eternal life and the glory that awaits us.

> *Isaiah 40:29–31 (ESV) encourages us:*
> *“He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but 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.”*

Theological Insight:
This passage emphasizes divine empowerment for endurance. God strengthens the weak and sustains those who trust Him. Trials are not signs of abandonment—they are opportunities for His strength to be made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9, ESV).

Ultimately, the stories of Joseph, Abraham, and Job teach us that God’s promises are faithful, even when circumstances seem impossible. Trials serve God’s purpose, refine our character, and prepare us for glory. Just as Christ endured the cross for our salvation (Hebrews 12:2, ESV), we too are called to endure with patience and faith, knowing that the fulfillment of God’s promises is certain.

Maranatha!

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