

Hello, church family! Please know that T.G. and I miss you all very much. I hope that this Sunday school lesson not only warms your Heart and reminds you of some of God's promises, but that it also acts as a challenge for key principles in our Christian lives. God's promises are for women today. Of course we know that these promises were laid at the foundation of the earth, and God has not let a day go by that He's dropped promises. All it takes for God to promise is to say it. We recognize God's word as truth, and since his words are truth, He cannot lie. In anything He says, He promises, and if you're like me you probably have a promise that you have clung to a different times in your life. The most recent one for me personally is God is my husband. Did you know that God is meant to be seen as your husband? In Isaiah 54:5 it says, "For your maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth." He wants a relationship with you everyday; He's eager and ready to draw near to you! Isn't that what we expect out of each of our husbands? But the difference is God never fails us.

The first the promise that we'll be going over is God's promise for eternal life for all those who believe, the greatest gift God has given to us. We should therefore delight ourselves in His promise. This gift is central to our faith. God's promises are often for us a call to action, not just something that we can listen to. Expect that sometimes God asks something of us, so if He asks us to act, we need to obey and bridge the gap that separates us from Him. Romans 5:8 tells us that God showed His love for us sinners- Christ died for me . This is the hope for the unsaved; Jesus' action on the cross when He took our burden of sin even before we accepted Him. He, the Righteous One, gave us the unrighteous person His salvation. Now, we are living apart from the kingdom of darkness. 2nd Chronicles 7:14 tells us that we must humble ourselves and pray and seek His face. We cannot see our Lord's face if we're sitting in the mirror only focusing on ourselves or if we consumed with ourselves, with others, and we think they should be doing. Instead, we should be seeking His face like what Aaron says - every time I look at myself I should be looking at the Lord 10 more times.

Lastly, we need to turn from our wicked ways. So, there are four calls to action: humble ourselves, pray, seek his face, and turn from our wicked ways. When we do this, God will forgive our sin,s and He will open our eyes and open His eyes and ears to our prayers. And you'll be saved. An important note is that God never does not do His part,

which is a double negative, meaning God will always do His half and make us whole. God is not a man in the business of doing half way jobs. Mark 11:25 says because of God's promise to forgive us, we too should really forgive. These verses reflect our role as Christians committing to God through utilizing prayer and taking action. Isn't that great that as Christians we can take action to pick up our cross and follow God promise. One promise of the Holy Spirit is that we are created uniquely; we have been given a designated role in our relationships and marriages, that is to be a Helpmate. By being a partner I am a support, a leader, submissive, and a help. Do we realize this? We are designed for a purpose of helping our husbands to fulfill their purpose? Man was not made for woman, but woman for man. And don't think this is limited to women with their husbands; all of us have fathers, brothers, pastors, our friends who need us as women to do our parts. Galatians 5:16 tells us how to know our purpose and how to do God's will in my life. In Ephesians 2:10 it says, "We are created in Christ unto good work," and through Jesus, meaning we have to know what Jesus did in order to live it out our lives, not for us to boast because it's God's doing. Anything good that comes out of me is not because of my own striving, and if you're close enough to me to know, you'll know that, but we see that in Philippians 2:13 God works our hearts to change, not just our outward behavior. So how do I commune with God so that He will do something in and through me? John 15:4 tells us you have to abide in Him; you can't get to know Him if you don't slow down. You are going to have to make time in your busy schedule to look for ways that He's trying to use you, and you will never find time- you have to make time. What does abiding really mean? "While," Webster tells us, is to continue in a place, to remain stable or fixed in a state, to remain, wait, delay, remain behind. When we think of inviting Him into our lives, it kind of makes me go we bear fruit; when we are depending on Jesus as we grow in the Lord, we begin to see patterns in our daily activities transform from a focus on self to a focus on Him. When we rely on his strength, we begin thinking and acting in a way that pleases Him. Like a tea bag in hot water, our true nature comes out when we're in a heated situation. How are we going to react when God is working inside us? We transform into Christ's image, and it will radiate outward.

One promise is God's promise to take care of our needs. Women carry the reputation of being worriers. We worry about big things: we worry about things like bills,

car repairs, our loved ones with illnesses, but we also worried about things that maybe we're not so proud about, things that we might call small. We worry about how we look, why Sandy wore that bold shade of lipstick like she needed attention or something, and why my husband didn't take the time to compliment my outfit, but I work so hard on it all day long. Instead we should take each concern to the Lord and give our cares to the Father, looking less at myself and more at Him. Go from being a worrier to a prayer warrior. Doesn't God always supply our needs? You're here listening to this message aren't you? Psalm 116:1 and 2 tells us God hears our prayers. We must stop the cycle of going first to our girlfriends or Facebook with our worries and go to God who inclines His ear to us. Matthew 6:8 God is all-knowing and He wants us to come to him even when He already knows our hearts' desires. We pray to God to lift up His Name, and we go to Him as an active parent, God knows our needs before we even mention them, just like parents often know what their children might desire, but it's nice when kids act asked nicely. In the same way God likes it when we come to him with the dark desires of our hearts. Matthew 6: 31-34, again God knows our needs, and He will supply them. Our first and foremost need though is to be cleansed and seeking His kingdom. The devil wants to distract us from what is best by getting us consumed with lesser things. When we are worrying, we are spinning because we are denying God's promises toward us. When we worry, we are saying to God I'm in control when really God is, and we should submit to His control. Next time you begin to worry, try to put aside that worry and turn in prayer right right away. God is listening and He rejoices when we come to Him which we see in Matthew 7: 7 through 11. Of course, this is God's promise of wisdom. What do we need to obtain that wisdom is not what we all want to know. James 1:5, we need to ask for God wisdom; so what's wisdom versus knowledge? Knowing is knowledge, but wisdom is putting what you know in the practice. Proverbs 1:7, in order to be wise we must have a healthy fear of God. The polar opposite action of wisdom is being a fool, one who rejects wisdom. You can't simultaneously worship God while also rejecting His law. This is not a fear like a phobia but a relational response. That fear brings about worship. Proverbs 3:5 through 7 tells us our struggle with our flesh, leaning on our own understanding and being wise in our own eyes is as being puffed up, but when we are fearing which is reverence, we turn from evil in order to absorb God's desire and direction. Ephesians 1:7 through 8 says that we have been called

blameless because of the redemption God granted us taking the form of His Son. So how does this relate to wisdom? As His chosen children He has lavished, not just given, He has poured upon us all the wisdom we need. That is an example of God's grace, not just knowing God but sharing and His wisdom and insight which gives us. Peace, which takes us to the next promise. He promises this peace when He is first place inside. Why do we continue to rob ourselves of peace? Because we tried to replace God with other things; this is called Lordship issues. We believe "me time" will help us feel more peaceful. We believe online shopping will grant us that peace and satisfaction. We believe being a good mom or co-worker or wife will Help us with peace. Those are all lies. God is to be Lord over every fragment of our day. We are to obey God's commands and live out his grace. Great Commission and of making disciples is our sure source of peace. Only then can we begin to own and understand what peace is. We must make time to meet with our Lord every day. How is your day, so how is He running your day if we can't even give him 10 minutes of our morning routine? Philippians 4: 6, 7. How do we give things to God in order to exchange our burdens for peace? By prayer and supplication with thanksgiving in our hearts, and in exchange we get peace because we have made the transaction and handed our burdens over to God and He doesn't do refunds on burdens. It's important to do this with thanksgiving. Psalm 119:165 says great peace have those who love your law nothing can make them stumble. Then we can say, "Nope, not today Satan, nothing is making me stumble because my focus is the Lord's law and loving Him." If I love God's Law, I have an appetite for God's Law. We know how it goes once we have a craving or appetite for chocolate or cheese puffs which is mine. It will stay at the forefront of your mind till you satisfy that craving; it itches at you in the same way if your eyes are set on God's law. Our focus is no longer on the burdens of our flesh. His Word is at the forefront of your mind. In the rolling tide of uncertainties, we know that God is in charge, and He will lead us in his love, even in circumstances we might not enjoy. We can rest in the promises that God is present, He is in control. The more we grow in our relationships with God, the more His peace we experience; the key here is the more we make God a priority, the more our hearts will align to Him. The more we understand his purpose and plans and that life is not always going to go exactly how we intend it, we depend more and more on God. Only God gives us peace that endures.

Finally, God promises that we are His forever. The final promise is that we belong to God; He is stamped us, and we are signed, sealed, and delivered. We are God's. John 10:28 - 29 says He holds us. What a sweet assurance! It says I, this is Jesus speaking, "give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father Who has given them to me is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." I can't thank the Lord enough for this promise that if you are God's child your fate is sealed. John 1:12 It is because of Jesus letting us receive Him that we now have a right as children of God to be Heirs to an eternal inheritance. It was God's will for us to be called, and He promises to never forsake those He has called. It is His own promise that we are His forever, and that boils down to Him being our Father forever. This forever is eternal forever, not just now, but eternally we are His children. He treats us that way, that is with love, discipline, and compassion, and these promises ring true. The most important promise is that we can have a relationship with the Lord, and you know these things don't come easily but take perseverance and working on forming that relationship with the Lord over time. I hope that this was an encouragement to you all.

-Asthen Miller