



THE PROCLAMATION

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God's Wrecking Ball of Grace

By Dennis Walton

"I promise." That phrase doesn't mean much these days does it? There was a day when a man's word was worth more than gold. And don't get me wrong, there are still many people of integrity still today that can be trusted to honor their word. However, the sad fact is that there is a growing number of people these days that don't have the convictions to simply do what they said they would do. Twenty years as a banker I witnessed a lot of people sign their loan papers that say "I promise to pay this loan back" and then months later the bank had to repossess because they didn't honor their promise. Almost twenty years as a minister I have stood in front of several couples making promises to each other that they will stay together in sickness and health, richer or poorer, for better or worse for the rest of their lives when really what they mean is "I will stay with you as long as this relationship is convenient for me then I will divorce you." And don't even get me started on the endless promises made by the crooked politicians that make up our so called government. These are only a couple of examples where a person's promise was nothing more than an empty phrase wrapped up in pretty words that were completely meaningless. This may not seem like a big deal to us these days in the "please myself" world we have built, but I assure you it is a very big deal to God. In **Ecclesiastes 5:5** God's Word tells us that it is better not to make a promise at all than to make a promise and break it.

However, this message is not about our broken promises but rather it's about God's promises that He ALWAYS keeps. Though we may not always be able to trust people to keep their promises, we can always trust God to keep his. **II Corinthians 1:20** says "all the promises of God in him are yes, and in him Amen..." which just simply means he has never broken a promise and he never will.

Now that being said, let me remind you that satan is going to do everything he can to keep you and I from receiving the promises of God. And how does he do that you ask? By getting us to believe his lie over God's promise. The enemy knows that God's promises are only available to those who believe. No faith, equals no promise. Therefore satan builds walls of doubt around the promises of God to keep us from receiving them.

Joshua 6:5 "...and when you hear the sound of the trumpet all the people shall shout with a great shout and the wall of the city shall fall down flat..."

A note from

Pastor Dennis

Hello everyone!

When you were a kid did you ever make someone a promise while crossing your fingers behind your back? We thought that somehow by crossing our fingers it made our promise null and void without the person we were promising knowing about it.

I hope to accomplish two things in this message. The first is that God can see right through our empty promises. And the second is that God never makes empty promises.

In a world where there seems to be no absolutes, there is one absolute that we can all put our trust in. God never breaks his promises.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Dennis Walton

Think about what this story represents. God had promised to give the land of Canaan to the Israelites to establish their nation. Along with the land, he promised them “wells they didn’t dig, houses they didn’t build, and vineyards they didn’t plant.” God intended to hand over the land of pagan idol worshippers to the Jewish people he loved so much. And the first piece of land he promised them was the city of Jericho. But their enemy had built a wall around the city in an attempt to keep them from receiving what God promised them. Fortunately for Israel they knew that their God’s promise was far stronger than the great wall that stood in their way. So when God gave them the instructions to march around the wall for seven days they trusted and obeyed faithfully. This was a march of faith. For six days there was no evidence that the wall was going to come crashing down. But they kept marching, reminding themselves that God always keeps his promise. Then on the seventh day and the seventh time around the wall it crumbled from the foundation to the highest stone and the Israelites rushed in to obtain what God had promised them.

Now, what does that have to with us today? We can be assured that God still honors his promises to His people today as He did in the days of Jericho, and that satan still tries to keep us from receiving those promises just like he did at Jericho. For example, one of the greatest promises God makes to all his people of every generation is the promise of peace. **Isaiah 26:3 says that God will “keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee.”** Yet despite the many

promises just like this in the word of God regarding peace, many people still live without it. How can this be? Because satan has built up walls of fear that keep people from obtaining God’s promise of peace. Fear of the shaky economy, fear of terrorists, fear of sickness, fear of war, fear of rejection, fear of the opinions of other people, fear of failure, and the list of fears that people experience goes on and on. Living in fear is not what God intended for us when he created us. He intended for us to live in “perfect peace.” Some of you are reading this right now thinking “is that really possible?” I am absolutely, positively, 100% certain it is. How can I be so sure? First of all because God promised it. Gods answer to every single person in the Bible who was afraid was “fear not.” This powerful phrase that invites us to peace is in the Bible hundreds of times. Second of all because I have experienced it. I know what it is like to spend days and nights staring at the mighty wall of fear, thinking there was no victory for me. But praise God I also know what it is like when my Lord brings in his wrecking ball of grace and tears down all my fears, giving me His precious promise of peace! And I must say nothing is sweeter. Millions of dollars in the bank could not provide that kind of peace. If there are some of you reading this right now and for the first time in a long time you have a spark of hope that your wall of fear can collapse then I consider this Proclamation a success.

Let me expose another wall that separates us from one of God’s promises that many of us living the “American dream” don’t even realize is there. That wall is covetousness and the promise it keeps us from is contentment.

Don’t bail out on me now, keep reading. Contentment is one of the greatest blessings God makes available to us. **I Timothy 6:6 says “godliness with contentment is great gain.”** See how backwards that is from what our society teaches us? We are constantly having the idea crammed down our throat that our life can’t be complete until we purchase this product or that product, or until we make a certain amount of money, or until you sue someone because you have Mesothelioma. *(whatever that is)* The American dream has become a nightmare that torments many people because they focus more on what they don’t have rather than what they do have. Satan has taken our natural tendency to lust after what other people have and used it to build a wall of covetousness that never allows us to be content. But once we begin to be thankful for what we have and we become determined to be content with the way God governs our lives, then He will bring in his wrecking ball of grace and tear down the wall of covetousness and bring us into the promise of contentment. This promise will improve your quality of life more than you can imagine. It will take you from the “American dream” to the “Heavenly dream.” **I Timothy 6:7-8 continues by saying “for we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing let us be content.”**

The final wall I want to talk about is the wall of doubt and unbelief. This is the biggest, baddest, and most dangerous wall of all. We can’t receive any of God’s promises until this wall comes down. The mortar satan uses to build this wall is his lies. If he can

keep you doubting the promises of God then he can keep you from receiving the promises of God. I repeat, if satan can keep you doubting the promises of God then he will keep you from receiving the promises of God. The reason why satan works the hardest on the wall of doubt and unbelief is because it is doubt and unbelief that keeps us from receiving the greatest of all God's promises, which is salvation. Complete forgiveness from all sins, a spiritual rebirth that gives us a fresh start in life, and the guarantee of eternal life in Heaven when we die is the granddaddy of all promises. And quite frankly it is God's favorite promise. He makes it available to anyone and everyone who will humble themselves to receive it.

In 1961 after World War II the Soviets built a wall known as The Berlin Wall. East Berlin was governed by the Soviets and they were making life rough on the people who lived there. So many people began to move to West Berlin that was governed by the Allies so they could be free and have a better life. So in order for the Soviets to keep people under their control they built the Berlin Wall, dividing East Berlin and West Berlin. That wall stood between them and their freedom for 28 years. Until 1989 when the Soviets gave in to higher authorities and political pressure such as Ronald Reagan's great speech when he said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." Piece by piece the Berlin Wall

came down and the people lived in freedom.

This is a perfect example of what takes place every time a person calls out to Jesus for freedom. **Ephesians 2:14** explains that our sins are like a great wall that separates us from God. But when Jesus hears our cry of repentance he makes the demand "satan, tear down this wall!" And nothing of Hell can hold us captive any longer. We are free. Free from sin and free to receive the great promises given to us by our Heavenly Father that loves us very much. In fact he loves us so much that he sent his Son Jesus to die on the cross and pay the penalty for our sins. When Jesus cried out "it is finished!" just as he died on the cross, that is when God's wrecking ball of grace came in and tore down the wall that separated us from God. Each and every one of us now have access to God and all his promises if we will humble ourselves and believe in Jesus. Some of you reading this right now want so desperately to believe what I am telling you. You are sick and tired of your sin and all the fear, shame, and heartache it has caused you. Just the thought of peace, contentment, and forgiveness has brought tears to your eyes and hope to your soul. It's what you've longed for so long but didn't think you could have. The wall of doubt made you think you have sinned too much and your sins are too bad for God to forgive you and change you. A lifetime of doubts have left you feeling like it's not for you. But if you will have faith and humbly ask

God to bring in His wrecking ball of grace and tear down that wall of doubt then he will save you and fulfill all His promises in your life. And that's a promise with no fingers crossed!



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