

### A. ALL GOD'S PROMISES

- God's promises throughout the Bible are a window on who God is and how He relates to His people.
- God wants to enjoy a rich relationship with us. His promises help us to know Him better and trust Him more.
- Let's learn to lean on the promises of God using the apostle Paul's teaching on their reliability: 2 Cor 1:15-22 ESV-- I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. <sup>17</sup> Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say "Yes, yes" and "No, no" at the same time? <sup>18</sup> As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. <sup>19</sup> For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. <sup>20</sup> For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. <sup>21</sup> And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
- Paul writes of the trustworthiness of God's promises to the people of Corinth. They weren't sure they could believe God because His apostle had disappointed them.
- Because Paul changed his itinerary, some of them brought his character and ministry into question either due to insecurity or in an effort to discredit him.
- Paul agrees that we should be people that keep our word not saying, "yes" when we mean "no." But our top priority as disciples is to follow the Spirit's leading: Gal 5:25-- Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.
- The Corinthians had trust issues due, at least in part, to their pasts, their culture, and encounters with false teachers. Paul urges them to trust God above all these things.
- We aren't that different from the believers in Corinth because we, too, have been let down by people who made promises that they did not keep.
- Paul reassures those who doubt that God keeps all His promises, that they need no greater proof that He is trustworthy than Jesus: Rom 8:32 NLT-- Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?
- Insights:

### B. AMEN TO GOD'S PROMISES

- Amen is a word used throughout the Scriptures. It literally means, "so be it" or "let it be as You have said."
- Paul explains that all of God's promises are "yes" or confirmed in Jesus. He is the guarantee that believers who are "in Christ" can count on their fulfillment.

- When we respond with our “amen” we are saying to the Lord that we believe His promise and will trust Him to make it our experience.
- Ending our prayers in Jesus’ name followed by an “amen” acknowledges that our confidence is in Him to perform it according to His will: Jn 14:13 MSG-- You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I’ll do it. That’s how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in this way, I’ll do.
- Further, our “amen” implies that we are in agreement with any conditions attached to the promise. We’re willing to comply with any mindset or steps of faith asked of us.
- As we join our faith to a promise in God’s Word, the stage is set for building deeper relationship with God and for our lives to be transformed into the image of Jesus.
- Here are 3 examples of how we add our “amen” to a promise of God:
  1. Strength for the blameless:
    - Promise: 2 Chron 16:9 ESV-- For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him
    - Condition: Eph 1:4 NIV-- He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight
    - This promise shows us our need to 1) fight the enemy’s attempts to destroy our faith with guilt and shame and/or 2) deal with any areas of compromise we’ve harbored.
  2. Peace greater than our worries:
    - Promise: Phil 4:6-7 NLT-- Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.
    - Condition: Phil 4:8-9--Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right and pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.
    - Because God’s nature is peace, we experience peace when we spend time in His presence. His peace is greater than any problem we face.
    - Engaging with this promise teaches us to 1) come to God and stay close to Him and to 2) change our focus to His past faithfulness and to our own growth in faithfulness.
  3. Wisdom for any situation:
    - Promise: Jm 1:5 AMP-- If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him.
    - Condition: Jm 1:6-8 AMP-- But he must ask [for wisdom] in faith, without doubting [God’s willingness to help], for the one who doubts is like a billowing surge of the sea that is blown about and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For such a person ought not to think or expect that he will receive anything [at all] from the Lord, <sup>8</sup> *being* a double-minded man, unstable *and* restless in all his ways [in everything he thinks, feels, or decides].
    - Saying “yes” to this promise requires us to concentrate our attention on listening to and following the Spirit despite all the other distractions that surround us.
- Typical of our covenant-keeping God, He provides both the fulfillment of the promise as well as the conditions attached to it: 1 Thes 5:23-24 JBP-- May the God of peace make you holy through and through. May you be kept in soul and mind and body in spotless

integrity until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is utterly faithful and he will finish what he has set out to do.

- LISTENING EXERCISE:

*Do you believe that all the promises of God are YES in Jesus?*

*Do you believe that in theory or can you honestly receive it for yourself?*

*Are you ready and willing to take the risk of trusting your deepest needs and desires to God by leaning on His promises?*

*Choose one place of need and ask Him to fulfill one of these 3 promises there:*

- Insights:

### C. APPROPRIATE HIS PROMISES

- Even though many of the promises in the Bible were made to specific individuals, we can appropriate them because they reveal the heart of God toward all His people: Rom 15:4 AMP-- For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope *and* overflow with confidence in His promises.
- Appropriation means to take possession of, or seize for oneself what already belongs to us in Christ as set forth in the Scriptures.
- We often see Paul taking from the truths of the Old Testament and applying them to his own life and the lives of his followers.
- The Spirit brought to mind what the apostle had learned in the Word as he wrote helping Paul and his readers know and trust God in their particular circumstances: John 16:14 JBP—He (Holy Spirit) will bring glory to me for he will draw on my truth and reveal it to you.
- Paul learned of God's perfect faithfulness in the Scripture and appropriated it for himself and those around him:
  - Num 23:19-- God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?
  - Acts 27:25 NLT—So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said.
- May we follow the example of the apostle Paul by learning to lean on the promises of God.

- Insights:

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ONE THING

The One Thing I'd like to take away from today and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

- PONDER THE TRUTH

Which verse stood out to you this week? Write it out below and take some time to review it often. Be still and expectant in God's presence, alert for new insights. Write it down.

- PRAYER

Take your One Thing and your verse and turn them into a prayer:

*"Lord, where do You want to apply these truths to my particular life circumstances?" How?*

- PRAISE

Praising God in song is a great way to practice His presence and to lean on God with your emotions. The series playlist can be found on Spotify or our YouTube channel. Individual lesson playlists are posted on the DDD website and on YouTube.

## PROCESSING THE TRUTH

*Congratulations on staying with this challenging curriculum on “Learning to Lean”! Hopefully you have discovered how sweet it is when you trust in Jesus instead of leaning on your own understanding.*

*The challenge now is to stay on course with what you’ve learned so far. Please use the days to come to pursue knowing God intimately, progressively and more deeply as the Spirit leads.*

*Suggestions for continued growth:*

- *Review the principles and Scriptures of this series. Go to our website for listening to the lessons you missed or need the most: [www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com](http://www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com)*
- *Use the “Tools & Techniques” pages (blue) as you process your circumstances.*
- *Practice listening prayer and continue work-shopping your unmet needs.*
- *Stay connected to your leader and group members. Reach out with questions and prayer needs.*