

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Promises

"A promise should be given with caution and kept with care." – Anonymous

"Promise little and do much; and receive every man cheerfully." – Jewish Proverb

"He who is the most slow in making a promise is the most faithful in the performance of it." – Jean Jacques Rousseau

"Promises are like babies: easy to make, hard to deliver." – Anonymous

Webster's Dictionary says that a promise is "a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specified; a legally binding declaration that gives the person to whom it is made a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of a specified act."

Years ago when making a purchase, it used to be said that a handshake was a binding agreement. People honored the word of someone and did indeed consider it a binding oath. But because so many promises were broken, that is no longer a sufficient indicator that one will follow through with what has been promised.

Now it is true that sometimes things happen through no fault of the one who has made a promise that hinders them in following through with the pledge. Perhaps one promises to make payments on a car and then loses his job. Or one intends on making a trip to see someone only to be stricken with an illness that prevents them with keeping their word.

Generally speaking, barring unforeseen complications, we should do our best to keep our word. "But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'" For whatever is more than these is from the evil one" (Matt. 5:37).

Ultimately, God is the best example in keeping the promises that have been given. "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us" (2 Cor. 1:20). Three times in sacred writings do we find the expression, "God is faithful" (1 Cor. 1:9, 10:13; 2 Cor. 1:18). And then the proverbial icing on the cake is the assurance that God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). In fact, it is even impossible for God to lie (Heb. 6:18).

There have been several quotes through the years from those encouraging others to promise very little. The reason is obvious, for man has a tendency not to keep the promises that he makes. The difficulty in this is that it hurts a person's integrity. If too many promises are broken, then whatever pledges or promises are made will not be taken seriously.

Try to keep the promises that you make. If you feel you can't, then do not make them.