**He Keeps His Word**

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:6-10

6For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.

7And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Psalm 103:1-7 Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

2Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

3Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

4Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

5Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

7He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

* Who is this God whom you and I serve; whom we worship?
* Who has promised to forgive us of our sins, who has promised to go and make a place for us?
* Who has promised to raise our physical bodies out of the grave?
* How would you describe Him?
* Many people do not understand who He is.
* In order to know our God, we must know His ways. Psalm 103:1-7
* The acts of God are the things He does.
* The ways of God include why He does them.

**One of God's ways: He keeps His promises.**

Two types of promises:

1. Absolute declarations: are unconditional and will come to pass without any act on a human's part
2. Conditional statements: are dependent upon our cooperating with Him

* When God says, "I will," He will. There are no exceptions. We should take seriously what God says.

**In a number of biblical incidences, God says, "I will."**

2. Noah and the Flood. Genesis 6:7-8,18.   
The world was so corrupt that God decided to wipe out everyone except Noah and his family.

* Genesis 7:1,5
* Genesis 7:21-24
* God kept His Word and destroyed everything.

3. Abraham. Genesis 12:1-3. God promised Abraham that He would bless him and make him a great nation.

* This was an absolute declaration of God.   
  It was not dependent on Abraham's obedience. (In fact, Abraham did disobey.) Genesis 17:15-19. God promised to give Abraham a child through Sarah.
* Sarah laughed at this declaration but God asked, "Is anything too difficult for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14)
* Genesis 21:1-2. Sarah bore a son; the promise was fulfilled.
* Sometimes we don't believe God is speaking to us because it seems impossible or impractical.
* God gave Abraham the land of Israel, and there is no indication He ever changed His mind about it.

4. Moses.  Exodus 3:10. God told Moses to be his spokesman, and that God would deliver the people of Israel.

* This was an absolute declaration, but Moses argued with God! (Exodus 3:11-12)
* God promised to harden Pharaoh's heart. (Exodus 6:1)
* Through the death of the first born son, Pharaoh finally relented. (Exodus 12:30-33)
* At the Red Sea, God promised to deliver them without any fighting.
* We have to learn to be obedient to God, but not expect Him to give us all the details.

5. Joshua. Joshua 1:1-5. God promised to be faithful to Joshua, just as He was to Moses.

* At The Battle of Jericho. Joshua 6:1-2. God told Joshua to march around the city, blowing trumpets.
* Pattern your spiritual life after someone who's following Jesus.
* Because Joshua was obedient to God, he went from victory to victory.
* He had learned from Moses to obey God and leave all the consequences to Him.

**The principle is true today:**

* God's willing to speak to any of us if we'll listen to Him.
* If something is a crucial decision, God will speak to you, too.
* He has wonderful things in store for you, and He's just waiting for you to say "yes."

6. In the New Testament…Jesus demonstrated that He keeps His word:

* In (Matthew 16:21-23) Jesus predicted his death.
* Peter rebuked him, although Peter had been the one to declare that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God in (Matthew 16:13-16)
* The church is built on the truth that Jesus is the Son of God. (Matthew 16:17-18)
* The gates of hell will not be able to withstand the attack of the church. (Matthew 16:18)
* The church grows the strongest under persecution and hardship.
* Jesus also predicted his resurrection and promised to send the Holy Spirit.

**So, How does this apply to our lives today?**

God promises:

* To save us, if we believe by faith. (Romans 10:9)
* Never to leave us once we are saved.
* To return for us, and gather us in the air to Himself. (1 Thessalonians 4)
* To take us to live in the home Jesus has prepared in Heaven.
* We will reign with Him. (Revelation 22:3-5)
* What God promises, He will do!