

STANDING ON THE PROMISES OF GOD – VIMBAI CHARIGA

GO CHURCH – 8 September 2019

Rationale for this message:

1. We live in a world with so many belief systems, philosophies, religions advocating for all kinds of things and lifestyles.
2. We live in an era where people are defining and looking for all kinds of things “centres” to govern their lives.
3. We live in times when are looking for solutions, answers, meaning, in things that are failing to satisfy them in the soul, spirit and body.
4. We live in an age characterised by confusion, heresies, falsehood, unfortunately even in the Body of Christ.

INTRODUCTION

My questions to us this morning are:

- In the midst of the emotional turmoil in your life to whom do you turn?
- When disappointments floods your situations where do you find strength?
- When pain becomes the order of your day where do you find your hope?
- When those unanswered questions fill your mind where do you find courage to wake up the next morning and start a new day?
- In the midst of unfulfilled dreams, what propels you to believe again?
- During seasons of lack, what keeps you going?
- In sickness, disease and infirmity, where does your confidence lie?
- In grief, sorrow and mourning where do you draw your comfort from?

2 Cor 1: 19-22

“... ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. ²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee

“Amen”

It is a word taken over into Greek from Hebrew where it meant a very strong affirmation a formal, solemn, earnest "I agree," or "I affirm what you just said," or "This is true." Most simply AMEN means a very earnest YES in the context of addressing God. Amen means So let it be, and the great truth is that it is not just a formality and a bit of ritual; it is the word that expresses our confidence that we can offer our prayers with every confidence to God and can appropriate with confidence all his great promises, because Jesus is the guarantee that our prayers will be heard and that all the great promises are true.

There is an **unbreakable constancy** and **unquestionable sincerity** and **certainty** in the promises of God in Christ:

Numbers 23:19

God is not a man that He should lie nor a son of man that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

Isaiah 55:11

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven. And do not return there. But water the earth. And make it bring forth and bud. That it may give seed to the sower. And bread to the eater. So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth. It shall not return to Me void. But it shall accomplish what I please. And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

His faithfulness is unchangeable. Promises are only as good the person who makes the promise.

If you belong to Christ by faith, then everything God could possibly give you for your good he has signed over to your account in Christ. Is this promise in my account?

- Joy...Yes
- Peace...Yes
- Signs...Yes
- Wonders...Yes
- Healing...Yes
- Revelation...Yes
- Wisdom...Yes

- Understanding...Yes
- Counsel...Yes
- Fruitfulness...Yes

That is a rich account you have there.

Jesus is God's decisive YES to all who believe.

The promises of God are made in Christ Jesus, the Amen, the true and faithful witness he has purchased and ratified the covenant of promises and is the surety of the covenant. Heb. 7:22 "...by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant".

Christ is no quicksand, slipping and sliding away and so ruining those who cling to him. He is the Rock of ages, and he stands fast for ever. His gospel is one and the same at all times.

He is the personal guarantee of God that the greatest and the least of his promises are all true.

Put simply, Jesus is the very embodiment of God's faithfulness, for God has fulfilled and continues to fulfill every one of his promises in and through him.

Circumstances may want to suggest to you otherwise but Jesus Christ is dependable like no other.

"Earnest of the Spirit in our hearts"

2 Cor 1: 21-22

²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God,

²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

NKJV – "Who hath also sealed us and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts".

Finally, Paul speaks about what the King James Version calls the earnest of the Spirit. *Arrabon* is a legal term pertaining to contracts of sale or service. In the case of a contract of sale, the *arrabon* in Hebrew law was something handed over as security to be reclaimed at a later date ("pledge," as in Gen 38:17-20), while in Greek law it referred to the earnest money that a buyer would give the seller prior to the actual sale and delivery of the item. Today we might think in terms of the down payment (*deposit*) that we make on a house or car with the intent of paying the balance at some future point. In the case of a contract for services, the *arrabon* was the first installment that a hirer would give the workers toward services to be carried out at a later date. And

an arrabon was the first instalment of a payment, paid as a guarantee that the rest was sure to follow. It was the first instalment and the guarantee that the rest would be paid. Everyone knew this word.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is God's token and pledge of still greater things to come. To sum up, the Spirit's role in the life of the church is that of a first installment or down payment that guarantees God's indisputable relationship, commissions and equips for service, secures against falsification or tampering, and preserves the "goods" of this relationship until the day of redemption.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THESE PROMISES?

Rom 8:28-32

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

The technical name is *a fortiori*, which is Latin for *from the stronger*. The idea is this: if you have exerted your strength to accomplish something *hard*, then surely you can exert your strength to accomplish something *easier*. That's an *a fortiori* argument. So, suppose you say to your child, "Please run next door and ask Mr. Smith if we can borrow his pliers." But your child says, "But what if Mr. Smith doesn't want us to borrow his pliers?" How can you persuade your child that Mr. Smith will surely loan you his pliers? By using an *a fortiori* argument! It goes like this: you say to your child, "Yesterday, Mr. Smith was happy to let us borrow his car all day long. If he was happy for me to borrow his car, he'll be very willing for us to borrow his pliers." Even children grasp *a fortiori* arguments. Loaning his car was a greater sacrifice than loaning his pliers. Therefore, it was harder to loan his car than it will be to loan his pliers. If he was inclined to do the harder thing, then he will be willing to do the easier thing. That's the way we use *a fortiori* arguments.

Now watch Paul use this kind of argument for the greatest event in the history of the world. He says, God did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. That's

the harder thing. Therefore, he will most certainly give us all things with him. That's the easier thing. Therefore, in Paul's *a fortiori* argument, God has done the hardest thing to give us everlasting happiness. He did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. What does this guarantee? Paul puts it in the form of a rhetorical question (that means a question he expects us to immediately answer correctly): "How will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" Paul expects us to turn this into a strong, certain statement. Namely: "He most certainly will also with him graciously give us all things." "He will give us *all things*" means all things we need to do his will. *All things* we need to glorify him. *All things* we need to move from predestined to called to justified to glorified — that is, to everlasting happiness (Romans 8:30).

But a God who loves us so much that he gave us his Son is quite certain to fulfil every promise that he ever made.

Rom 8:33-39

³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, therefore:

- All things will work together for our good (v. 28).
- We will be conformed to the image of his Son (v. 29).
- We will be glorified (v. 30).
- No one can successfully be against us (v. 31).
- No charge shall stick against us (v. 33).
- Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (v. 35).
- In tribulation and distress and persecution and famine and nakedness and danger and sword, we are more than conquerors (vv. 35–37).

- Neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (vv. 38–39).

2 Tim 4:17

¹⁷ But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not for I am with you?

Mat 28:20 b

²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

2 Cor 9:8

⁸ And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

2 Peter 1:3-4

³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the ^[a]corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

Acts 2:38-39 – Promise of the Holy Spirit

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the ^[a]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Ephesians 1:3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

HOW DO WE STAND ON THE PROMISES OF GOD? SOME PRACTICAL WAYS TO EMPLOY.

Some ways ... not an exhaustive list

1. Speak the word of God into your circumstances in the face of any external reports or voices and reject unbelief.

Matthew 14:14

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude and He was moved with compassion for them and healed their sick.

Psalm 107:20

He sent His word and healed them. And delivered them their destructions.

Exodus 23:25

So you shall serve the Lord your God and He will Bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.

Mainini Tarie...Aunty T

On Monday the 29th of August my aunt was admitted into hospital. To cut a long story short it turns out that she had reacted to some of her meds and unfortunately her vital organs had been affected. Her liver had become damaged, her heart under strain, lungs weakened, skin was reacting etc. It was not a good picture. Within 24 hours her condition had deteriorated to such an extent that she was moved from the general ward to ICU.

When I called home, I wasn't getting much positive news. So that night I decided to pray very strong specific prayers. Lord I cancel the spirit of death over her life in Jesus name. I reject it, I uproot it out this situation. I nullify every appointment with death. I close that door. I speak healing to her, I call forth recovery to her organs. I unlock the door to fullness of healing in Jesus name. The following morning I got up prayed the very same prayer. (recite this prayer in faith with scripture...move sides.)

Unbeknown to me the night that I was praying this prayer, her condition had deteriorated and the nursing staff had called in her treating specialist. The following morning she was moved into ICU.

Throughout the day, I kept on praying this prayer. This was now on Tue/Wed.

Fast forward she was discharged on Sunday the 2nd of Sep, then I called her on Monday the 3rd of Sep and she related this story to me.

On the night I was admitted into hospital, I had a dream/vision in which I saw my lifeless body lying on the hospital bed. It felt as though my spirit had left the body and was no longer in the body. Then next moment, I was led away by a certain man who was walking ahead of me and a group of people. We walked through a green field and for some reason as we walked I was reciting Ps 23 in quietly in my heart. We walked through this peaceful and green veld and at some point the man in front of us turned to us and said, “you did not bring any luggage with you, because like I said we don’t have space for any luggage”. Then we got to a gate. I asked her to describe the gate and this is what she said:

It was a solid gate...those ones with iron rods but we could not see what was inside as the gate was covered in beautiful green plants, creepers, fern, in between flowering plants. There was a rivulet for washing feet before entering. On top of the gate were golden spikes giving out a gentle, serene light. There was a soothing ambience by the gate.

When we got to the gate, our “guide” turned to us and said, “This is so strange, often when I escort people the gate is never locked, it is always open. So because it is locked we cannot go in and you will have to go back”

At that stage she awakened only to find that she was on her hospital bed and in the room, were my other aunt and my dad who has gone to visit her during the 4:30pm – 6pm visiting time.

As she related this experience to me, I suddenly remembered that the from the night she was declared critical throughout the following was when I had praying that prayer. Cancelling the spirit of death, declaring long life over her, declaring fullness of health. I also told her what I had been praying to encourage her.

Could it be that if I had not prayed the outcome could have been different...maybe one day I will only know when in heaven. I was not even in the same city or country with my aunt. She lives in Harare Zimbabwe, I was in Johannesburg South Africa.

My family were informing me that the doc is waiting for results from several blood tests, etc and that once received he would map out his treatment strategy. My one sister said when she had been to see her she looked weak and could hardly sit up, was not feeding adequately.

Speak the word of God into your circumstances in the face of any external reports or voices and reject unbelief.

2. Ask God for a resolve pertaining to your circumstances. Don't hesitate to make specific requests to God.

Psalm 34:15

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.

A particular pastor tells the story of how God moved in their situation. They were starting a Bible School in their Church, students had already registered. A week before the commencement of the Bible School they had not found a venue. They had tried every avenue but doors seemed to be closing. Finally he went before the Lord and said "Lord you have got to find a venue for us". At that moment God showed him in his spirit a particular building in town and sent one of his guys to make an enquiry. The guy went into town found a man standing outside the building only to discover that he was the owner of the building. He asked if building was available for rental...long story short. "If it is for bible school, you guys can have it for free".

3. Shape your day or week in prayer. Speak into the womb of your day/ week. A womb is a place designed to conceive and bring forth life. Command your day.

Cindy Trimm:

"Father, I declare that my decisions today will change the trajectory of my future and bring it into alignment with Your plans for me. Wherever I place my feet, I walk in Your authority and expand my territory for Your name's sake. Increase my productivity and efficiency and give me the anointing of Solomon to wisely manage my resources today. In Jesus's name, amen."

"Father, I anticipate the good things You have prepared for me today. Bring complete order to my day as I seek You first and make Your will my priority. I rejoice in the new day You have given me. I praise You for making it fruitful and productive. Thank You for teaching me ways to increase my effectiveness—to work smarter. I work according to Your agenda and perform for an audience of one—the Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus's name, amen."

"Let every evil spirit seeking to frustrate my day and my assignment be thwarted. In the name of Jesus, amen."

4. Maintain hedges of protection around you. People, Presence/Prayer & purpose.

Ecclesiastes 8:10

He who digs a pit will fall into it. And whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent.

Hedges of protection:

2 Samuel 11:1-27 - David's Story

¹ It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ² Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman *was* very beautiful to behold. ³ So David sent and inquired about the woman. And *someone* said, "Is this not ^[a]Bathsheba, the daughter of ^[b]Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I *am* with child."

⁶ Then David sent to Joab, *saying*, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. ⁸ And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of *food* from the king followed him. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹ And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing." ¹² Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. ¹⁴ In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of

the ^[c]hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.” ¹⁶ So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there *were* valiant men. ¹⁷ Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And *some* of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also. ¹⁸ Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war, ¹⁹ and charged the messenger, saying, “When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king, ²⁰ if it happens that the king’s wrath rises, and he says to you: ‘Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? ²¹ Who struck Abimelech the son of ^[d]Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?’—then you shall say, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.’ ” ²² So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him. ²³ And the messenger said to David, “Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate. ²⁴ The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and *some* of the king’s servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.” ²⁵ Then David said to the messenger, “Thus you shall say to Joab: ‘Do not let this thing ^[e]displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.’ So encourage him.” ²⁶ When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷ And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased^[f] the LORD.

It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah.

People – There will always be people God places around you in every season to walk with you, hold your hand, encourage you, pray with you. Don’t forsake them and don’t isolate yourself particularly when going through rough patches. There will be seasons in your life when it is the prayers of family and friends that will sustain you more than your own. You need people to encourage to stand on god’s promises for your life. Sometimes you will feel weak and so discouraged and want to give up. Have you sent out of your life the very people who are supposed to be watching you, guiding you, to whom you are supposed to be accountable, people who are supposed to be standing with you in the promises of God. That is a hedge of protection God places around us. Don’t be prideful. “I don’t need people”.

Presence

The ark of the Lord would accompany them to war. Ark represented the presence, the power of God. Have you stopped doing those things that keep the presence of God in your life...those things that keep reminding you of the promises of God. Being in the word, praying, being in the gathering of the saints.

Purpose

It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle...

David stepped out of his purpose, stayed at home when he was meant to be out at war. When you step out of your purpose...you can easily miss what God is saying over your life or want to do with you.

5. Every morning/day when you read your Bible look for fresh expressions of God's faithfulness as a particular appointed word of God for you for that day.

Lamentations 3:22-23

²² Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed. Because His compassions fail not.

²³ They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness.

Memorise some of these scriptures especially those general enough to apply in every situation. Always call them to mind no matter what your situation is for encouragement, strength, hope etc.

6. Craft prayers for varied situations so that you desist from "panic-led" praying.

Children, Work, Business, Health. Don't wait for things to happen before you pray into some of these things.

7. Remind yourself of God's word over your life:

- Sensed over the years
- Prophecies
- Word etc.

CONCLUSION

Romans 8:24

²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.

Romans 8:20-22

²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²² And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

Hebrews 11:32-40

³² And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, ^[k]were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in dens and caves of the earth.* ³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰ God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.