**Building Core Strength**

**A God Who Makes Promises[[1]](#footnote-1)**

3 reasons to find your core strength in the promises of God

**I. God Often Delights in Making Promises to Ordinary People**

**2 Peter 1:4** - *For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

A. People who are trying to please God

1. Zacharias and Elizabeth

**Luke 1:6** - *They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.*

**Luke 1:8** - *Now it happened that while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division,*

2. Mary

**Luke 1:27** - *to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.*

**Luke 1:30** - *The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.”*

B. People who were hurting in some way

1. Zacharias and Elizabeth

**Luke 1:8** - *Now it happened that while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division,*

**Luke 1:25** - *This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked with favor upon me, to take away my disgrace among men.*

2. Mary

**Luke 1:53** - *He has filled the hungry with good things; and sent away the rich empty-handed.*

**Luke 2:24** - *and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”*

**Leviticus 12:8** - *But if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, the one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean.*

**Psalm 18:6** - *In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried to my God for help; He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry for help before Him came into His ears.*

**II. God is Powerful Enough to Keep the Promises that He Made Long Ago**

A. To draw people to Himself

**Luke 1:17** - *It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*

B. To provide salvation for our sins

**Isaiah 53:5** - *But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.*

1. A virgin

**Luke 1:35** - *The angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.*

2. His name

**Luke 1:31** - *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.*

**Matthew 1:21** - *She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.*

**Luke 1:47** - *And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.*

**Luke 1:68** - *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people,*

**Luke 1:69** - *And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant—*

C. To honor His Word

**Luke 1:70** - *As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old—*

**Luke 1:72** - *To show mercy toward our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant,*

**Luke 1:73** - *The oath which He swore to Abraham our father,*

**III. God Often Accompanies Old Promises with New Ones**

A. Be humbled that the person who should have believed these promises the most in fact believed them the least

B. Understand that believing God’s promises is at the core of the gospel message

**1 John 2:25** - *This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.*

C. Realize that appreciating God’s promises is an antidote to legalism

**Galatians 3:18** - *For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.*

D. Let God’s promises motivate your growth

**2 Corinthians 7:1** - *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

E. Become confident in ministry because of God’s promises

**2 Corinthians 1:20** - *For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.*

F. Understand God’s promises in the light of His patience

**2 Peter 3:9** - *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

1. Dr. Steve Viars [↑](#footnote-ref-1)