

“I Promise”



In a society where 50 percent of first marriages end in divorce and broken promises, it's no wonder that today's young people seem to be skeptical and commitment-phobic, be it marriage or career. We have all heard the popular quotes, *'Promises are made to be broken, Promises are the sweetest lies, etc.'*

But, Psalm 91 proclaims the amazing thing about God's Promises, 'He is always FAITHFUL to His promise'. Yet, notice the **CONDITION** to be the recipient of His promise, *"He who abides in the shelter of the Most High"*. John 15:5 too insists, *"If you abide in me and I in you..."* Friends, **intimacy with God** is our only security and protection and if our security is not in God, but in something else (be it our loved ones, money, relationships, talents, abilities etc.), we will never be secure.

Satan misinterpreted Psalm 91 and tried to deceive Jesus in Mathew 4:5-7, *"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. He will command His angels concerning you."* But, Jesus knew the Scripture better than the devil and countered him with another passage, *"On the other hand, it is written, you shall not put the Lord your God to test."* Satan wants us to believe that God's promise means, we will never have any problems or hardships.

Many Christians withdraw from their faith when they are disappointed with God and feel doubtful about His promises. To be protected by the Lord doesn't mean we are exempted from pain, suffering or problems. **But, it means, in the midst of all hardships, trials, and struggles, God is with us, He will protect us, His purpose will be accomplished in our life and what is best for us, He will make it happen.**

At the break of the pandemic, we, the fathers and sisters, at St. Theresa Church, Kathgodam, so fervently prayed and interceded for protection of God's people from the Covid-19 virus, during our online Eucharistic celebrations and prayer services. And many were healed through our Prayers.

But, then, when our own priests at St. Theresa were affected with Covid, and Fr. Royal was even critically infected, **I had an unspoken question in my mind regarding God's promise of protection in Psalm 91.** For Fr. Royal himself had beautifully composed a hymn based on Psalm 91 (*and we used to chant it almost daily for protection*), but, on being affected by Covid, he almost lost his beautiful voice that used to help hundreds of people grow in devotion to God! We even wondered will he be able to sing again, as sweetly as before! But, then, on complete recovery, he regained his voice, with much greater depth and devout sweetness! And all our priests recovered their health, having been enriched with faith-deepening testimony!

Romans 8:28 says, *"And we know that in all things God causes all things to work TOGETHER for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* Notice the word, **'together'**. It means, of course, certain bad things will happen, but, when you put them all together, they work together for good. One of the most favorite dishes of Indians is 'BIRYANI'. We use different ingredients to prepare it. But if you taste

raw onion by itself, it will not taste good, or the spices by themselves, they will not be palpable. But, when you combine them **‘together’**, the result is so fantastic!

The other day I read the testimony of a famous author. She says, “It happened when I was 12 years old. That evening while my parents were away for the Bible study, and I was alone at home, I was attacked and molested by seven evil men. That was the most painful family experience my family ever went through. Though I belonged to a highly devout family, yet, to be honest, a thought entered my mind, *‘God did not protect me. How can I trust Him?’* I told the Lord that I am claiming Romans 8:28 that you will make something good out of this, though, right now I fail to understand the good that can ever come out of this!”

She shares, “As time went on, I began to see the goodness of the Lord and His purpose, in making me go through that painful experience, to use it to bring others into His Kingdom. I have written a highly inspirational book about it and also shared this testimony on different platforms in different parts of the world and made people see – not me, but, how amazing God is! I married a wonderful God-fearing man, am a mom to six lovely kids and I minister to other families along with my husband. God caused so much good to happen through this tragedy in my life. I don’t think I would have been such an influential person if I had not gone through this.”

Friends, remember, as you go through any situation that seems a crisis in your life; God tells you, ***“My child, you can still choose to be a blessing. You can still choose to be joyful. You can still choose to be faithful and to trust me and my good plans for you.”***

I conclude with John 16:33, *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”* Yes, we too can overcome the world, if we have Christ in us! As we enter the Holy season of Lent this month, May we learn to trust God’s promises, knowing that this promise-giver is always FAITHFUL!

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