

## PROMISES

(ἐπαγγελία)

*A pledge, an undertaking to do or give something, to proclaim or announce.*

Over the years I've seen so many people hurt through broken promises, but when it's a brother or sister in Christ the cut is even deeper. Often people find it so hard to accept that they approach me in disbelief saying, "Pastor, I can't understand why I would be rejected in such a way. Surely a promise is a promise!" Unfortunately, this happens and it only serves to break down relationships. My advice is, "God's love never fails. It's people who sometimes fail. They can fail to keep promises; they can fail to tell the truth; they can fail to trust each other. But this does not negate God's promises. They are yes and amen!" For that reason, keep a good attitude and do the right thing even when it hurts. If you do this you are passing the test and God's promises will make sure His blessings arrive on time! Corrie Ten Boom said, "Let God's promises shine on your problems." Therefore, whatever challenges you may be facing, remember that God's promises have the power to shine His glorious light into every situation. As a result, the darkness is broken and joy is released.

*How to Deal* is a movie about 17-year-old Halley Martin. Halley is jaded by the dysfunction of those closest to her. Her parents have recently divorced, her unmarried best friend is pregnant, and her sister is engaged to someone she constantly bickers with. As a result, Halley ponders if it is possible to truly love someone. Having just returned from the wedding of her father and his girlfriend, Halley sits on the porch, drinking tea with her mother. She describes the ceremony for her mother, calling it tacky, and describes her father as a loser. "Was Dad that much of a loser when you guys got married?" Her mom offers a gentle rebuke. "Your father is not a loser." Halley asks, "Well, then, why do people get married anyway? I mean, we know they're lying to each other, but are they lying to themselves too? How can you promise that you're going to feel the same way forever?" After an extended silence Halley's mom responds, "Sometimes things change." The truth is, sometimes things change; sometimes people change - it's a fact of life! But God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever! Therefore, when someone has let you down don't get caught up in the "why's" and "how's", exercise the forgiveness that God has placed in you and quickly move on.

In a world of too many broken promises, we have a God who keeps His! In a world where it is easy to believe one can count on no one, we can count on God! The central fact that proves God's faithfulness in the midst of a faithless world is Jesus Christ. As Paul puts it in 2nd Corinthians 1:20, "**For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ...**" God promised that Christ would be heir to the throne of David (Isaiah 9:7). He promised He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). He even promised the exact time of the birth (Daniel 9:25). How many of those promises did He fulfil? Every single one! Promise made - promises kept! Our Heavenly Father will never let you down!