

The promises that God makes are both numerous and certain - the age-old challenge is: "How do I experience their truth and power in my own life?"

1. God is utterly, completely and totally trustworthy.

Hebrews 10:23 (NLT) - Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

2. The biggest challenges will likely be:

- a) timing
- b) human perspectives
- c) appropriate application to my life and situation

2 Peter 1:3-5a (NLT) - By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.<sup>4</sup> And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.<sup>5</sup> In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises.

3. "How to" is really ultimately "Who to" . . .

1 Corinthians 1:18-20 (NLT) - The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.<sup>19</sup> As the Scriptures say, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent."<sup>20</sup> So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish.

## Study Guide

1. As a child, how likely were you to 'keep a promise', or 'keep a secret'?
2. As the years have passed, what have you discovered about 'promises'? What areas of your life have you watched 'promises' in action? (relationships, workplace, friendship, government and authority...)
3. Where do you find yourself in your understanding of God and His promises? Is it a difficult concept / truth for you to grasp, or does it come fairly easy?
4. Take a look at the following scriptures and take note of what the Word says about the promises of God.
  - Hebrews 10:23
  - 1 Corinthians 1:18-20
  - 2 Peter 1:3-5a
  - Psalm 91:4
5. Take some time to ponder and pray about your understanding of God's promises, generally and personally. Ask for clarity if you need it; feel free to bring up places you feel disappointed. Ultimately, pray to deepen your personal relationship with Him - this will result in growing trust.