

**God is Marshaling His Army for the Rescue of His Truth
Victory Through Christ's Promises**

September 22, 2026

Christ's Promises Assure Us of Victory

Standing on the Promises Keeps Us Sure and Steadfast in this Season of
Division and No Prophet to Lead Us

By Sherrie Kline Smith

When Pat Chadwick contacted me to see if I would give one of the Fall Livestream classes for the women I hesitated as usual; but I glanced through all the material she sent, looking mostly at the weekly themes. Then I went back and looked at the dates. When I saw the third class was on September 22, I knew immediately that I should choose this one. It wasn't the topic but the date that mattered to me.

Why was that? Because when she contacted me, I was working on the September Zion Flash Card. Many of you who have received your card might guess why I chose this date. Knowing some of you do not receive these cards, I will summarize and read a portion of it.

*For members of the Restored Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, two dates have great significance for us: **April 6, 1830**, when the Church was officially "organized and established agreeably to the laws of our country, by the will and commandments of God..." (D&C 17:1a); and the second date was **September 22, 1827**, when Joseph was allowed to remove the engraved plates from the stone box buried near his home. Prior to receiving the plates, though, Joseph met Moroni where the plates were buried **every September 22** for four years.*

*Another perhaps little-known event also happened on **September 22**. After the betrayal of Martin Harris and the loss of 116 pages of the translation, Joseph had to give up the Urim and Thummim to the angel, who told Joseph, "If you are very humble and penitent, it may be you will receive them again; **if so, it will be on the twenty-second of next September.**" This came to pass, and Joseph once more began to translate the plates. (Joseph Smith the Prophet and His Progenitors, page 147.)*

Next year, September 22, 2027, marks the 200th anniversary when Joseph finally obtained the sacred records to translate and make them accessible to the world, and most especially to the Lamanites, as the Lord promised in those sacred records, The Book of Mormon (Enos 1: 19-28).

September 22 is a historic special day embedded in the roots of the Latter Day church. Eric Odida commented in an article he wrote for *The Witness* in 2023: “*Could God have sent the angel Moroni to Joseph with the message of restoration without revealing the Book of Mormon? The answer is NO! Restoration could not have taken place without the Book of Mormon.*”

I don’t know why it came forth in that timeframe, but I do know The Book of Mormon has the fulness of the gospel and witnesses of the resurrection of Christ. Within its covers we find many wonderful promises for us.

It appears this timeframe around **September 22** is important to the Lord. Could the reason be because this is also the time for the Jewish observance of Yom Kippur, the **Day of Atonement**, the **holiest day of the year**? The dates for Yom Kippur change each year and vary from the middle of September to the middle of October. This year, 2026, Yom Kippur began at sundown on Sunday, September 20, and ended at sundown on Monday, September 21.

For the Jews, this day of atonement includes fasting, praying, and repentance—seeking forgiveness for all their sins.

After the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who sacrificed His life to atone for our sins and became our Redeemer, the **day of atonement** became victory in Christ over death.

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? **But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**” (1 Corinthians 15:55-57). Abinadi gives a great explanation of this victory in Mosiah 8:76-81. I’m only going to read verses 79-82:

*And now if Christ had not come into the world, speaking of things to come as though they had already come, there could have been no **redemption**. And if Christ had not risen from the dead, or have broken the bands of death, that the grave should have no victory, and that death should have no sting, there could have been no **resurrection**. But there is a resurrection, therefore the grave hath no victory, and the sting of death is swallowed up in Christ. He is the light and the life of the world; yea, a light that is endless, that can never be darkened; yea, and also a life which is endless, that there can be no more death.*

I recommend reading all of chapter eight in Mosiah.

Let us be thankful for Christ’s victory over death that we may have eternal life AND for the precious Book of Mormon with the fulness of the gospel.

Let's now turn our attention to the Topic for today: Victory through Christ's promises.

VICTORY

What is victory?

“A success or triumph over an enemy in battle or war” (Random House College Dictionary).

“Achievement of mastery or success in a struggle or endeavor against odds or difficulties” (Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary).

If we keep His commandments, we are assured Christ keeps his promises; we achieve victory over Satan; over discouragement and trials and struggles as we work toward being the spiritually ready people for Zion to become a reality.

How can we know Christ's promises will bring victory?

FIRST: We KNOW because we know **God's character and attributes**. These are discussed in depth in sections 3-5 of *Lectures of Faith* and it is worthwhile to study.

In Exodus 34:6 we find that “The Lord God, [is] **merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.**”

Psalms 86:15 “But thou, O Lord, art a God full of **compassion, and gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.**”

From D&C 2:1-2a “God doth **not walk in crooked paths**; neither doth he turn to the right hand nor to the left; neither doth he vary from that which he hath said.... Remember, remember, that it is not the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of men....”

Malachi 3:6 “For I am the Lord, **I change not....**”

2 Nephi 11:145 [And also in Isaiah 29:25] “For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that **I am the same yesterday, today, and forever....**”

But most importantly **God cannot lie.**

D&C 62:2 “I, the Lord, promised the faithful and cannot lie.”

Titus 1:2 “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”

2 Timothy 2:13 “If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful; he cannot deny himself.”

D&C 140:5c-d “The work of preparation and the perfection of my Saints go forward slowly, and Zion is conditions are no further away nor any closer than the spiritual condition of my people justifies; **but my word shall not fail, neither will my promises**, for the foundation of the Lord standeth sure.”

No. 6, *Hymns of the Restoration*:

**Praise the Lord, for he is glorious;
Never shall his promise fail:
God hath made his saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.**

These attributes of God, listed in these few scriptures/hymn as well as others, tell us we can firmly **believe and know** and trust him that what he has promised will **all be fulfilled**.

SECOND: We KNOW because the Scriptures bear witness that the Lord Jesus Christ keeps His promises.

Why do we need to know Christ's promises will bring victory?

Because we are living in a time of darkness with many difficulties in our country and in the Church—the Bride of Christ. We feel disappointments and especially discouragement. In order to be steadfast and strong during all afflictions, struggles, and trials, we need the assurance and KNOWLEDGE that God's promises will be fulfilled.

When Jesus Christ came to the Nephites, he told them that “Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat...” (3 Nephi 8:51).

And the apostle Peter gave this advice: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; **Whom resist steadfast in the faith**” (1 Peter 5:8 and part of 9).

Pat Chadwick gave a very in-depth account of Satan and his evil attributes and his army of angels in the first class of this series of classes which laid the groundwork for what I want to share today.

On **Sunday, November 6, 2020**, a time of turmoil and the Covid scare, the Lord gave me some insight.

Sunday morning while reading my scriptures in preparation for going to church, the 53rd verse from Luke 22 stood out clearly. It described the arrest and trial of Jesus prior to His crucifixion. Jesus responded to the questions of the chief priests and captains of the temple, and the elders, saying, “Are ye come out as against a thief, with swords and staves? When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me; **but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.**”

This scripture struck me profoundly! Yes, for a time evil appeared to triumph; it was Satan's hour. The followers of Jesus Christ at that time were devastated. Yet, without that darkness of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus there would have been no glorious resurrection and no marvelous joy that later filled His followers—and no victory.

In the Testimony of John, Jesus tried to prepare his disciples for that which was to come: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, that ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice; and ye shall be sorrowful, **but your sorrow shall be turned into joy**” (John 16:20-21).

This reminded me of Joseph Smith's first vision in the grove. Satan attacked him so strongly, that Joseph thought he would die. Yet—a marvelous light and vision appeared that annihilated Satan's “hour.”

Let's look at other examples when all hope was lost and evil appears to triumph, but resolves in “resurrection.”

1. Perhaps the most impressive example is the death and resurrection of **Lazarus**. We all know that Lazarus and his two sisters Mary and Martha were particular friends of Jesus. When Lazarus became ill, his sisters went unto Jesus, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.” But when Jesus heard this, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, **but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.**” Jesus waited two days before going to Bethany to Martha's house, and when he arrived Lazarus had already been in the grave for four days! And you know the rest. He resurrected Lazarus. Mary and Martha's **sorrow was turned to joy.** This account is found in John 11:1-45.
2. **Daughter of Jairus raised from the dead, and healing of the woman who touched His garment .**

These two miracles are recorded in Matthew, 9:24-32; Mark 5:19-35; Luke 8:42-45, but not John. I like Mark's commentary on these events as he intertwines the two miracles. In a nutshell, a ruler of the synagogue comes to Jesus in despair because his only daughter, who is 12, is at death's door, and says to Jesus, “Come and lay Thy hands on her that she may be healed and she can live.”

Jesus agrees and goes with the father, and “much people followed him and thronged him.” [The narrative switches now to the suffering woman] Verse 21 relates, “And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and **had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered but rather grew worse;** when she had heard of Jesus, she came in the press behind, and touched his garment; for she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed.” [For the rest of the story I want to go to Luke's account.] “And Jesus said to her, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace. While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, ‘Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.’ But Jesus heard him, and he said unto the ruler of the synagogue, ‘Fear not; believe only, and she shall be made whole.’”

And Jesus raised the daughter to life. The focus of these two miracles was utter hopelessness turned to utter joy. At first the daughter was at death's door, but soon died before Jesus got there. The family and friends were convinced she was dead. Jesus changed **their sorrow to joy**.

The woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment "had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse...." She was at [using colloquial language – 'the end of her rope.'] And she was healed.

3. Another account of Christ raising a dead person is found in Luke 7:11-15. I share this one for my "widow sisters" who might be listening.

"And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. Now, when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and **she was a widow**; and many people of the city were with her. And now the **Lord saw her**, and had **compassion on her**, and he said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier; and they who bare it stood still, and he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And **he who was dead**, sat up, and began to speak; and he delivered him to his mother."

4. The fourth example is from a recent sermon Aaron Smith preached on August 16, 2026. Aaron related the events from Exodus 15:22-26. The Israelites had just experienced the miracle of the Red Sea and had begun their journey to the promised land. They traveled three days without water—they were **in a life-ending state**. And when they did come to water it was bitter. Moses cast a tree into the water to take away the bitterness. Aaron said the tree represented the Cross. God cleansed [or we could say] He resurrected the water and the Israelites were saved.
5. The fourth example is not from the Scriptures, but is an excerpt from Todd Smith's sermon of April 26 at South Crysler. The theme for the month had been resurrection. In his sermon, Todd read a portion from a book written in the 1930s by a Chinese Christian minister whose name in English is Watchman Nee. In the book, Nee relates an interesting incident that occurred when he and other Christian brothers were in the mountains. Nee wrote, "I was once staying in a place in China with some 20 other brothers. There was inadequate provision for bathing in the house where we stayed. So, we went for a daily plunge in the mountain river."

On one of those days, Nee noticed one of the men had a cramp in his leg and was sinking fast. Nee called to another man, who was an excellent swimmer, to "hasten to his rescue, but to my astonishment, he made no move to help." Nee called to him again, but the man remained calm and collected. When the drowning person was no longer struggling, but sinking "with a few swift strokes the swimmer was at his side and both safely ashore." Nee continues, "When I had the opportunity to take the man to task for not going sooner to help, the swimmer responded, 'Had I gone earlier, he would have clutched me so fast that both of us would have gone under. **A drowning man cannot be saved until he is utterly exhausted and ceases to make the slightest effort to save himself.**'"

Todd then observed: “Let me make a statement about the Church at large, and this is not a thus sayeth the Spirit or anything like that, **but, if God follows the pattern He typically does, I imagine He isn’t going to straighten out the Church at large until it looks just like there’s absolutely no hope whatsoever. He will wait until death has completely done its work . . . then the resurrection comes in.**”

6. This sixth example is a little different, but it is in keeping with the church militant theme for these classes; and it is a true account of when something that appears devastating turns to joy.

I have a small devotional booklet written around 1935 by Reverend H. G. C. Hallock, a Presbyterian minister, while on a mission to a church in Shanghai, China. Each daily entry has a title with a scripture under it; and then followed by a poem or verse from a hymn. The entry for July 23 is titled “Glorious Victory.” The scripture is 1 Corinthians 15: 57. **“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Hallock’s devotional texts for the day were these:

Christ captured, tried, buffeted, nailed to the cross, deserted, all seemed to be defeat after defeat. The disciples lost faith. The women wept. Defeat indeed? Bright and early Easter morning the seeming defeat turned into Glorious Victory!

Early in the last century Napoleon was devastating Europe. England sent Wellington to France to stop his march of conquest. After the battle of Waterloo, they wished to get word to England and sent the news by semaphore [a method used to send news and messages before the invention of the telegraph].

The message began, “Wellington defeated----” The fog came down and hid the rest of the message. England was in gloom. By and by the fog lifted and the message continued, “Wellington defeated the enemy.”

Then the rejoicing was more intense because of the former gloom. So Christ’s Victory gave the greater rejoicing because of His seeming defeat” (Hallock, *The Endeavors’ Daily Devotions*, circa 1935).

A month later, the August 23 entry was also about the battle at Waterloo. It’s called “Except the Lord.” The scripture is “Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it” (Psalm 127:1).

As the train was starting a gentleman with a bag and sword-case jumped aboard. “That was a close shave; I’ve just come from _____ and I especially wanted to catch this train.”

One of the other passengers said, “I am glad you have joined us, for we have been warmly discussing the comparative merits of Napoleon and Wellington. As a military man we should like your opinion as to which of these men was the greater general strategically. We are of the opinion that Wellington was the greater.”

With much skill and kindness, the stranger showed that Napoleon was first.

“Ah, then who won Waterloo?” was asked. The stranger reverently said, “**God won Waterloo.**” The stranger was General Sir John French.

I checked Wikipedia about Sir John French, and found French had many military commands, but his most important role was as Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) during the first year and a half of World War 1.

Proverbs 21:31 says, “The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the **victory rests with the Lord.**”

In Apostle Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians, he describes his despair of life and assures us Who we can trust.

“For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, **above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life;** But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we **should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead; Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver; in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us...**” (2 Corinthians 1:8-10).

The lesson learned from these different examples of seemingly hopelessness, defeat, and evil triumphing is that God can change bad things to good. **Christ brings life to death and to things that appear hopeless.** And Apostle Paul reminds us Whom we can trust to deliver us.

Romans 8:28 was one of my husband Lyle’s favorite scriptures. “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

After examining all we’ve covered so far, I think we can say **we know why we need to know that God’s promises are sure.** Life is not perfect. We have many trials and struggles, and many times our situation looks hopeless, but God promises victory over these things.

So, what is our response to these types of situations where all seems lost?

Perhaps the following three testimonies might help us to have daily victory in Christ through his promises that will come to pass.

The first testimony was the morning of March 26, 2020, at 2am. A voice woke me and said, “**Hold Fast! Prove all things good.**” I knew it was the Lord speaking in my mind. As I laid contemplating the words, I thought something was different about this; in other words, what I heard didn’t match the scripture. I finally remembered the way it reads in 1 Thessalonians 5:2. “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

The evening before, Lyle and I had been discussing a couple of past sermons relating to the present time and other things. I had some concerns—not knowing what the sermons meant for me. This message was an answer to my concerns. I am to hold fast.

I went to the computer to search the Scriptures online. I put in the words “hold fast.” Eleven instances came up. Two didn’t apply; all the others did. I read the complete chapter five of 1 Thessalonians; it **deals with the latter days and Christ coming in the watch**. Very apropos! **And applies to us today!**

I made a list of all the things the scriptures said “to hold fast” to:

- Hold fast that which is good. (1 Thessalonians 5:21)
- Hold fast sound words. (2 Timothy 1:13)
- Hold fast the confidence and rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. (Hebrews 3:6)
- Hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering. (Hebrews 4:14 & 10:23)
- Hold fast till I come. (Revelation 2:25)
- Hold fast and repent. (Revelation 3:3)
- Hold fast to the word of God. (1 Nephi 4:39)
- Stand fast in the faith (Alma 21:19)
- Humble yourselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing **steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come...** (Mosiah 2:21). This is from King Benjamin’s proclamation.
- Therefore, I would that ye should be **steadfast and immovable**, Mosiah 3:21, King Benjamin’s final words of his proclamation.
- See also Ether 5:4;

I believe the words spoken to me, in a different order from the way it is in Thessalonians, is so I would concentrate on **hold fast**—it was the thrust of the message. I felt so thankful for this experience!

The second testimony was about eight months later—on November 6, 2020. This is the first part of the one I shared earlier about “Satan’s” hour.

For several years I’ve had a battle with—as Apostle Paul would say—a ‘thorn in the flesh’ that creates difficulties and limits my abilities, and is compounded by the distress and agony over the condition of our beloved country and the Church; it causes me to sometimes sink into despair and great discouragement.

On November 6, during the early morning hours, while feeling such agony that the nerves on my upper body ached, the Lord spoke these words from a hymn into my mind, **“there is hope shining brightly before us, and we know that deliverance is nigh.”**

I searched *The Hymnal* (1956 “gray hymnal”) and found the hymn that had those words that were spoken to me. It’s one we always sang at conference. It begins “We thank thee, O God, for a prophet to guide us in these latter days (#291).” It was the second verse that had the words the Lord spoke to me, except the **hymn uses the word smiling instead of shining as I had heard:**

**When dark clouds of trouble hang o’er us
And threaten our peace to destroy,
There is hope smiling brightly before us,
And we know that deliverance is nigh.
We doubt not the Lord nor His goodness,
We’ve proved Him in days that are past.**

This is something to hold on to and memorize.

The third testimony was July 5, 2026, Sunday Communion Service at Oak Grove Restoration Branch:

Since the middle of February this year, my heart and soul have been sad and burdened by the loss of my husband on July 19, 2024. While driving to church, I petitioned the Lord to help me to be renewed again. The Lord was merciful, and during the service He opened my understanding about some areas of concern I had.

As I entered the sanctuary, I noticed the two outer sections were cordoned off to make the serving of the bread and wine more efficient. While I know some families were not present because of vacations or other reasons, it saddened my heart and soul because our overall attendance has slowly decreased.

Jessica Holmes led the time of singing prior to the service. She had chosen hymns about the Holy Spirit and that set the tone for the service. And those hymns became my prayer, petitioning God to renew my spirit. Our son Aaron was in charge and one can usually count on his gift—to speak those words that encourage our hearts. Jeremy Lidberg was the speaker for the service.

As I knelt for the prayer on the bread, the empty pews in front concerned me, but immediately the Lord reminded me of Gideon and how the Lord told him: “The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands” (Judges 7:2). Then the Lord basically decreased his army to a remaining 300 men who defeated the Midianites. Immediately my next thought was Todd’s sharing about the drowning man, who could not be saved until he was sinking to his death.

And again, immediately a favorite saying of Roy Weldon’s came into my mind; “Man’s extremities are God’s opportunities.”

All these thoughts occurred rapidly, in less time it takes to write and read it. I believe the Lord was comforting my mind and my concern about the state of the Church.
He will resurrect His bride; His promises are sure; His Zion will be.

There was more to God’s message that spoke to me during Jeremy Lidberg’s remarks, but it doesn’t apply for what we are talking about today.

The following article, written in 2005 by Larry Rowan, I find apropos to this fall series of classes. It was published in *Glyph Notes* (Vol.12 No.3).

A priest from the Des Moines Northeast Restoration Branch was visiting friends in the Independence area in the late 1980s. He later told us while he and his wife were waiting for the Sunday morning service to begin, a friend of his tapped him on the shoulder and said, “It’s been made known to me that you have the message for us this hour.” The man admitted to several seconds of panic before he was told it was just a joke. Most of us would agree that one, most or all of us would have acted the same way and second, none of us should ever act that way. All should be able, willing, and ready to share “the reason for the hope that is in [us].”

The hymn tells us “God is marshaling his army,” and “to be ready at a word...” Before the United States was a nation, the men in the militias were prepared to answer the summons to battle with just a minute’s notice. They had their weapons, food, and clothing; all they would need, prepared, packed, and stacked by the door. All they had to do was pick up what they needed and rush out to the commons. In the cause of the Gospel’s glad tidings, our response should be no less than the militia’s.

In April, during the gathering called by the patriarchs, we were ready. Or were we ready? We were told to prepare. We had more than enough time to prepare. Did we put together the things we needed? Did we have them at hand, ready to pick up at a moment's notice? Would we have done so?

On Sunday April 3, when I took my place in the east balcony of the Auditorium with the other servers, I felt that Jesus was with us. I felt he was watching us the prior Wednesday night as we gathered. Thursday and Friday I felt a rising sense of something big, something important coming closer and closer; but by Friday night I felt a keen sense of loss of an opportunity missed. Did something go wrong? Or were we just not ready?

Perhaps I should have tempered my own expectations. What could have happened? What should have happened? What did I want to happen?

I would not have been surprised if Jesus himself had physically appeared to us and given us a message. I would have welcomed John or one, two or all three of the Nephites bringing us God's Word.

A dying Lehi speaks to his youngest son Joseph with these words:

And now, behold, my son Joseph, after this manner did my father of old [Joseph, the son of Israel] prophesy. Wherefore, because of this covenant thou art blessed: for thy seed shall not be destroyed, for they shall hearken unto the words of the book. And there shall raise up one mighty among them, who shall do much good, both in word and in deed, being an instrument in the hands of God, with exceeding faith, To work mighty wonders, and do that thing which is great in the sight of God, unto the bringing to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel and unto the seed of thy brethren (2 Nephi 2:44-47).

Some of those attending that April gathering expected this man to make himself known to us. There were those who expected the office of Prophet, Seer, and Revelator to be filled with a descendant of Joseph, Jr. None of these things happened. If we were not ready, we must become ready; and if we were ready, we must stay ready. The promises of the Lord are sure. The only questions are, will we be ready? Will we be part of Zion?

No. 149, *Hymns of the Restoration*

Lead on, O King Eternal,
Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And holiness shall whisper
The sweet amen of peace;
For not with swords' loud clashing
Nor roll of stirring drums,
With deeds of love and mercy
The heav'nly kingdom comes.

Are there any conditions required of us to be sure the promises are fulfilled?

1. There is an interesting scripture in the D&C 58:6i that I feel is so appropriate for today and the condition of the Church. “I command and a man obeys not, I **revoke** and they receive not the blessing; then they say in their hearts, This is not the work of the Lord, for his **promises are not fulfilled**. But woe unto such, for their reward lurketh beneath, and not from above.”
2. “I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say, **but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise**” (D&C 81:3).
3. King Benjamin told his people, “All that he [the Lord] requires of you, is to keep his commandments; and **he has promised you** that if ye would keep his commandments, ye should prosper in the land...” (Mosiah 1: 55).
4. Hebrews 10:36: “For ye have patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, **ye might receive the promise.**”

We must keep the commandments if we want God’s promises to be fulfilled. In other words, as Aaron Smith said in his sermon August 16, 2026, at Oak Grove:

Does not God promise to heal us if we but do what He has asked us to do? And what does He ask us to do now? To not focus on situations that appear hopeless, but to focus on Christ. And if we focus on Christ, He promises us blessings, prosperity; “I promise you a new life; I promise you the things you think that are death”—this is His specialty, He raises dead things and brings them back to life again. Look up to Christ; He is always there and the promises are amazing. He will come and heal us. And then, I will tell you that the disciples of Christ shall truly live without contention, envy, and strife.

What are some of Christ's promises?

We've talked extensively about how the Lord's promises are sure and all will be fulfilled, but we have not examined some of those promises. I'm only going to share a few here, but I urge you to search your Scriptures for others. I think my very favorite is found in Section 95:1a-c. It's marvelous, and I have memorized it.

*Verily I say unto you, my friends, Fear not, let your hearts be comforted, yea, rejoice evermore, and in everything give thanks, waiting patiently on the Lord; for your prayers have entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, and are recorded with this seal and testament: the Lord hath sworn and decreed that they shall be granted; **therefore, he giveth this promise unto you**, with an immutable covenant, that they shall be fulfilled, and all things wherewith you have been afflicted, shall work together for your good, and to my name's glory saith the Lord.*

1 John 2:5 “And **this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.**”

Ephesians 6:2-3 “Honor thy father and mother; which is the first **commandment with promise**; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

Portion of D&C 86:3c-d, commonly called the Word of Wisdom:

*And all Saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in **obedience to the commandments**, shall receive health in their navel, and marrow to their bones, and shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures; and shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint; and I, **the Lord, give unto them a promise** that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them. Amen.*

James 2:5 “Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and **heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?**”

Mormon 4:84 “Behold I say unto you, that whoso believeth in Christ, doubting nothing, whatsoever he shall ask the Father in the name of Christ, it shall be granted him; and this promise is unto all, even unto the ends of the earth.”

There are many promises to specific peoples, like the House of Israel, the Gentiles, to descendants of Lehi's son Joseph, and many other promises to the Nephites and the Lamanites.

You might search the Scriptures for more. Memorize your favorites and/or write them down and put them in a prominent place in your home. Sing hymns like ***Never Be Discouraged*** (No. 388, *Hymns of the Restoration*); ***Standing on the Promises of God*** (No. 62, in *The Gift of Song*); or ***How Firm a Foundation*** (No. 183 *Hymns of the Restoration*), one of my very, very favorites. It's based on Isaiah 41.

There is a common saying among us that "it is always darkest before dawn." Yes, we live in those dark days at present. As we endure this current "hour of darkness," let's obey the commandments and look forward to the glorious light of the coming kingdom of God! May God grant us the strength to overcome and to be steadfast and firm, holding fast to the Word of God and "serve him till the end."

AND REMEMBER "there is hope smiling bright before us, and we know that deliverance is nigh" (No. 191 *Hymns of the Restoration*). May these words "bring consolation to our souls, our drooping spirits cheer" (No. 252, *Hymns of the Restoration*).

**"Victory rests with the Lord (Proverbs 21 :31);
For the word of the Lord is truth" (D&C 83:7b).**

The End