

If you can believe God, you can count on His promises!

What can be said about God's promises to us? God is absolutely faithful and true in everything that He says and does. If you can believe God, you can count on His promises, because they're free gifts of His grace. There have been many instances in my life of God's amazing grace throughout the years, but for now, I'd like to share a recent testimony of God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises to me and my husband Rich.

It started back in April, 2007. Rich and I were celebrating Easter with family after church services. It was a great day, but I was bothered with a cough that just wouldn't quit. A few days went by and the incessant cough worsened. I began feeling tired and winded. I'm the type of person who really hates to go to the doctor if I don't need to. But I finally gave in and after a quick exam and x-ray, we found that I had pneumonia and what appeared to be a growth in my left lung. As the weeks passed, there were biopsy's, tests, scans and consultations confirming that I had a tumor in my left lung and it's growth began blocking the bronchial tubes. The tumor had to be removed and surgery was scheduled for July 1st. Was I scared? Absolutely! Everything was so uncertain. And I told God too! I can't remember exactly what I said, but it was something like, "Oh Lord, this can't be what you mean for me. Your Word *says "I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jer. 29:11.* I didn't realize it at the time, but even though my head was in a whirl, I had already begun to reach for His promises. My husband and best friend ever, was my rock. (He still is!) We agreed together in prayer daily for my health and God's intervention. We confessed it out loud, together, everything's going to be OK. "*All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*" (Rom. 8:28) and "*...thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" 1 Cor. 15: 57.

Not more than a few weeks later, we got a letter in the mail from our mortgage company. Without getting into the overwhelming details, it seemed that the adjustable rate on our mortgage was being increased by \$1,200. There was no way we could pay \$3800 per month. The fact that Rich and I were homeowners was a miracle in itself. We didn't understand how this could happen. God gave us our home. Why would He allow this to happen? We just couldn't understand what was going on. With my health at the top of our list of concerns, we could only rely on God's promise that He wouldn't allow more than we could handle. The New Living Translation of this verse says, "*The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.*" 1 Cor. 10:13. Let me make something very clear. Rich and I are no different from anyone else. We experience the same feelings of fear, anger and uncertainty that come with this life's challenges. We laugh, cry and scream at times. And that's ok. It's the way God made us. He knows what we're going through and ever so faithfully walks us through each challenge. We've just learned from experience that it's important to confess those feelings and release them to Lord. That's why He's promised us, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness...*" 2 Cor. 12:9.

The only option we felt we had was to let go of our home. Sell it and move in to an apartment. We told each other, "Hey, the house isn't everything, we have each other and we'll get through this." So we put the house on the market and left it in God's hands.

It's now the first week of June and Rich was notified that the Honda dealership he had been employed at for 15 years was being sold. The new owners would be keeping a few of the staff, but were basically letting all managers go. In a matter of hours, Rich was handed a final paycheck. I had already gone on medical disability, so Rich's paycheck was really our only source of income. It seemed that our world was crashing in. We needed a miraculous break through and we needed it NOW!

And then.....MIRACLE after MIRACLE!

Miracle #1: Lung surgery began on July 1st to biopsy several lymph nodes. If they found that cancer had spread, they would treat with radiation and chemotherapy. If there was no spread, surgeon would remove the portion of lung with the tumor. Thanks to the Lord, for He is good! There was no spread of cancerous cells and surgeon removed the tumor. Surgery was a success! (no radiation or chemotherapy was needed after surgery!)

Miracle #2: We had tons of lookie-loo's come in and out of the house. Prospective buyers interested in putting an offer on the house. No one actually did. We even lowered the price. We wondered if God had something to do with the reason we had no offers. (I'll get back to this point in a minute...you'll see why.)

Miracle #3: When the new owner of the dealership handed Rich his final paycheck, the previous owner was very disappointed that Rich wasn't kept on for a while longer during the transition. So he asked Rich to stay on for about a month to help him close the books. Praise the Lord! During that month, Rich was offered a job at Airport Marina Honda in Los Angeles and get this...with an increase in pay from his previous job! Rich never missed a paycheck from the last job to the new one. Woo! Hoo! Hallelujah! And with that, Miracle #2 was completed – because we took down that For Sale sign!

Miracle #4: When Rich lost his job, we lost our medical insurance. We had to purchase Cobra Insurance to avoid uninterrupted medical care for me after my surgery. We scraped up every last penny to meet the \$1100 premium. Well,

If you can believe God, you can count on His promises!

when I got home from the hospital, a couple of my co-workers came to the house with a hand full of get well cards and an envelope. In the envelope was the exact amount – to the penny – of what we had just paid to Cobra! Oh, Bless the Lord!

All I can say is, "...weeping may last through the night, but joy comes in the morning!" And if you can believe God, you can count on His promises, because they are truly free gifts of His grace – yesterday, today and forever.

I'd like to share the following passage from my devotional, "Come Away My Beloved", by Frances J. Roberts, that perfectly speaks God's promises to all who believe in Him. Please allow these words to minister to your heart from the heart of our loving Father:

I WILL BRING THE VICTORY

*Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57*

O My child, have I ever failed you? Have I ever turned My back on you or forsaken you? Have I not been your refuge and your strong defense?

I have protected you and kept you in sickness and in health. Yes, I am with you to help you now. Fear not. My purposes will be fulfilled in spite of your weaknesses, if in your need you rely on My own strength.

My will shall be done regardless of the flaws in your life, if you count on the power of My righteousness. I do not work only in cases where there are no obstacles; but I glory in overruling the prevailing circumstances, and I take pleasure in bringing victories in those places where no victory is anywhere in sight.

Count on My coming. Know that whenever faith brings Me on the scene, everything is changed. Darkness is turned to light. Grief is turned to joy. Sickness to health. Poverty to My sufficient supply. Doubt to faith. Anxiety to trust.

No negative force can occupy the same place as My Spirit. When My Spirit comes in, all these things must go. Yes, they *shall* go!

Ask for the victory. I will come and bring it. Don't look for the victory-look for Me, and you will see the victory that I will bring with Me. After I have come, you shall behold the miracles I will do.