

**May 10 Worship**  
**Mother's Day**  
**Reader-Gary Fleming**

**Announcements/Joys**

**Time Of Quiet Meditation-** *“Let your father and mother be glad, let her who bore you rejoice.”* Proverbs 23:25

**Opening Scripture-** Psalm 66:6-18(page 499)

**Opening Chorus-** 489- Come Into My Heart(2x)

**Responsive Call To Worship-**

Leader: Come and celebrate! Shout joyfully to the Lord, your God! Glorify him with your praise!

**People: Everything on earth will worship you; they will sing your praises, shouting your name in joyful songs.**

Leader: Come and see what our God has done, what awesome things he has done for us!

**People: Let the whole world bless our God and sing his praise. For our lives are in his hands, and he keeps our feet from stumbling.**

**Hymn of Praise-** 94- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**Unison Prayer/Lord's Prayer-** God of all time and space, you initiated the relationship of love and generosity with creation at a time before and beyond all knowing. Through the Word and the Spirit, you continue in eternal love for all beings. Fill us with a deep and abiding awareness of your presence, your call, and your grace in our lives and in our world. Shape us to into the people you have made us to be, poured out in creative mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ who taught us how to pray, saying...*Lord's Prayer...*

*“Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”*

**Gloria Patri-** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen, Amen.

**Old Testament Scripture-** Proverbs 31:26-31(page 576)

**Special Music-**

**Gospel Scripture-** John 14:15-21(page 939)

**Children's Time/Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace**

**Hymn-** 413- More Love To Thee, O Christ

**New Testament Scripture-** 1 Peter 3:13-22(page 1060)

### **Message**

#### *“Promises, Promises”*

How many promises have we made in our lifetimes? How many of those promises have we kept? Are promises all that important anyway? These questions and many more arise all the time and deserve consideration. The main question for consideration is the one about the importance of promises. When we make a promise, we are attempting to bring three things into our relationship with others; trust, respect and integrity. Trust is the foundation of any strong relationship, whether with friends, family, or partners. Trust leads to respect and proves that integrity is a part of your character.

The scriptures are quite clear on the subject of promises. There are many scriptures that refer to the promises of God and even more about promises made by us, not just to God but to each other. As far as God is concerned, our word is the same as a promise. If we say to someone we are going to do something, that is as good as a promise to do it. Promises can be easily broken or made with the wrong motivation, which may result in damage to ourselves or others. When making a promise, the believer should consider the following questions:

1. Is your promise made with the intention of harming someone else? Jesus declared that the second greatest commandment is to love others as ourselves. Jesus also taught that we are to forgive our enemies and not take revenge. If the promise is made with the intent to harm someone or seek revenge, it is sin.
2. Do you intend to keep the promise? Promises should not be made without a strict intention to keep them. Even something as seemingly benign as promising someone, “I’ll pray for you,” and then neglecting to pray is a broken promise.
3. Have you thought through your promise? Flippant promises can be dangerous, especially when made to God.
4. Do you have the power to carry out your promise? A promise dependent on

someone else's actions or on an unknown variable has no guarantee to be kept and therefore should be avoided. Promises like these can harm one's reputation and make the person who promised them seem untrustworthy.

There is an old saying: "A promise made is a promise kept." This is the standard of faithfulness that every believer should strive for. A Christian should make a promise only if he or she fully intends to keep it.

There are many, many promises of God in Scripture. In each promise, God pledges that something will (or will not) be done or given or come to pass. These are not flippant, casual promises such as we often make; these promises of God are rock-solid, unequivocal commitments made by God Himself. Because God is faithful, the recipients of the divine promises can have full assurance that what God has pledged will indeed be realized. Have you ever felt like life hit you so hard that you started wondering if God still remembers His promises? You pray. You wait. You trust, yet nothing seems to happen. And in those quiet moments, when you're barely holding on, doubt whispers: "Maybe God forgot." But here's the truth you need to hold on to: God never breaks a promise. Ever. His Word is as sure as the sunrise, as unshakable as His throne. If He said it, He will do it. So today, I want to remind you, heart to heart, of ten promises straight from God's Word that you can cling to no matter what season you're in. Because when you remember what He promised, faith begins to rise again.

1. God Promises to Be With You; "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

2. God Promises to Provide for Your Needs; "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

3. God Promises Peace Amid Chaos; "You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You." Isaiah 26:3

4. God Promises to Work Everything for Good; "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

5. God Promises to Forgive Your Sins; "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9

6. God Promises Strength in Weakness; "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9

7. God Promises to Guide Your Path; "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

8. God Promises to Give You Rest; "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy

laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

9. God Promises Eternal Life; “And this is the promise that He has promised us, eternal life.” 1 John 2:25

10. God Promises Never to Leave You; “For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’” Hebrews 13:5

God’s promises aren’t empty words on a page, they are living truths backed by His unchanging character. Every single one is proof that He’s faithful, even when life doesn’t make sense. If you’ve ever doubted His Word, or wondered how and when His promises will come to pass, I want to invite you to go deeper. Because it’s one thing to know His promises, but it’s another to live like you believe them.

Today being Mother's Day, what promises are there for all of us to consider? We all understand, even if we don't often admit it, that motherhood is not easy and not all mothers are perfect. There are those for whom being a mother is natural and they excel at it. There are others who do not seem to live up to our expectations and fail. No matter what, they are still mothers and deserve a certain amount of respect and honor. God is quite adamant when He tells us to “Honor your father and your mother.” He does not say if they live up to your expectation. I understand that it may be difficult for some to follow this commandment. The Bible does not say that we need to agree with or even understand how some parents can treat their children but God wants for us to honor them and, even though we may find it hard, to love them. God does not ask us to be forgiving, He commands it.

Mothers are special and we need to let them know each and every day. This being Mother's Day we all need to give thanks and praise God for our mothers. Praise Be to God. Amen.

**Prayers of the People-** God in whom we move and have our being, You know us, love us and sustain us We praise you for your goodness and thank you for your care You created the world and all that is in it, You knitted us together in our mother’s womb, You made us male and female in your image, You made each one of us unique and individual. Unique for relationship with you, unique in the talents and gifts we have to serve you. We had gone astray, lost in our sin. Like the woman who had lost her gold coin, You came looking for us. You sent your son Jesus to be one of us. He spoke of your love, healed the sick, cared for the poor, welcomed the outcast. He longed to gather us under his wings like a mother hen her chicks. He gave up his life so that we might be found in you Gracious God, today we especially thank you for mothers For their care and nurture, for love and support, wisdom and sacrificial giving. For tears and smiles, encouragement and correction. Thank you that in such love we see a reflection of you own love for us. Fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit that we may know your great love and truth. Anoint us

with your spirit's power that we may witness to you and serve you and love your people and world. To the glory of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Closing Hymn-** 574- O Perfect Love

**Benediction-** May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us: may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us: may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us. May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.