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INTRODUCTION

God keeps his promises. You've heard it; in fact, you've probably even said it a few times. But how well do you know it? God's intention is for this great truth to be so foundational in your heart that you confidently live life resting in his faithfulness.

God can be trusted. Discover his promises in new ways this year and deepen your understanding of his faithfulness.

Deep in your hearts you know that every promise of the Lord your God has come true. Not a single one has failed! *Joshua 23:14, NLT*



*J*anuary

The Promise of New Beginnings

Great is his faithfulness!

Morning by morning he wakens me and opens my understanding to his will.

Isaiah 50:4, NLT

January 1

Happy New Year

This very first day
Of the fresh new year
I sing a new song—
A joyful, exalted song!
With Israel's sweet singer I exclaim:
"How good it is to sing God's praise
How delightful and how right."
The volume increases
The tempo accelerates.
With glorious anticipation
I shout a rousing welcome
To the up-and-coming days.
The future cannot daunt me
Every inscrutable mystery
Becomes a consolation of joy
For with You in control, dear God
The worst may happen
But the best is yet to come.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, I tell myself. I will praise the Lord as long as I live. I will sing praises to my God even with my dying breath.

Psalm 146:1-2, NLT

January 2



His Part—My Part

Lord

You want me to trust You so totally

That I am unmoved by any circumstance:

Then work in me that steadfast trust.

You want me to choose to do right:

Then turn me from wanting any plan but Yours.

You want me to revere and honor You:

Then refresh and revive me.

You want me to obey You uninterruptedly:

Then make Your Word my guide.

You want me to depend upon You increasingly:

Then reassure me that Your promises are mine.

You want Your will to be my will:

Then help me to love Your every wish.

I expect Your help, dear Lord

For You've never broken a single promise

And You're not going to start with me.

Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.

Psalm 119:133, NIV

January 3

To the New Year

Mysterious New Year
So wrapped in reserve and surprise
You have no reason to feel smug
Or even condescending.
After all, the majestic God
Has full knowledge of you
Just as He has of me.
There is not an issue that you can evade.
Furthermore, you are powerless
To do anything to me
That God does not permit.
All He allows in His infinite wisdom
Is for my ultimate good
And His greatest glory.
Consequently, New Year
You cannot trick or disillusion me
By your baffling unexplainables
Or your feverish activity.
My times are in the hands
Of my sovereign God
Whose power is limitless
And whose love for me is everlasting.

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the wonderful future he has promised to those he called. I want you to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance he has given to his people.

Ephesians 1:18, NLT

January 4

The Promise

God, on a long, lonely Saturday
Just before New Year's Day
You spoke so clearly through Your Word:
"Your days of mourning all will end.
You will live in joy and peace."
O God, what a glorious promise
As we begin a brand new year!
Again You said:
"Always be expecting much
From Him, your God."
I trust You implicitly, my Lord
For Your "much" exceeds by far
My greatest comprehension of much.
Surely You have planned a beautiful surprise!
I open my heart wide to receive it.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11, NIV

January 5

January

It's January, Lord—

The drab, dreary middle—

And my thoughts are as drab

As the miserable month.

Does everybody hit a January slump

Or am I the only one?

The first week wasn't too bad:

There were Christmas thank-yous to write

A few resolutions to store away

The huddle of year-end sales.

But thank-you notes bring no returns

And resolutions are quickly broken

And marked-down trinkets fast lose appeal.

When You said

Behold, I make all things new

Did You forget January, Lord?

Or in January do *I* sometimes forget You?

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1, NIV

January 6

Insight

While I was “praying,” Lord
Demanding this
Insisting on that
You pierced me
With lightning-swift insight.

My bitter complaints
My self-centered whims
Do not constitute prayer
Just because they begin
“Dear God.”

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Matthew 6:10, NIV

January 7

Another Year

Another new year! How did it steal in so silently? How did it arrive so quickly? So many things I determined to do in January of last year are still completely undone. So many notes and letters still unwritten. Friends I planned to entertain were never invited. The books I planned to read haven't been opened.

The cupboards and drawers I hoped to clean are still cluttered with things I don't need or use. Clothes I no longer wear still crowd my closet. I planned to have coffee with our neighbors, but often I managed no more than a quick wave between errands.

If only I could have held on to the old year a little longer! But the old year is gone. I must put it away with all its failures and broken resolves. There is no way I can reclaim even one week of last year.

I see that the road to good intentions is wide and circular. I've walked around it until I am utterly exhausted. I confess my failures, my procrastination. I know God, in his graciousness, will forgive me. I have one more request. I pray for God's power to keep my forgiveness up-to-date.

Let me hear of your unfailing love to me in the morning, for I am trusting you. Show me where to walk, for I have come to you in prayer.

Psalm 145:8, NLT