## God's Promises

"In the beginning was the Word . . . and the Word was God." Like Moses at the burning bush, we're on Holy Sod; the Holy Spirit, third Person of the Trinity, shared this fact, Jesus, fully God - fully man was He.

John further said that "The Word became flesh" and you know it was in a manger filled with hay, shepherds said so; for they too were told by a heavenly host, "He is here! the Messiah, the Promised One, God's own Son so dear.

The long awaited hour had come; Jesus had been born; entering a sinful world where many felt forlorn. Ever since the Garden sin, when Satan claimed a round; suffering and pain and strife seemed ever to abound.

God created a perfect world; told us all was good. But Satan sought to mar God's plan - marching 'round the hood. Calling God a liar, he tempted Adam and Eve. Then we know that sinful man was hiding behind leaves.

But we all know that leaves and works cannot hide our sin; a sacrifice of blood alone can cleanse our souls within. so God sent His Perfect Lamb, Jesus, to Calvary, to pay the debt in full we owe, to save you and me.

So on an old rugged cross Christ bled and died, you see to give us life, rich and full, now and eternally. What we could not pay, He paid, with His own precious blood; And offered it, free and clear; it was His gift of love.

God had promised Christ would come, our sinful souls to save, And in Bethlehem His journey here, led to the grave. Satan danced with joy no doubt expecting victory, but on the third day, the stone rolled away - grave empty.

God keeps His promises, never does He come up short. He never has to change His mind nor His will abort. For before the very first word of creation was spoken, He knew we'd sin and His perfect world would be broken.

But still He made us and promised us His awesome love; and sent the only Hope we'd have from heaven above. Jesus came and lived and died and rose again for me. I pray you know this basic truth gives us liberty.

But God above with heart of love has a plan for us. He promised to be with us, fully knowing that we'd fuss. "I can't, I don't know how," are some excuses we make; "It's too hard, get someone else. Come on, give me a break.

Perhaps it's God who needs the break from our constant whine. Do we honestly think that we have the greater mind? If He says, and indeed He does, that He has a plan, we must believe it is the best and He knows we can.

Not in our own strength. Of course, we would expect to fail. But God has promised to be there when our ship sets sail. In harbors safe or storm tossed seas we should have no fear. God, our Captain, will provide the necessary gear.

The fact is, we don't know just what the future holds; what we face may be light or require us to be bold. Tragedy and grief may await just beyond the bend. But come what may, God will remain with us through the end.

In verse twenty of Matthew's chapter twenty eight, He says, "I will be with you always," and never be too late. We can depend on God to know just what we will need. Then His help and provision allows us to succeed.

My heart is filled with wonder, my mind is blown away. Why would Jesus love me so and care for me each day? I know I'm not worthy of His tender love and care, but I've found, that where I am, my Lord is also there.

Not one thing that I truly need have I ever lacked; when I seek to do His will, He always has my back. It's not because I deserve the blessings He bestows, He gave His Word and I confess that He always knows

what's best for me, beyond doubt, He will supply my need. He'll talk to me and walk with me, be my Friend indeed. I need not fear what lies ahead, Jesus knows the way And He'll guide me safely if I listen and obey.

So friends, I pray that you agree; walk in faith each day. Trust the Lord with every step; just read His Word and pray. It's only sin that blocks our prayers; repent each new day and you will find forgiveness and wisdom for the way.

He never will forsake you; on Him you can depend. His strength and love will aid you wherever He may send you as His ambassador so other souls can know His perfect will and saving grace; He'll bless you as you go.

God will keep His promises; He'll never let you down. He'll keep His Word, so never fear wherever you are bound; Up the street, the house next door, around the world in prayer; as you go, I promise you, that He's already there.

Worry, fear and doubt are words that we should never use. God has a plan; He knows what's best, how can we refuse to follow Him and trust Him, no matter what the case? He gives us peace; We can trust in His amazing grace.

So promises, promises, they're made to keep you know and God will keep His Word to you, just trust Him as you go about your daily work or play, at home or in the hood. God will keep His promises and they're always for your good.

So put your faith and trust in Him and serve Him as your Lord. And read the Bible every day; it's God's inerrant Word. Read and study, watch and pray and know you can rely on God to keep His promises for He will never lie.

Promises, promises, are never meant to be broken.

And God alone can claim the prize for truth always spoken.

He'll save your soul and bless your life and be your faithful Friend.

So trust in Him and never fear because He knows what's around the next bend.

- James T. Lochridge, Jr.