



The Extravagant Promises Of God

4 Studies
for Individuals, Groups or 1:1



**TRINITY
MOUNT BARKER**
A TRINITY NETWORK CHURCH

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Welcome to the **Extravagant Promises of God**

This brief series of studies is designed to accompany the teaching series during July/August 2014.

During this short series we are reflecting on some of the great promises of God. The Bible is full of promises from God and some of these may easily roll off our tongues; so our teaching series seeks to put four of these promises into their context in order to better understand the essential truths they convey. If we misunderstand God's promises, we invariably find ourselves disappointed when we believe God has failed to keep His word. But the Bible clearly demonstrates God's character is that He always keeps His promises because He is truthful, faithful, unchanging and loving — so we know that we can trust Him completely.

Bible Study Groups normally explore a study in the week leading up to the sermon. Our purpose in adopting this approach is to encourage the study of Scripture that is not influenced by having already heard the sermon, and allows groups and individuals to independently 'wrestle with the Bible' in each of the studies.

These studies can also be used for private study or undertaken with a friend, but we encourage you to join a Bible Study Group to gain the benefit of group learning that promotes our growing toward maturity in Christ. If you are doing these studies individually, we encourage you to let someone know, and arrange a time to meet with them to tell them how God's Word is changing your life.

Before starting a study, it is always a good idea to surround your time looking into God's Word with prayer, asking God to

change your heart and life so that you — with God’s people — might become more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2 Peter 1:3-4

Recommended Resources

The Letter of James by Douglas Moo

Hebrews - The Majestic Son by Peter Adam

Beyond Greed by Brian Rosner

Romans – Encountering the Gospel’s Power by John Stott

Philippians by Lynn H. Cohick

Also check out - <https://bible.org/>

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you **James 4:1-10 [James 4:8]**

17th century Jewish philosopher Spinoza once said, *'I have often wondered that persons who make boast of professing the Christian religion — namely love, joy, peace, temperance and charity to all men — should quarrel with such rancorous animosity and display towards one another such bitter hatred, that this, rather than the virtues which they profess, is the readiest criteria of their faith'.*

1. What do you think was the main problem being faced among the Christian community from this passage? [look at the transition from James 3:18 to James 4:1-2]
2. Have you ever been involved in or witnessed a church fight? What was it over? What caused it? What were the outcomes?
3. Which group of people is James addressing in this passage? How do you know?

4. What commands are given in James 4:8? How might they relate to James 4:7? [see Romans 8:5-10; 1 Peter 2:11; 1 Peter 5:5-9]

5. Christians have God's Spirit dwelling in them, so how can we come near to God? [see Leviticus 21: 21-23; Isaiah 29:13; Isaiah 58:2; Hebrews 7:18-19]

6. In what ways does James' command for people to wash their hands and purify their hearts reflect the Old Testament idea of purity? [see Numbers 31:23; 2 Chronicles 29:15; Isaiah 66:17; Psalm 24:3-4]

7. Why does the promise of coming near to God not apply to unbelievers but only to the restoration to Christian fellowship?

8. In what areas of your life do you find it difficult to submit to God? What are some signs that you are submitting yourself to God?

9. Share a time when you felt the presence of God near you and how that helped you through a time in your life.

Never will I leave you

Hebrews 13:1-25 [Hebrews 13:5]

In the book 'Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic', the authors identify the disease of affluenza as '*... a painful, contagious, socially transmitted condition of overload, debt, anxiety, and waste, resulting from the dogged pursuit of more.* Noting the social consequence of hyper-consumerism the book quotes German philosopher Karl Marx who once wrote that the '*... devaluation of the human world increases in direct relation to the increase in value of the world of things*'.
Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts 1844

1. English clergyman Thomas Fuller once said, '*If you run after two hares, you will catch neither*'. If the focus of Hebrews 13:5 is **not** about Christian confidence, what is its focus?

2. Complete the sentence — the antidote to the love of money is ...

3. How does the love of money not only demonstrate (spiritual) idolatry, but also dissatisfaction with God? [see

Matthew 6:24; Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 16:14; 1 Timothy 6:10]

4. In his book 'The Pursuit of God', AW Tozer said that '*The man who has God for his treasure has all things in One*'. How can a Christian believer know when 'enough is enough' with regard to our level of affluence?
5. '*I had no shoes and complained until I met a man who had no feet*'. What does this quote tell us about our perspective on contentment?
6. Charles Spurgeon once said '*I've been in a lot of testimony meetings, and I've heard a lot of people share how they've sinned, and I've had people come to me and make confession of sin. But in all my life I've never had one person confess the*

sin of covetousness to me'. Considering Hebrews 13:5 in the light of the rest of this letter, how important is it that our behaviour as Christians should reflect the doctrines we believe in?

7. When do we tend to think that God has left us? Did He leave us when Jesus left? Is God always with us? How do we know we can trust Him not to abandon us? [see Genesis 28:15; Deuteronomy 31:6-8; Joshua 1:5; Psalm 22:1; Psalm 118:6; Mark 15:34; Acts 2:27; Hebrews 13:16]

All things work together for good

Romans 8:18-30 [Romans 8:28]

'We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer'.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison

1. What do you think will be the biggest difference between life in this present age / world and the one to come?
2. *'God doesn't want anyone to suffer'*. Agree or disagree?
3. What do you find most distressing about the suffering you observe and experience in our world?
4. Is suffering is an essential part of being a Christian in this world. Why? Why not?

5. In Romans 8:28:

a. What does 'all things' relate to?

b. How is God at work in a 'groaning' world? [see Romans 8:19, 22, 23, 26]

c. Who is God working for the good of?

d. What is the 'good'? Has God always been doing 'good'?

e. How does God call people? What purpose does God have in calling people?

6. What should we pray for when someone is going through suffering?

7. How would you respond to someone who said that God wants everyone to be healed of their diseases and afflictions now?

8. What does this passage teach us about God's plans for our world?

My God will meet all your needs

Philippians 4:10-20 [Philippians 4:19]

'There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, "All right, then, have it your way'.

C.S. Lewis

1. When do you find it easy to rejoice? When do you find it hard?
2. What had Paul learned by experience in Philippians 4:10-13? What difference had it made to his ministry?
3. What is the secret of Paul's contentment he mentions in Philippians 4:12?
4. Who can we rely on to meet our needs? What are our needs?

5. What do we need to do for God to meet our needs? Do we sit and wait for God or do we put effort in ourselves?

6. How is it possible to have joy even in terrible circumstances? Is this realistic?

Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen.
Martin Luther