

Understanding God's Promises

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June 13-14, 2015

How Does God Keep His Promises?

First, through THE **INTERVENTION** OF GOD

Intervention = God reaches down into a difficult situation and lifts us out of the situation, or reaches down and changes that situation.

. . . "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." Exodus 14:13-14 (English Standard Version)

Second, through THE **INTERACTION** OF GOD

Interaction = God works within us to enable us to do what we never thought we could do.

"Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, . . ." Exodus 3:7 (ESV)

". . .and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites."
Exodus 3:8 (ESV)

Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." Exodus 3:10 (ESV)

For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.
Colossians 1:29 (ESV)

Third, through THE INNER ACTION OF GOD

The inner action = God leaves us where we are and does a beautiful work in our lives and through our lives.

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me . . . 2 Corinthians 12:7-8 (ESV)

. . . For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. 2 Corinthians 1:8b-9 (ESV)

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. ¹³As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. Philippians 1:12-14 (New International Version)

. . . ^{31b}But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)

The Take-Home Truth: God keeps His promises according to His own purposes and according to our deepest needs.