

Acts 22:30-24:27

Standing on the Promises of God

We have seen in our study in the book of Acts that Paul finally makes it to Jerusalem.

A) He is eager to speak to his Jewish Brethren about Jesus, but -

B) things start to go south - when false rumors arise

That Paul has taken gentiles into the temple, -
1) which means he has profaned the temple. -

C) A riot ensues - the ppl are out for blood - Paul's blood -

D) Paul gets rescued by a Roman Commander and his troops from this violent mob -

1) who was trying to beat him to a pulp.

Then Paul asked if he could speak to the mob. He is granted permission - Paul is sharing his testimony.

A) Things are going well - until he mentions - Jesus sent him to the Gentiles and hell breaks loose again.

B) The Roman Commander - finds out Paul is a Roman Citizen -

1) which means Paul should get Due Process

C) So he arranges for Paul to have an audience with the Jewish Sanhedrin - ruling council - of 70 Elders

1) That is where we pick up the story C.22:30 Ch.22:30

30 The next day, because he wanted to know for certain why he was accused by the Jews, he released him from his bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down and set him before them.

Now it is the next day but Paul has the same problem - there are Jewish leaders who want to see him dead.

A) There are certain sayings in our culture - that you don't want to hear when you have had a bad day -

B) When you have had a bad day - you don't want to hear from someone **better luck next time** -

1) Doesn't help!!

C) Or tomorrow is a new day - Yes it is but tomorrow when I wake up I the problems I had yesterday -

1) still be there

I lived through this experience about a week and half ago.

A) It Started on Jan 24 - - Thursday afternoon - Pilot lite goes out - no hot water

B) My wife's sister was coming into town on Saturday for a quick visit

1) I have to get this fixed

C) Now I have one of those water heaters - control panel - flashing lights - Flashes blue - good -

1) Red problem

The number of Red flashes indicates the problem - Mine was flashing 2 red lights -

A) indicating - problem with the Thermo Pile voltage

B) I have no idea what that means - I Called Rheem because it is still under warranty - their service is horrible -

1) I wait on hold for 30min - **lousy music** - finally talk to a person -

C) You have to talk to this department - wait on hold another 25 minutes - 55 minutes have gone by

D) Finally a person tells me - yes it is under warranty

E) BUT you have to get a technician to come and verify that is indeed the problem

1) But the light is blinking in conjunction with the what you have on the control panel - sorry

By now it is 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

A) I call - 10 plumbers - I finally find one who works on water heaters -

B) But he can't come until tomorrow - It will cost \$85 to diagnosis the problem

C) Friday morning my day off - plumber shows up - Took him 5 minutes -

1)He says order the part - I can replace it for you for \$200 - or install a new one for \$1600

D)My New Day is turning into a Night mare!

I call RHEEM - wait on hold another 40 minutes- more lousy music

A)I order the part - they tell me -

B)We actually don't have the part - so we are going to send you a whole new Burner assembly

1)\$450 part for Free - ok - good - I pay \$30 to expedite it - but probably not until Monday

C)So we are going to have to go to my mom's house to take showers.

1)Last Sunday - sneaking into my mom's house at 6:30am to shower before church

In the meantime I Watched some YouTube videos- on how to install a burner assembly not hard - save \$200

A)Plus when I do a project like this on my own - my wife is so proud of me - speaking her love language

B)After church on Sunday - I dismantle the old one so I am ready to install the new one when it arrives

C)Things are starting to look up -

1)although I am detecting a little bit of doubt in Denise's voice that I can pull this off

D)Are you sure..... I assure her -this is going to be easy- I got this

E)Hopeful- Monday morning will be a new day - a brighter day - Hot water back to the Salvato home

Monday morning I am studying at home which is my usual Monday routine - the part arrives at 11:10 am

A)I have a phone appointment with a pastor in Michigan at noon -he needs some advice -

B I think got this no problem - 30 minutes max

1)Take it out of the box - the new Burner assembly doesn't look like the old one -

C)Slightly different - Pilot light is in a different place

D)I'd better do some research - before I install it.

1)My research - reveals - same part # - this must just be the new model

But Now it is closer to noon - The Pastor from Michigan is calling me

A)We have a nice talk for about an hour - I was able to help him

B)Ok - lets do this: I install the new burner assembly - the Pilot light lights up - Ignition!!!!

1) thank you Jesus

C)But then it goes out - Happens 3-4 times -

I must have done something wrong -So I cancel all my afternoon appointments -

A)Denise is gone - I have to get this done before she gets home - my manhood is at stake

B)So I take it out - check everything and put it back in - same thing happens -

1)Pilot lights but will not stay lit

C)I Spend another hour trouble shooting - reading/ watching more YouTube -

1)what does it mean when your pilot lite won't stay lit.

D)I call a friend of mine to get his advice - Did you do it right? Yes - checked it twice

E)He calls his plumbing buddy - sounds like the new part is defective

1)UGH - My new day is turning into another night mare

By Now it is too late to call Rheem - they are in Alabama

A)Denise - comes home with our grandson who is spending the night and really needs a bath -

B)she is disappointed/ I am frustrated -

C)Back to my mom's house for a Shower and a bath for Josiah

D)But hey tomorrow is a new day - but the same problem. - No hot water

Tuesday morning I am on the phone at 7am with Rheem - 2hrs ahead - call right when they open

A) This time I only wait on hold for 15 minutes - still lousy music

B) I talk to this lady explain the problem - and she actually seems to know what she is talking about
1) Your gas control Valve is bad -

C) I am going to send you a new one - free expedite it free - you should have it by tomorrow.

D) Wednesday the Gas Control Valve arrives - that afternoon - installed - hot shower b4 church

My point don't tell me tomorrow is a new Day - when I am waking up to the same problems

A) Not unless you can make a promise to me that my problem will be taken care of

B) For Paul it was the next day - but the same problem -
1) he is waking up to a group of people who want to kill him

C) And now he is appearing before this Jewish Council - that could make it happen

1) The Sanhedrin was this ruling council - that Rome had given the right to judge religious matters

D) One of the rights Rome had given them was to issue a death sentence to anyone who profaned their temple or religion.

E) Recall - Back in Acts 7 Paul was a part of this council - before he became a follower of Jesus -
1) He consented to the death of Stephen

Well now over 20 yrs have past and Paul is on the hot seat -

A) And the only thing that is saving him is his Roman Citizen

B) Paul was born in Tarsus in the Roman Province of Cilicia - which made him a Roman citizen by birth

C) So this Roman Commander is going to assure that Paul gets a fair trial.

D) But In the midst of this ordeal - things will go from Bad to worse -

But we will see in our text today that Jesus is going to Show up and make a promise to Paul

A) A promise that changes everything

B) This Promise is going to carry Paul all the way to Rome -

1) it is going to carry him through - these court hearings

C) Through death threats - through a shipwreck - snake bite

D) Because of this promise - Paul is going to move with a confidence and a hope

1) through the remainder of the book of Acts

E) This is the moment that Changes everything for Paul -

1) it is the moment that he can keep looking back to - Even as things go from Bad to worse

Application for us today - Jesus makes promises to us -

A) That are meant to carry us through any difficulty we might face.

B) We will learn from Paul's story today - 4 principles about the promises of God

#1 God's promises are greater than the schemes of the enemy

#2 When we are standing on the promises of God - God will make a way where there is no way.

#3 When we are standing on the promises of God we can fulfill our mission and purpose with confidence.

#4 When we are standing on the promises of God there can often be a delay in the promises coming to fulfillment. Ch.23

Ch.23:1 Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

A) Now this is an interesting statement made by Paul - I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

B) "Conscience" is one of Paul's favorite words; he used it twenty-one times in his letters.

C)The word means “to know with, to know together.”

1)Conscience is the inner “judge” or “witness” that approves when we do right and disapproves when we do wrong

D)Your Conscience does not *set* the standard; it only *applies* it

Your Conscience may be compared to a window that lets in the light.

A)God’s Word is the light; and the cleaner the window is, the more the light shines in.

B)As the window gets dirty, the light gets dimmer; and finally the light becomes darkness.

C)Now Paul prior to his conversion had persecuted the church and had **even caused innocent Christians to be killed**

1)so how could he claim to have a good conscience?

Hebrews 9:14 - The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses our conscience from Dead Works - so that we can serve the Living God.

A)Paul knew his conscience had been cleansed by Jesus

B)and he was NOW seeking to live for Jesus and follow Jesus with all of this heart

C)Beautiful to have a cleansed Conscience - doesn’t mean we don’t sin -

1)but we know that when we sin the blood of Jesus still - cleanses us 1 John 1:9

Remember on the Cross - they didn’t break Jesus legs - Not a bone broken -

A)blood produced in the bone marrow -

B)Symbolic meaning and picture there is a perpetual flow of blood to cleanse us - Communion today

C)So Paul says I have lived with a pure conscience - because he knows that Jesus has cleansed him

1)And since his conversion - he has been trying to live a life that would bring Jesus glory

Well the high priest didn’t like Paul’s answer-

2 And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. 3 Then Paul said to him, “God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?”

A white washed wall - was a tombstone or grave marker -

A)Jesus used this same term in describing the religious leaders

B)White washed tomb - full of dead men’s bones -

C)You go to the cemetery and see - Grave marker in the ground -

Funny tombstones -

A)Here lies John Yeast - pardon me for not rising

B)I really made some good deals and some bad deals but I really went in the hole with this one.

C)One lady who lived to be 83 yrs old - Had engraved on her tombstone - **“The Doctors said I wouldn’t live past my teen years”**

This one is a favorite

Pause, stranger, when you pass me by: As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so you will be. So prepare for death and follow me.

A stranger passing by saw it and added these words: **To follow you I'm not content, Until I know which way you went.**

But you can have a nice marker stone or marble - but underneath it is a dead person

It looks good on the top - but there is death inside.

A)By calling this guy a white washed wall or tombstone -

B)Equivalent of saying you are a Hypocrite - good on the outside - rotten on the inside

4 And those who stood by said, “Do you revile God’s high priest?”

5 Then Paul said, **“I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’ ”**

He is not acting like a high priest

When Jesus was alive he told his disciples two things about when they were facing opposition -

A) Be wise and serpents {shrewd, cunning,} and harmless as a dove - respectful not vengeful

B) And don't worry about what they will answer the Holy Spirit will give you the words to say.

C) Both of those things come into play the way that Paul handles this situation

D) We see his respectfulness in his apology to the High Priest -

1) and in the fact he called these men his brothers several times

E) We see his cunningness in what happens next V.6

6 But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!"

7 And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided. 8 For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection—and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both.

See the Sanhedrin was divided theologically - the Sadducees didn't believe in the Super natural - no angels - miracles or Resurrection -

A) Why they were Sad -U- See

B) The Pharisees did believe in those things -

Paul says - I am here because I believe in the Hope of the Resurrection - suddenly the group is in an uproar again -

A) Not that the Pharisees liked Paul - to them he had defected from their sect in joining Jesus

B) But they were not about to concede to the Sadducees theologically

9 Then there arose a loud outcry. And the scribes of the Pharisees' party arose and protested, saying, "We find no evil in this man; but if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God."

10 Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down

and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks.

11 But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, other translations - take courage -

A) Why did the Lord tell Paul to take courage - probably because he was discouraged

B) Paul had been so looking forward to coming to Jerusalem during Pentecost

1) to preach Jesus to his countrymen the Jews -

C) He finally gets his opportunity - He is sharing his testimony

1) and this crowd of people are listening intently - until

D) He mentions that Jesus had sent him to preach to the Gentiles

1) At that moment all hell breaks loose - the people are ready to kill Paul

Paul is in the barracks that night - probably beating himself up

A) I am such a failure - I can't do anything right - why did I mention the gentiles -

B) I can't believe I called the High priest a white washed tomb - what is wrong with me -

1) HE IS DISCOURAGED

C) That is when Jesus shows up - Be of Good Cheer Paul - take courage - don't be discouraged

for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem,

A) Did you catch that - Jesus said Paul I saw what you did - you didn't blow it -

B) you did what I wanted you to do - You testified for me in Jerusalem -

C) Jesus isn't joining in Paul's why questions

1) Jesus isn't Paul yea - Paul good question - why did you have to mention the gentiles -

2) why did you call the high priest a

D) No Jesus is Paul - you did your Job - You testified for me here - I am proud of You

Guys we must learn the difference between conviction and condemnation

A)We are told in Romans 8:1 there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

B)Jesus doesn't condemn us - But Satan does - You are a failure - the voice of condemnation always pushes you away -

C)The Holy Spirit convicts - that is the voice that draws you near

So Jesus has no Condemnation for Paul - whatsoever - actually the opposite - Commendation -for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem,

A)That commendation is followed by this promise so you must also bear witness at Rome."

B)Paul be of good cheer - take courage - you are going to Rome -

C)Paul had this burning desire to go to Rome to preach the gospel

1)All expense paid trip - Courtesy of the Roman GOVT. - He isn't going as a tourist but as a prisoner

D)But this is the only assurance Paul needs - his whole mindset changes - for the rest of the story

E)He is seen moving with an assurance and a confidence - Jesus said I am going to Rome - I am going to make it to Rome

Listen Church - The Lord has made many promises to us who are followers of Jesus.

A)Paul wrote this about those promises in 2 Corinthians 1:20 -

²⁰ For every one of God's promises is "Yes" in him (in JESUS- Yes means they are certain - bank on them deposited into your heart - Withdraw from when needed) -

²⁰ For every one of God's promises is "Yes" in him Therefore, through him we also say "Amen" to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 1:20 CSB

We are going to quickly move through the rest of this part of Paul's story

A)And see how this promise of Jesus gave Paul great confidence

B))#1 The Promises of God are greater than the schemes of the enemy

12 And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. 13 Now there were more than forty who had formed this conspiracy. 14 They came to the **chief priests and elders, cahoots with,** and said, "We have bound ourselves under a great oath that we will eat nothing until we have killed Paul. 15 Now you, therefore, **together with the council,** suggest to the commander that he be brought down to you tomorrow, as though you were going to make further inquiries concerning him; but we are ready to kill him before he comes near."

C)Here is the plot of the enemy - 40 men who have taken a vow to not eat or drink until Paul is dead - 1)lying in wait to ambush

Watch what God does -

16 So when Paul's sister's son heard of their ambush, he went and entered the barracks and told Paul. **not sure how he heard how Paul's nephew maybe his dad was part of the Sanhedrin - He goes to warn Paul**

17 Then Paul called one of the centurions to him and said, "Take this young man to the commander, for he has something to tell him." 18 So he took him and brought him to the commander and said, "**Paul the prisoner called me to him and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to say to you.**"

19 Then the commander took him by the hand, went aside, and asked privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?"

20 And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask that you bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire more fully about him. 21 **But do not yield to them,** for more than forty of them lie in wait for him, men who have bound themselves by an oath that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him; and now they are ready, waiting for the promise from you."

22 So the commander let the young man depart, and commanded him, "Tell no one that you have revealed these things to me."

23 And he called for two centurions, saying, "Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at the third hour of the night; 24 and provide mounts to set Paul on, and bring him safely to Felix the governor."

Now this is amazing - this Roman Commander puts together an escort that is fit for a King

A)270 Horse men - 200 spearmen - 470 Romans trained soldiers - to go against 40 Jewish mercenaries

B)You got to love it - right - Imagine those 40 mercenaries lying in wait

C)They Hear the horses coming - that sound like a lot more guys than we were thinking - 470

The Bible is full of stories of how God protected his people Israel Supernaturally

A)When the Syrians had the city of Samaria surrounded - no food could get into the city - famine

B)The Syrians were prepared to wait it out until the people of Israel surrendered

C)God sent ONE ANGEL - that night killed 185k - Syrians -

Or the time when another army was after Elijah the prophet -

A)They surrounded the city where he was staying - but they were not moving in to take him

B)Elijah's servant was freaking out- look at that army that is out to get you -

1)but why aren't they advancing ?

Open his eyes - Angelic Army

C)So there are times when God moves supernaturally to the rescue

D)This time he moves supernaturally in a natural way - A young man tells of the plot

1)And the Roman Commander - goes overboard to secure Paul's safe Passage

We learn that God's promises FOR US are greater than the schemes of the enemy AGAINST US.

A)What about when Christians get martyred? Where was God when that happened?

B)Right there - Shadrach... Abednego - Jesus was there in the furnace of fire

C)Our God will deliver us - One way or another He knows the # of our days -

D)that doesn't mean that we live recklessly -

1))But it means we don't need to fear - riding airplane. - or standing for Jesus

Jesus stands with us in the fire - Jesus is with us in the storms -

A)Jesus made a promise to Paul - you are going to testify for me in Rome -

B)SO Paul is not afraid of the threats

C)God's Promises are greater than the schemes of the enemy.

#2 When we are standing on the promises of God - God will make a way where there is no way

25 He The Roman Commander wrote a letter in the following manner:

26 From Claudius Lysias,

To the most excellent governor Felix: Greetings.

27 This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them. Coming with the troops I rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman. 28 And when I wanted to know the reason they accused him, I brought him before their council.

29 I found out that he was accused concerning questions of their law, but had nothing charged against him **deserving of death or chains**. 30 And when it was told me that the Jews lay in wait for the man, I sent him immediately to you, and also commanded his accusers to state before you the charges against him.

Farewell.

31 Then the soldiers, as they were commanded, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. 32 The next day they left the horsemen to go on with him, and returned to the barracks. 33 When they came to Caesarea and had delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him

34 And when the governor had read it, he asked what province he was from. And when he understood that he was from Cilicia, 35 he said, "I will hear you

when your accusers also have come.” And he commanded him to be kept in Herod’s Praetorium. This was a beautiful Palace right on the beach.

Paul’s first step toward Rome is going to be an audience with the Governor -

A)Acts 9 - Paul you will testify of me - Rulers and Kings -

B)This is the fulfillment of that - Promise - 20 yrs later –

C)And Before it is all through Paul is going to testify before 2 Governors a King

1)and eventually the emperor Nero himself

The Governor Felix is ruling from the Beautiful Coastal city of Caesarea

Ch.24

24 Now after five days Ananias the high priest came down with the elders and a certain orator named Tertullus. **their Lawyer - Tertullus presents the accusations - Paul profaned the temple - arrested by them - V.7**

These gave evidence to the governor against Paul. 2 And when he was called upon, Tertullus began his accusation, saying: “Seeing that through you we enjoy great peace, and prosperity is being brought to this nation by your foresight, 3 we accept it always and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness. 4 Nevertheless, not to be tedious to you any further, I beg you to hear, by your courtesy, a few words from us. 5 For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. 6 He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law.

7 But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took him out of our hands, 8 commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself you may ascertain all these things of which we accuse him.” 9 And the Jews also assented, maintaining that these things were so.

Felix gives Paul an opportunity to respond
#3 When we are standing on the promises of God we can fulfill our mission and purpose with confidence.

10 Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered: “Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself, 11 because you may ascertain that it is no more than **twelve days** since I went up to Jerusalem to worship. 12 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone nor inciting the crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city. 13 Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me. **No proof of any of these accusations - but I will tell you what the real issue is**

14 But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets. 15 I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will **be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.**

16 This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

17 “Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation, 18 in the midst of which some Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with a mob nor with tumult. 19 They ought to have been here before you to object if they had anything against me. 20 Or else let those who are here themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council, 21 unless it is for this one statement which I cried out, standing among them, **‘Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day.’ ”**

Paul is standing on the Promise that Jesus made to him -

A)And so he speaks with great confidence in this circumstance

B)I wonder if Paul in this moment was remembering what Jesus said about him 20yrs before -

1)Testify to Kings and rulers

C)What happens next I fascinating -

22 But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of the Way **He has heard about Jesus**, he adjourned the proceedings and said, “When Lysias the commander comes down, **I will make a decision on your case.**”

23 So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him. - **GRACE**

24 And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul- **private screening** and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." 26 Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him. **how amazing is this - Paul is getting all these private moments to talk about Jesus with the Governor**

I cannot tell you what God is doing in your circumstances.

A)I cannot see the future any more than you can. But **God is doing something in your circumstances.**

B)And if you are going through dark times, as Paul was, if you are discouraged, if the way seems dark,

1)if you are weary with the struggle,

C)the message of this chapter is to **STAND** on the promise of God and continue to trust in God

1)and serve him regardless of the circumstances

D)His Promises to you are true and his purposes for you will be accomplished, - trust him

#4 When we are standing on the promises of God there can often be a delay in the promises coming to fulfillment.

27 But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.

A)Two years pass - God's delays are not denials

B)Paul grabbed a hold of this promise of Jesus and it literally carried him through the next several years

Application for us today:

²⁰ For every one of God's promises is "Yes" in him. Therefore, through him we also say "Amen" to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 1:20 CSB

A)How many promises are there - God has made to believers ? Over 3000 -

B)All yes and Amen in Christ - You are in Jesus

C)Follow in Paul's example and be Promise believers -

1)Grab a hold of the promise of God today.

D)Quickly give you 12 promises to grab a hold of today

Promises that God has made to us that are yes and amen in Christ

- **Promise of Eternal life to those who believe** -John 3:16
- **Promise of forgiveness of sins to those who confess** -1 John1:9
- **Promise of Heaven** John -14:1-3
- **Promise of peace of mind for those who trust in Him** - Isaiah 26:3
- **Promise of Direction** - Psalm 32:8
- **Promise of Wisdom for those who ask** - James 1:5
- **Promise that he will complete the good work he has begun in us** - Philippians 1:6
- **Promise of a future and a hope** - Jeremiah 29:11
- **Promise that he will take care of our needs** - Philippians 4:19
- **Promise of his presence in the deep waters** - Isaiah 43:2
- **Promise of power in times of weakness** - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
- **Promise of renewed strength to those who wait on Him** - Isaiah 40:31