

# 18 JOSHUA 21 PROMISE KEEPER

God promises that he is enough for us.

### **Outline**

We Need God's Help (21:1-42)

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Powerful to Give You Rest

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Powerful to Give You Victory

3. **GOD IS FAITHFUL** (21:45)

Faithful though There is Grief Faithful though There is Deep Suffering Worship God for His Faithfulness

> He is faithful to cleanse you He is faithful to conform you to Christ

## **Call to Worship**

"Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting." "Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. <sup>6</sup> You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you." Nehemiah 9:5-6

### **Songs**

King of Kings
The Solid Rock / Cornerstone
Great is Thy Faithfulness
How Deep the Father's Love for Us
Lord I Need You

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME:** We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet from the Welcome Center if you are visiting with us.

GIVING: Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.—Proverbs 3:9

You can still give over Zelle through your bank with no fees.

Use secretary@livinghopechurch.net.

We also have a collection box on the Welcome Center

**REMINDER ABOUT CLOSED ROWS**: Please try to not sit in the rows marked closed. We are trying to respect the most vulnerable among us. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Children's Church is available for ages 2-6 at the start of the sermon

MIDWEEK SERVICE: Come join us for Prayer Meeting and Youth Group on Wednesday at 7 PM

## Introduction

We continue in a series in the book of Joshua called "Footsteps of Faith." Our title this morning is: "Promise Keeper".

Confession time. I'm not always great in keeping my promises. I've made promises to Jill or my kids, and I mean to keep them. I do keep them most of the time. But sometimes I fail.

This morning's message is one of deep hope, because we are talking about God being our "promise keeper." Wow, he's faithful, isn't he? No one is like him. He promises so many things. God is a promise keeping God. What are some promises God has given us?

I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the Lord, because they have called you an outcast. –Jeremiah 30:17

## Powerful! Right?

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love. – Zephaniah 3:17

Or what about this one?

See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands. Always in my mind is a picture of Jerusalem's walls in ruins. –Isaiah 49:16

He feels our affliction. We are graven on his hands. Look at another amazing promise.

I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten. –Joel 2:25

God is a good God, bursting with goodness! He's given you incredible promises.

I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. <sup>41</sup> I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul. —Jeremiah 32:40-41

With all God's heart and soul, he rejoices in doing good to you child of God. So let's look at our key thought today.

**Key Thought**: God is a good God, bursting with goodness and mercy to outcasts, lepers, sinners, and all those who are unclean. He wants to make us clean, and not only clean but holy, special, used for his glorious purposes.

You may be feeling despair, struggling with feeling at all worthy. You may feel like such a failure as a Christian. If you have ever felt blinded by your own despair, then this message is for you. So the overall theme of Joshua 21 is that God knows we need help: massive help! We need the **truth**, but we need it given to us in **love**, a very gentle and compassionate way. I've not been good at that. I truly want you to pray that I can teach and preach with a divine love.

You see, we are all weak and wounded sinners. We need Christ to gently hold us and care for us. That's why I love that the majority of Joshua 21 is about the cities for the Levites.

## **48 CITIES OF PRIESTS (21:1-42)**

In the first 42 verses of Joshua 21, we see something so vital and important: the Levitical cities.

Joshua 21:1-3 | Then the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites came to Eleazar the priest and to Joshua the son of Nun and to the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel. <sup>2</sup> And they said to them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, "The Lord commanded through Moses that we be given cities to dwell in, along with their pasturelands for our livestock." <sup>3</sup> So by command of the Lord the people of Israel gave to the Levites the following cities and pasturelands out of their inheritance.

"By the command of the Lord" (21:3), the Levites were to scatter around Israel in 48 cities and minister to the people of Israel. The point we are going to see is that we desperately need God's help and encouragement. Priests are there to give encouragement and compassion to God's people. In Joshua 21:4-42, we have a list of 48 cities where the Levites were to live. They were scattered among all the people for a purpose. They were to pray for the people, teach them the practice of the Word and to fear and worship the Lord in all things. They are to carefully apply the Word of God to their lives, like Ezra.

The priests live in these cities. So the tribe of Levi get no inheritance of land, but they get cities throughout Israel. Some notable Levites in the Bible include: Notable Levites: Moses, Aaron the high priest, Eli (the priest who raised the prophet Samuel), Ezra (the scribe who partnered with Nehemiah to resettle Jerusalem), and of course, John the Baptist.

Here's something important about the priests: they were never more than ten miles away from anybody living anywhere. They were to proclaim the excellencies of God to all the people. And that's what we are to be doing as well!

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. –1 Peter 2:9

The Levites are shadows of the New Testament Christian. This is a picture of our New Testament priesthood. We are to be discipling each other. We are to proclaim the excellencies of the beauty of God as infinitely superior to the idols and counterfeit pleasures and treasures of earth.

So the priests proclaimed the excellencies of God. That's what we do. And they had another important job: restoring people to God when they became unclean. Bringing them back to fellowship with the people and with God. So many Levitical laws were about clean and unclean, holy and unholy.

Here's another truth: we are all unclean, unfit, unacceptable. But God is making us clean, calling the outcast, calling us not just to be his guests, but his very own children. So let me repeat our key thought again.

**Key Thought**: God is a good God, bursting with goodness and mercy to outcasts, lepers, sinners, and all those who are unclean. He keeps his promises to make us clean, holy, and special, fit (by his grace) for his glorious purposes.

So as priests to God, let's proclaim his excellencies. And that's exactly what our text does here in Joshua 21, the final verses 43-45. They are what we should be proclaiming as priests. Our God is a good God, a promise keeping God!

Joshua 21:43-45 | Thus the Lord gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. <sup>44</sup> And the Lord gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the Lord had given all their enemies into their hands. <sup>45</sup> Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

Here we see the beauty and generosity of God to undeserving sinners. How is God a promise keeper? He is generous. God refers to promises that he swore to keep.

# 1. **GOD IS GENEROUS** (21:1-43A)

One thing you to understand is God is a generous God. One thing you to understand is: **You are created to be a recipient of God's infinite generosity**.

In the biggest picture of the book, we see a word of promise and generosity the Lord gave Joshua back in chapter one.¹

Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. –Joshua 1:6

Now look at the glorious assertion of fulfillment of this very promise.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> David Jackman, *Joshua: People of God's Purpose*, ed. R. Kent Hughes, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014), 166.

**Joshua 21:43a** | Thus the Lord gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers.

## **GENEROUS TO ISRAEL**

God is a promise keeping God. He's so generous. He gives. That's his nature. He's bursting with goodness and generosity. God promised an inheritance to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: all of Canaan will be yours! Abraham or his offspring didn't get to experience the fullness of Canaan. It wasn't until the time of Joshua that they actually got to receive all the land of Israel. Isn't God good? Yet they wouldn't keep it very long. Quickly, they would lose it because, while God had given the land to them, they only took possession of it for a short amount of time.

## **GENEROUS TO US**

The priests were to proclaim this to the rest of Israel, in the 48 strategically located cities. God is good! He's generous. He kept his promise.

Let us as priests proclaim the goodness of the Lord. He has given you an abundant inheritance. You have abundant life! He is more than enough for your desires to be completely satisfied.

So many of us, we can see our purpose, but we fail to see God's goodness, and that's why we cannot grow and change the way we would like. We see our purpose, but we cannot see God's beauty.

The point is not that God gave this amazing gift of land to Israel. They were given the land to gaze on the beauty of God. The purpose of the land was to have a place to enjoy God. And whenever they would get too focused on the land, and lose sight of God, they would turn to the land gods, the fertility gods, like Asherah and Baal and Chemoth. These were all the land fertility idols. And they would do just about anything to keep the land fertile, even giving the children in human sacrifice to the Baals and Chemoth gods. We'll see this in the book of Judges, the wicked influence of the surrounding nations upon them.

But all they had to do was gaze on the beauty of God, and his goodness and generosity, and they would keep the land, their children, and all the blessings of God.

Get ahold of the goodness of God. His goodness is not about his gifts and giving you a comfortable life. Actually, materialism and comfort will be your greatest temptations. You want abundant living? You will not find it in this world. You will find it in Christ alone.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have **life and have it abundantly**. <sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. –John 10:10-11

The god of this world wants you to build your happiness on false comfort: materialism or relationships or a comfortable life. You cannot build your happiness on that which can be quickly stripped away. That's building your house on the sand.

Build your happiness on the Rock, Christ Jesus. He gives you the abundant life. Build your joy on his beauty. He is good, and you have everything you could ever need in him. He is generous!

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. -2 Peter 1:3

God's given you everything you need for your inheritance. But in order to actually take hold of it, you have to see his beauty. You see...

The best gift God could ever give you is himself.

The people of Israel got to see the beauty of God in a superficial way. That glorious pillar of fire which displayed God's presence was outside of them. They gazed on his beauty wherever they were. We gaze on him through his Word, and we look upon him in a way that is beyond the glory cloud. We gaze upon the glory of his love in Jesus Christ, and all who do that are infinitely happy. John Piper put it this way:

"All who cast themselves on God find that they are carried into endless joy." –John Piper<sup>2</sup>

I believe he was describing what David expressed so clearly in Psalm 63.

O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup>I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory. <sup>3</sup> Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you! <sup>4</sup>I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer. <sup>5</sup> You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise you with songs of joy. –Psalm 63:1-5 (NLT)

So my question to you is your focus on the land? Don't seek the things of this earth. That was Israel's problem and they ended up losing everything. Seek the Lord! And everything else will be added to you.

Do you want a happy marriage? Don't seek a happy marriage! That's the quickest way to misery. Seek the Lord!

Do you want food and clothes and an income? Don't seek money or material things. Seek the Lord! We know what God says.

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. –Matthew 6:33

God is so generous! He wants to give you so much! But first you must grow your heart with his presence so that you will worship only him, and not your stuff or relationships or lack thereof. Gaze on the beauty of the Lord. The best gift God can give you is himself. What a generous God!

But I think Israel, and we can say that God is not only generous, but powerful. And you are here, and you are saying, "I want to live the abundant life, but I'm so weak. I want to gaze upon the beauty of God, but I don't see it. How do I get there?"

I'm glad you asked, because our God is powerful to give you eyes to see his beauty.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Piper, John. Desiring God, Revised Edition (Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2011),

# 2. **GOD IS POWERFUL** (21:43B-44)

Principle of Power: Whatever God promises, he is able to bring it to pass.

He gave the children of Israel the land he promised Abraham, and they were to take full possession and settle there, and **worship** God on his holy mountain in Jerusalem. If they found their rest and worship in him, he would make sure they kept possession.

## POWERFUL TO GIVE YOU POSSESSION

That's what he says: he's powerful to give them possession.

Joshua 21:43b | And they took possession of it, and they settled there.

They were to take full possession of the land, and they did. And they would keep it as long as they worshipped God.

The reason God gave his people the land was for a place to worship him. As long as they worshipped God with a pure heart, they would keep possession of the land.

That land was for **worshipping** the Lord. That's why he took hold of **Abraham** and eventually all the nation of **Israel**: he wanted to give them a land where they could worship him unhindered from the enemy.

Paul says clearly that he wants to take hold of knowing Christ, in the way that Christ took hold of him.

I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. –Philippians 3:12

Don't you want to take hold of Christ, the way he took hold of you?

# Window Shopping at God

God was powerful let his people experience full possession of the promised land. Sometimes we look at a house, and we go house shopping online, on Zillow or Realtor.com. But it's a whole 'nother thing to buy it and pay for it, and move in! That's what the Bible says that Israel got to experience. They moved in to the promised land. They got the keys and the title deed! God gave it to them.

Israel couldn't take long term possession of the land because they wouldn't allow God to take possession of them.

And some of you are looking at the Christian life as a window shopper, and you are saying, it sure looks nice. I sure would like to live a life of holiness. I sure would like to experience the presence of God. I sure would like to experience the defeat of my enemies. But you don't know how to get there. You have plenty of faith and virtue and knowledge, but you don't know how to really experience the beauty of Christ. He's taken possession of you, and you need to take hold of him. How?

First realize, he gives "every spiritual blessing in Christ" (Eph 1:3). He wants you to take full possession of him. We just talked about God being generous. He's also glorious and good. And if you will gaze upon him and see

The Land of Your Life: a Place of Worship

God wants you to take possession of all that he has for you. Remember, the people of Israel were to take possession of the land as a place to **worship** him. That's why they were to inhabit the land. Worship!

Now, your life, your family, your church, your job, your money, the circumstances of your life, are to be a place of worship.

God gave the land to Israel. He gives us all things. It is our responsibility to settle there and worship him in all that he gives us.

Let me give you the most important principle of possession: the fear of the Lord.

Principle of Possession: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." – Proverbs 1:7

Do you want all the secrets of wisdom and knowledge? Worship the Lord! Fear him. Be teachable. Invite him into every situation in your life. That's the fear of God.

Are you so **angry** that you're about to bust vein in your forehead? Invite God into the situation with a humble heart. It'll take away your anger.

Are you **despairing**? About to give up? Focusing on your hurt? Repent by inviting the God of all hope and all grace into your situation. He loves the outcast. He adopts the orphan and the abandoned one. Start getting excited about what God's going to do in your mess.

Are you about to check out in your **foolishness** and act as if God doesn't exist in your situation? Be wise and worship him. Fear him and invite him to teach your foolish heart.

Are you troubled about many things? Filled with anxiety and anger? Are you checking out on God. Remember what the Lord said to Martha.

"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." –Luke 10:41-42

Mary couldn't get away from listening to Jesus. Mary has chosen "the one thing," the only thing that's really "necessary" in life. Mary had a gravitationally pulled toward Jesus.

How do we take possession of all God has for us? We have to let him take possession of us.

You want that fullness from the Lord? You want perfect contentment? Choose the one thing that is necessary: the beauty of God in Christ.

## **POWERFUL TO GIVE YOU REST**

Be still, and know that I am God. -Psalm 46:10

There is something else God wants to give you, not only full and lasting worship and possession of him, but also rest for your soul.

**Joshua 21:44a** | And the Lord gave them **rest** on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers...

There is a great temptation for anxiety in our lives. We have to dig down and ask, why are we anxious? So much of it is because we don't have rest.

## No Rest in the Flesh

We are attempting to sanctify ourselves in our own flesh. Listen to Paul—you can't get rest in your own power.

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? ... <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? –Galatians 3:1, 3

The fool is willing to just escape and check out. He doesn't like pain, so he seeks pleasure to dull the pain. Christ alone can satisfy our desires.

Proverbs 27:20 – Just as Death and Destruction are never satisfied, so human desire is never satisfied.

Everything in your flesh is enslaving, if you let it, but there is freedom and rest in Christ. There is joy in Christ that will crush your never-ending hunger. The flesh is never satisfied, but you can be satisfied in only one place. Jesus said:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. -Matthew 11:28

People are doing whatever they can in their own power and flesh to get some rest. Some are getting medicine from their doctor, and that's good, but you know that full peace doesn't come from a pill: it comes from Christ.

Someone here is probably **self-medicating** in this congregation. Often I don't find out someone has a problem with drunkenness or self-medication while they are a member here. Sometimes it's years later when the person has victory.

Maybe you are here today, and you are medicating yourself from pain through **pornography**. You are willing to have a cold heart toward God just to get a little fleshly rest now.

## Rest in Christ Alone

Let me tell you, there is freedom, there is cleansing, there is *rest*, sweet rest in Christ alone. Jesus, like the priests and Levites in those 48 towns around Israel, would call the **outcasts**. He would call the **leper**.

You can only get rest for your soul through the cleansing that only Christ can give. There may be some uncleanness in your soul. In your sin, you may feel the filth and shame of your sin. Come to Christ for full and complete cleansing. He calls the outcasts and rebels. He calls the unclean. The lepers that would cry out: "Unclean!" Jesus would touch.

They never had rest until they felt the touch of Jesus. Jesus embraces you and gives you his promise:

I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the Lord, because they have called you an **outcast**. <sup>19</sup> Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving, and the voices of those who celebrate. ... I will make them honored... <sup>21</sup> ... I will make him draw near, and he shall approach me, for who would dare of himself to approach me? declares the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And you shall be my people, and I will be your God." –Jeremiah 30:17, 19, 21

Most sinners and outcasts would never dare to draw near to a holy and just God, but our Lord is so bursting with goodness, that he says, "I am your God, you are my child."

God calls the lepers and outcasts to join him, not as his guests, but as his beloved children.

You may be despairing, feeling powerless, and even worthless. Lift up your head child of God. Jesus came to welcome the outcast. He came to heal the leper. You are no longer unclean. You are cleansed. You are beyond cleansed. You are holy. Holy means special and set apart for the God's honored use. **Rest in Christ**, since you cannot find true rest anywhere else!

## POWERFUL TO GIVE YOU VICTORY

God is powerful to give you victory in obtaining your inheritance. You might say, I would see God in the beauty of his holiness. That's what I want, but I can't. I'm enslaved. I have enemies. So did Israel. But with God we are more than conquerors.

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. –Romans 8:37

Let's read about Israel's victory.

Joshua 21:44b | Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the Lord had given all their enemies into their hands.

Victory meant God would defeat all enemies. For us as believers, that victory is one over our greatest enemy: sin.

Sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. –Romans 6:14

There is a high price for victory. You have to die to your own power and prestige. Jesus said, in order to gain your life, you have to lose it. In order to live to the Spirit you have to die to the flesh. Paul understood that price when he said he lived a crucified life, so that he could live the abundant life in Christ.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. –Galatians 2:20

How do you get there? You have to purposely live by faith in the Son of God, in his love, worshipping him, moment by moment. Treasure Christ and you will have infinite power over sin. We can say with Nehemiah:

The joy of the Lord is my strength. -Nehemiah 8:10

One last thing to praise God for. He is faithful. He's a promise keeper!

# 3. **GOD IS FAITHFUL** (21:45)

Principle of Faithfulness: God is faithful to conform you to Christ. He often will not change your circumstances, but he will change you.

God's goal in bringing Israel to the land was to transform their character, not simply transform their landscape. The conquering of the land was all about learning to trust God and having their hearts transformed. Battle after battle, their faith built as they saw God keep *every single one of his promises*.

**Joshua 21:45** Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

Praise God for our promise keeping God! Ok, here is where we get really nearsighted in our lives. We are quite impatient when it comes to waiting on God. But remember The Lord made promises to Moses, when Joshua was 40, but here it is 40 years later until the promise is fulfilled. Whatever God promises, he will do!

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. – Lamentations 3:22-23

## **FAITHFUL THOUGH WE GRIEVE**

Sometimes it doesn't seem God is faithful, because of grief and loss. David says,

"Yeah though I walk *through* the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." –Psalm 23:4

In this life, we must walk through that valley. We can't go around it. God is faithful, precious saint. He is faithful to be there when you are **grieving**. Some of you have suffered great loss. It hurts so bad, you want to run the other way. Don't be afraid. God is with you. His promises have not at all failed. It's hard to see clearly through all the tears, but it will get better. There will be a day when God will wipe away all the tears.

And God has a **purpose** for the grief and the loss. He's **humbling** you. Remember what he told Paul: because of the greatness of the revelations, to keep you from pride, I've put a "thorn in the flesh" in your life to humble you. I know you are hurting. I know you are suffering loss. You will get through this. God is keeping you humble through suffering so he can draw you so near!

God is using this grief to draw you near to **his sorrow**. Our dear heavenly Father suffered loss as well. His own Son was crucified. You are learning the sufferings of Christ. But don't ever think because of your pain, that God is not faithful. He is always faithful.

There is coming a day, when you will have a much clearer view of all the promises of God fulfilled. God will wipe away all tears from your eyes, and you will see clearly.

### FAITHFUL THOUGH WE SUFFER DEEPLY

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. -Luke 9:23-24

There is no true Christianity without cross-bearing and a daily dying—which sounds very much like Paul's "I die every day" (1 Cor 15:31).

God is faithful to bring all his promises to pass for you, but it is through a veil of tears and a pathway of suffering. It is suffering that tests your faith.

Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. –Acts 14:22

God tells us what the purpose of suffering is for his dear precious child.

We do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired even of life itself. Indeed, 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 1:8–9

His purpose is to make us not rely on ourselves, but on the resurrection power of God. Samuel Rutherford said that when he was cast into the cellars of affliction, he remembered that the great King always kept his wine there.

## **WORSHIP GOD! HE IS FAITHFUL!**

How is God a promise keeper? He is faithful.

Great is your faithfulness. –Lamentations 3:23

Joshua 21:45 Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

Ok, here is where we get really nearsighted in our lives. We are quite impatient when it comes to waiting on God. But remember The Lord made promises to Moses, when Joshua was 40, but here it is 40 years later until the promise is fulfilled.

No matter how long you've waited, God is faithful.

No matter how weak you feel, God is faithful.

Don't give up, for God will not fail in even "one word of all the good promises" he has made to you.

For Israel it was the land. For you, there are so many! Peter says that we have so many "precious and very great promises" (2 Pet 1:4).

What are God's promises for you?

## He is faithful to cleanse you

Jesus will touch you and cleanse you. When the leper came to him and knelt before Jesus, and said, "Oh Jesus, will you cleanse me?"

"Jesus stretched out his hand and touched [the leper], saying, 'I will; be clean.' "—Matthew 8:3

He promises to touch you, cleanse you and bring you in to his arms. He restores the **outcast**. He adopts you and brings you into his family.

He is faithful to conform you to Christ

Those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son. –Romans 8:29

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. – Jude 24-25

He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it −1 Thessalonians 5:24

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. –Philippians 1:6

### **Conclusion**

What do we say to these things?

If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? –Romans 8:31-32

God is a promise keeping God. Let's take hold of all that God wants to do in our lives. No more wasting time. Let's give our whole hearts to worship him. He is worthy saints! He is a promise keeping God!