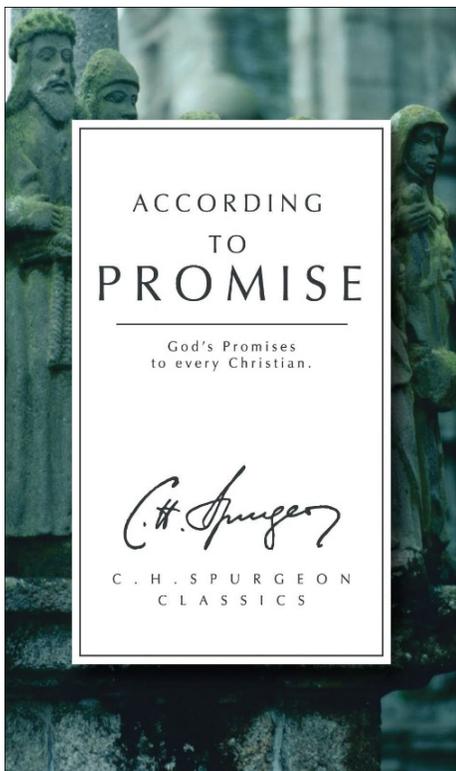


book of the month *According to Promise* – Charles Spurgeon



This has been different from what I was expecting. I was initially thinking this was going to speak about the future promises for believers, primarily focused on what is to come in Heaven. While this is mentioned, one major theme is the comparative analysis of the future promises God has for the believer and those He has for unbelievers. Spurgeon regularly reminds the reader of the confidence and assurance we should have in all that God has said, whether those words are spoken to us, for us, or to others. He wants to regularly draw the believer's sights to the reality that God is wholly trustworthy and worthy of our complete trust and admiration.

This is probably the best point of the book: Christians must act and live in a manner that is according to God's promises that He has made known throughout the ages in His divine word. When I pray, I should pray expecting God to answer because I'm striving to do His will which God is also totally committed to accomplishing. We, as believers, need to be bolder in praying, evangelizing, studying, reading, discipling, fighting sin, etc., all because God has promised that all of these will bear abiding fruit. Instead, we show a lack of faith and trust in the God we serve by practically displaying He is not worthy of our trust. As believers, we must be marked as a people who live according to His promises.

Suggested One-Month Reading Plan

About 4 pages per day

Week 1: January 1st – 6th

- A Sieve Needed
- The Two Seeds
- The Two Lives
- Differing Hopes
- Persecution Consequent on the Promise

Week 2: January 7th – 13th

- The Parting
- Whose Are the Promises?
- The Promise a Free Gift
- The Promise of God a Reality
- The Peculiar Treasure of Believers

Week 3: January 14th – 20th

- The Valuation of the Promises
- The Lord's Promise – The Rule of His Giving
- The Rule Without Exception
- Taking Possession of the Promise

Week 4: January 21st – 27th

- Endorsing the Promise
- The Promise Used for This Life
- Searching Out the Promise
- The Time of the Promise
- The Promises in Possession Through the Spirit
- Jesus and the Promises

QUOTES

"He (Paul) treated God as He should be treated, namely, with unquestioning confidence. An upright man likes to be trusted; it would grieve him if he saw that He was regarded with suspicion."

"Even as first of all God made Adam, so must He make us over again, or else we can never bear His image, nor behold His glory"

"If men loved good works as much as they pretend to they would love the faith which produces them."

SHEPHERDING HELPS

Here are some specific, practical ways to shepherd your own heart while engaging with the content in *According to Promise*:

1. Memorize Romans 6
2. Create a list of all of God's Promises (gospel realities) to the Christian found in Romans 6 and 8.
 - a. i.e. We (believers) have been united with Jesus in death
 - b. i.e. We (believers) are no longer enslaved to sin
3. List areas in your own life where you practically demonstrate a distrust that God desires your good.