



# **POWER IN WEAKNESS!**

**The Epistle of 2 Corinthians**

**The Yes and Amen!**

**2 Corinthians 1:12-24**

**Message #2 of 16 – S872**

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**Sunday Morning Service**

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# The Yes and Amen!

## *2 Corinthians 1:12-24*

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **2 Corinthians**
- Today we continue our journey through **2 Corinthians: Power in Weakness!**
- The dictionary defines:

**Promise: a commitment by someone to do or not do something. A declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen.**

- A promise is similar to a vow or an oath
- As humans, we take promises seriously
- It bothers us if someone doesn't do what they said they were going to do, especially if they made a promise to do it
- I can remember times when my children were growing up that I would tell them we were going to go or do something
- And then something would come up and I would have to change the plan
- And they would say something like, "But you promised!"
- I am not the most sensitive guy on the planet, but that always bothered me – I never wanted to be the guy who didn't keep his promises
- The Bible is filled with the promises of God
- These are promises that He has made to His people
- If you are a Christian – you are one of God's people and He has made promises to you
- But if we will be honest with God and ourselves, we might admit that there are times when it feels like God is not keeping His promises
- Typically, that is when we are not happy, healthy, or wealthy
- Last week, I said God never promised to make Christians happy, healthy, or wealthy – He can and does with some – but it is not a promise
- In today's text, Paul deals with an accusation made against him that he didn't keep his word to the Corinthians - that he broke his promise to them

- In his defense he teaches us why we can absolutely trust in the promises of God
- And then we will end by looking at what we should do when it feels like God is not keeping His promise
- Let's pray and then get into our text
- **Pray**

## Teaching

- **The Yes and Amen!**
- Paul had spent some time in the city of Corinth and as a result of his ministry many people were saved, and a church was started
- As was his habit, he left the church in the hands of the elders he appointed and went to share the gospel with other cities
- Before he left, he told them he would come back
- But then his plans were changed, and Paul's detractors used his change of plans to call into question his integrity
- **2 Corinthians 1:12**
- Paul begins by saying that his conscience is clear
- And that he has always lived in a way around them that was simple and with integrity
- He didn't try to manipulate them or use worldly wisdom to influence
- He just walked in the abundance of God's grace
- A clear conscience was foundational to Paul's ministry – just as it should be for any Christian
- The conscience is what tells us the difference between right and wrong
- Of, course, that only works if you know what is right and wrong
- **2 Corinthians 1:13-14**
- Everything we said or wrote was simple and easy to understand
- And all this will be sorted out when Jesus comes back again
- **2 Corinthians 1:15-17**
- Paul had made a plan to stop at Corinth on his way to Macedonia
- Something happened and Paul was not able to do what he planned
- Paul's detractors were claiming that Paul couldn't be trusted

- The ‘yes, yes’ and ‘no, no’ = Paul will say yes when it suited him and no at other times
- In reality, Paul was no different than any other man of God
- Things didn’t always go the way he planned them **Proverbs 16:9**  
**A man’s heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.**
- God wants us to make plans, but He also wants us to be humble enough to let Him guide us when He has a plan that is different than our own
- Paul then calls upon the nature of God as a witness
- **2 Corinthians 1:18-19**
- God is faithful – That means He can always be trusted to be true to His nature and to His Word
- Paul is saying that as he seeks to follow Christ, Paul and his companions are trying to model Christ-like behaviors
- Christ would never say one thing but mean something else, and so, neither would they
- One of the things that ought to mark a Christian’s life is integrity
- That means we say what we mean, and we mean what we say
- The next verse is a key to experiencing the power of God when we are weak
- **2 Corinthians 1:20**
- You exist to glorify God with your life **1 Corinthians 6:20**  
**For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.**
- One of the ways that God glorifies Himself through Christians is by keeping His promises
- The greatest promise of all was the sending of His Son Jesus to save us
- Throughout history, every promise God has ever made finds its ‘Yes’ and ‘Amen’ in Christ.
- If you are a Christian here today, then the answer to the most important questions of life are ‘Yes’ in Christ
- For the following questions there is only one answer if you are in Christ

**Does God love you?**

**Are you forgiven?**

**Are you secure in God’s love?**

**Is there a purpose for your life?**

**Is there life beyond the grave?**

- Too many people wrestle with these questions and wonder
- Have you received Christ as your Lord and Savior – then the answer to all the questions you are wrestling with are ‘yes’ in Christ
- Because of what He did for you, and not based on anything you did or didn’t do God has obligated Himself to keep His promises to you
- God would have to stop being God before He didn’t keep even one of His promises to His people
- Paul then gives us a picture of the role of the Trinity in the life of a believer

• **2 Corinthians 1:21-22**

- He who establishes us with you in Christ – establishes = strengthens or to cause to stand

• It is God who strengthens us to stand in our faith **Hebrews 13:5**

**For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”**

- That is a promise that finds its yes in Christ
- ‘and has anointed us’ – the ‘us’ = all believers
- Anointing, which usually included pouring oil on the head of the anointed was used for three things – for the appointment of prophets, priests, and kings
- The fact that God has ‘anointed’ all believers means that God has a role for every believer **Ephesians 2:10**

**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

- Discovering what your purpose in Christ is part of the adventure of Christianity
- ‘who also has sealed us’ – a seal is a sign of ownership
- We belong to God – that thought might stumble some people
- Something you might not know about our family – we live on an acre in Menifee
- We have a dog, 2 goats, 7 or 8 chickens, 3 ducks, and a miniature pig
- They belong to us – but it not just about ownership
- With that ownership comes responsibility
- They depend upon us to care for all their needs
- We belong to God – He is responsible for us **Philippians 4:19**

**And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

- ‘anointed’, sealed’, and ‘given us the Spirit in our hearts’
- That happened the moment you were saved
- The word guarantee in verse 22 has the idea of down payment or initial installment
- Down payment for what? **Ephesians 1:13-14**

**In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.**

- ‘redemption of the purchased possession’ = you arriving in heaven
- The Holy Spirit lives in our heart to guarantee that we go to heaven
- Paul then tells them that they were the reason for the change in his plan
- **2 Corinthians 1:23-24**
- Paul knew that if he came back when he had said, it would not be a pleasant experience for the Corinthians
- Paul was trying to spare them, and some interpreted it as a flaw in Paul’s character
- He is going to talk about that more the next time
- There might be times in your faith when it feels like God is not keeping His promise to you – what should you do?
- Three things – first one – **Make sure it is a promise!**
- I have already said that God has not promised to make all ‘true Christians’ happy, healthy, and wealthy – I wish He did, but He didn’t
- How about this Bible promise, ‘God helps those who help themselves!’ – problem – not in the Bible
- Before you accuse God of not keeping a promise, make sure He actually promised it
- Second thing – **Make sure God isn’t waiting for you!**
- Many of the promises of God are conditional promises – meaning certain conditions have to be met before God keeps His promise

### **Deuteronomy 28:1-2**

**Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> And all these**

**blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God...**

- The Israelites had to ‘obey the voice of the Lord’
- Seek God, ask Him if there is something He is waiting for you to do – or waiting for you to stop doing
- Third thing – **Trust God and wait!**
- God promised to give Abraham a son when he was seventy-five years old – Abraham had to wait twenty-five years before God kept His promise to Abraham
- God is faithful to keep all His promises, but only when it suits His perfect timing – we need to trust Him and try to be patient
- And while we wait, we should grow in our understanding of God and His Word
- While you wait – discover what you were established and anointed to do for God
- All of God’s promises are ‘yes’ and ‘amen’ in Christ
- When you are struggling, cling to the promises of God – He is faithful
- He will keep His word – to prove it He sent Jesus to die for you, established us in Him, anointed us for service, sealed us as His, and gave us the Holy Spirit as a guarantee – he is not holding out on us!
- Let’s go to the Lord in prayer and ask Him to help us patiently wait for Him to keep His promises to us
- **Pray!**