

# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

**Date** : 30 June 2024

**Sermon Title** : The Promise Keeper

**Speaker** : Rev Peter Koh

**Text** : Acts 2:14-41

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## **INTRODUCTION**

We shall continue from where we left off in last week's sermon in Acts 2:1-13. In these verses between 14 and 41, we shall discover more from Apostle Peter's sermon on God, The Promise Keeper. We often make promises but sometimes keeping them is not easy. When we do not fulfil a promise, the recipient gets disappointed, and they lose their confidence and trust in us. God, on the other hand, is the ultimate promise keeper who can be trusted. This sermon that the Apostle Peter preached in these verses is a powerful sermon that showcase God the Promise Keeper – how He keeps His promises made in the Old Testament and how they came to pass on the day of Pentecost and are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

### **A. The Promise of God (vv.14-21)**

Here, Peter confirms that the utterances in different languages by Jesus' disciples was because they were filled by the Holy Spirit and not because they were drunk since it was very early in the morning. Furthermore, if they were drunk, they would have disrupted Peter's sermon, but they did not.

Peter then reminds them of God's faithfulness to His promise – The disciples being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was the fulfilment of the prophesy made hundreds of years prior by Joel in Joel 2:28.

Peter points them back to the Giver, the Promise Keeper instead of the gifts:

- God's faithfulness to His promise – He is a faithful God and whatever He says will come to pass.
- God's love for mankind – God loves us and all who call upon His name will be saved.
- God's empowerment to believers – God empowers us with gifts that will enable us to fulfil the ministry that He has given to us. In 2 Corinthians 5:17-19, we know that we are called into the Ministry of Reconciliation, reconciling both man to man and man to God. With these gifts that we receive we should be operating with signs and wonders from God to share the gospel and touch lives, so people around us can recognize the powerful God that we worship.

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*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

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## **B. The Promise Sealed (vv.22-36)**

Peter goes on to affirm that the Jesus that they just crucified less than 2 months before that is the Messiah who sealed the Promise of God. He was crucified and God raised Him up again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, witnessed by about 500 people, because death could not hold him back.

Peter again reminds them of God's faithfulness to what was in David's Psalms (Psalm 16:8, Psalm 110:1) – This Jesus they crucified who was witnessed to have been raised from the dead and ascended into heaven in their full view had been foretold by David in these Psalms and had been sent by God to seal His Promise to bring salvation to mankind.

May we too experience this truth about the Jesus that we worship:

- Jesus' resurrection and exaltation foretold and fulfilled – Jesus who had been crucified is our Saviour, the Messiah who had been foretold. He is the Living God who came to earth as a man to point us back to God, to bring us hope for eternity fulfilling God's plan.
- Witnessed by the disciples and others – Many who were hearing Peter's sermon had witnessed Jesus being crucified, died, raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven. This proved that God's Promise had been sealed in Christ.
- For all the promises of God find their Yes in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20) – Jesus is the "Amen" – through Him the prophecies and promises of God was completed and fulfilled. In Him we will not be condemned, He is the salvation and our hope, our Life-Giver.

## **C. The Promise Extended (vv.37-41)**

Listening to Peter's words, the crowd was "cut to the heart". They were convicted that they had done wrong and they wanted to accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. Peter then instructed them to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit will be extended not only to them but all whom the Lord our God calls to Himself. And on that day about 3000 souls were added.

- The gift of the Holy Spirit promised to all believers – God has promised His Holy Spirit to everyone, no longer only to certain individuals as in the Old Testament. This is because the curtain has torn, and now, we can enter into the "Holies of Holy" to have a relationship with Him. He therefore empowers us so we can be ministers in the Ministry of Reconciliation.
- The promise of salvation extends to all people – God wants all to be saved, and He wants us to be a blessing to all people. We are God's mouthpiece to reach to every person and to show them God's salvation. We need to serve and be a blessing, in that way we are extending God's promise of salvation to all people.

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As God the Promise Keeper has the Promise Sealed in Jesus, we as believers need to know our part in this is to serve, be a blessing to extend the blessing so others will also enjoy the Promise Keeper. There are benefits in serving God because when we serve, we get to experience God and witness miracles taking place – in the miracle of Jesus turning water into wine, it was the servants who witnessed that the water had turned into wine as they served the people. Similarly, in the miracle where Jesus used 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed the 5,000 people, it was the disciples who experienced and witnessed the miracle first-hand as they served the food to the people.

## **CONCLUSION**

Jesus is "The Amen", He is the seal and the fulfilment of all God's promises. He is also faithful and true. Our God is a good God and He is real, and will uphold and take care of you because He is the ultimate Promise Keeper. In response, let us take God seriously by becoming a vessel of service for God and by being instrumental in reaching out for Him.

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## **A. Review Sermon Application**

***Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.***

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk!?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?
  
2. As the verses are read, reflect on how the crowd who had seen Jesus being crucified, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and witnessed the gift of tongues on the day of Pentecost would feel when they heard Peter's sermon.
  - a. Appoint someone to read Acts 2:14-21 slowly.  
How convicted are you of God's faithfulness as the Promise Keeper?
  - b. Appoint someone to read Acts 2:22-36 slowly.  
How convicted are you of Jesus as the Promise Sealed?
  - c. Appoint someone to read Acts 2:37-41 slowly.  
How convicted are you of God's Extended Promise?

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## **B. Relate Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.***

3. Reflect on your experiences in reaching out with the Gospel to reconcile man to God or man to man (Ministry of Reconciliation):
  - a. Share about your empowerment by the Holy Spirit. How did you realize it was the Holy Spirit's power working through you?
  - b. How has this impacted you and the person(s) you were reaching out to?
  - c. What was the outcome of your ministry?
  
4. Have you experienced the faithfulness of God the Promise Keeper in your life?
  - a. What is one promise of God in His Word that you hope would come to pass in this season of your life?
  - b. What is one thing you have learnt from this sermon that has encouraged you to keep trusting in God?
  - c. How can your group members help or encourage you to achieve 4b. above?

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## **C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action**

***Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.***

5. Share your personal testimony on your journey in serving God. Include what convicted you to serve, what were some challenges faced and how you overcame the challenges?

OR

Give thanks to God for He is faithful and He extends His love and forgiveness to everyone so we can go forth in confidence to share to the world about Him, our living God.

6. As a group, pray that God through His Holy Spirit would empower you and remind you daily that He is the Ultimate Promise Keeper, who has sealed His Promise through Jesus Christ so what He said will surely come to pass. Pray for faith to believe in His love for everyone and seek to be an effective vessel of service for Him to the people around you and our church so we would use our gifts to bring the community around us to Jesus, the Giver of the Promise.

Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. God of Ages – Hillsong  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xwh67YiMj2w&ab\\_channel=jltm](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xwh67YiMj2w&ab_channel=jltm)
2. Here I Bow – Jenn Johnson  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvHi7N8kc8s&ab\\_channel=BethelMusic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvHi7N8kc8s&ab_channel=BethelMusic)
3. Yes and Amen – Housefires  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPL8Ymkisto&ab\\_channel=SuzanneF](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPL8Ymkisto&ab_channel=SuzanneF)

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