

October 29th 2023  
God's Promise for You

### **Joshua 21:43-45**

**43** 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. **44** 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. **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.

### **Joshua 23:14**

“And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that **not one word has failed** of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you. **All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed.**”

v. 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.**”

23:14 “**not one word has failed** of all the good things that the Lord your God promised **concerning you.**”

Whatever God said that He will do, He has fulfilled it. Our God has never failed in His promises. Now, when we read this, it is for the nation of Israel, but it's the individual's that makes a country.

So God is fulfilling His promise to a nation but He is also making a promise to you, individually. Those who have decided to follow Jesus will see the fruits of God's promise to you.

## **Esther Min's (Mother in Law) Story of God's Promise**

After my mother in laws death, I had a chance to reflect a lot about her life and the **spiritual impact she had on her daughters**.

Because her husband died in the line of duty, the only thing that kept her alive for her three little children were two things: **Hope in God** and the **promises of God to her individually**.

Around 2 am Sunday morning she was rushed to the hospital and they didn't do anything to help her till five hours later, because of some insurance issues and the hospital knew she had a stroke.

Now if you know anything about people having stroke, they say that for **every minute the brain is deprived of necessary blood flow** (blood is only contained in the brain and not moving from the heart to the brain: **Blood clot**), there are **1.9 million brain cells die**.

So every single minute counts. This critical time after a stroke is often referred to as the "**stroke window**", "**stroke golden hour**" or "**stroke golden window**" Because you have within an hour to help someone recover from a stroke. The longer it takes, the more damage you do to the brain.

And because of the insurance issues, it took over **five hours for any help**. Most experts say when you lose the "stroke window" of the recovery, then **you will have permanent damage**.

So, what does it look like with someone with a severe stroke? There are only two options: One side of your body becomes impaired along with your face and mouth. And you will slur in your speech and can't eat properly. All of your right side or left side becomes impaired and you can't move. For some people, it takes **years and years to have just small improvements from this impairment**. The other severe side of the severe stroke is death.

So knowing all this, that was what I was expecting heading into the hospital to see my mother in law.

But as soon as I came in, I sat down next to her and she stared right into my eyes. Then out of nowhere she started to talk to me as if she had no issues. **No stroke or slurring of her speech.** She was wide awake, conscious, and spoke with clarity. I was just shocked.

I was thinking, “*did she really have stroke?*” I looked at my wife and asked her if she had stroke and her and her sister said yes. They even showed me a video evidence that she had stroke. In the video, she was slurring in her speech and she was in and out of consciousness.

Everyone was perplexed and thought she has recovered. They did a cat scan and said that she might of had a small stroke. She was doing so well that they said that she will recover with therapy. So the plan was to get her in a physical rehab to get her mobility back. Wow! Praise the Lord, right.

But then after three days, she had a severe stroke.

### **Two Types of Strokes:**

**Ischemic Stroke** (Clots) Occurs when a blood vessel supplying blood to the brain is obstructed 87% of all strokes.

**Hemorrhagic Stroke** (Bleeds) Occurs when a weakened blood vessel ruptures. The most common cause of hemorrhagic stroke is uncontrolled **high blood pressure**.

This is what the doctor who specializes in brain said: “*He has never seen in his 30 years of practice a patient that went from Ischemic Stroke to a Hemorrhagic Stroke.*”

My father had Hemorrhagic Stroke, he had a very high blood pressure. I wish that I have known about this earlier.

## Symptoms of Stroke:

### F.A.S.T.

**F:** Face Drooping (Does one side of your face droop or is numb?)

**A:** Arm Weakness (Is one arm weak or numb?)

**S:** Speech Difficulty (Is speech slurred, are they unable to speak, or are they hard to understand?)

**T:** Time to call 9-1-1 (If you have any of these symptoms go to the hospital right away)

What happens when you go into an early morning prayer every day? God will speak to you and you will hear His voice. So here is the voice that I heard clearly: “***Tell Jackie to prepare to prepare for her mom’s funeral.***” When you spend a lot of time with God, you will hear His voice.

## Three Miracles that took place leading up to her death:

**The first miracle:** About a month before my mother in law passed away, during the early morning prayer, I felt convicted for Jackie to start preparing for her mom’s funeral. This was a very hard topic, but I felt that these needed to be **done immediately**. Jackie was also convicted to hurry up and get all the paper works prepared.

How many of you have parents or grandparents that are over the age of 60?

## 5 Basic Documents:

- (1) **Living Will** (Your living will explains what kind of lifesaving procedures you want performed on you by medical personnel. For example, this includes CPR and life support).
- (2) **Disposition of Body** (This form indicates what you want done with your remains after your death, for example, cremation or burial or donation to a medical facility.)

- (3) **Power of Attorney (POA) “Health Care Directive”**: (This form designates a person to make health-related decisions for you, only while you are unable to make them) - for example, if you are unconscious. If you become able to make decisions and convey them again, this power reverts back to you.
- (4) **Durable Power of Attorney (POA) “Financial”**: Only the person with power of attorney will be able to manage your finances by signing checks to pay bills, handle your accounts, and so on. Like POA for health, this is also cancelled if you become able to handle your own finances again
- (5) **Last Will and Testament**: Your will indicates what will happen to your possessions and assets after your death. You can hire a lawyer to write your will based on your input, or you can prepare your own will.

The problem was that one of the three sister’s live out of state, in Illinois. What is amazing is that if all things are in **God’s control** and if I truly heard from the Lord then if the **three sisters are to be together**. And **if this is in God’s timing**, then God will work it out, that all three and their mom will be together and **willing to do it**.

Because in the beginning they were very hesitant, because who would want to talk about their death, right?

Who remembers Romans 8:28?

### **Romans 8:28**

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

So God worked all things out for His good, because the older sister happened to show up for someone’s wedding in Maryland. So Jackie took that opportunity for the mom and her three daughters to meet

up. And for about 7 to 8 hours they went through all the documents. It was a very hard talk, but they did it. They even ended it with doing praise together, sharing scriptures together and praying together. That's how God works.

**The 2nd Miracle** was that she was supposed to be at her own house. But for some reason, she felt led to sleep over at her youngest daughter's house. Because if she stayed at her own home and had the stroke there, then no one would have known it and that would have devastated all the family members.

But thankfully staying at her daughters place, one of the grandkids heard her fall and found her on the ground and they rushed her to the emergency room.

**The 3rd Miracle:** Before my mother in law passed away, during the three days she was fully awake, conscious, and speaking with a normal conversation, I realized something amazing happened.

Sometimes, when we think of super natural miracles we think of complete healing, but even with full healing we still die. **All of us have an expiration date.** We all have an end date. I know as a follower of Jesus Christ, that if I was to die tomorrow, I am certain that will be in heaven. But if you are not certain, then that is something you will need to address between you and God.

So I was thinking to myself, why did God allow my mother in law (Mrs. Min) to have a three day miracle, fully awake and able to speak with clarity? During her three days, she did bible studies, praise, and prayer during these three days.

### **Two Different Types of God's Promises:**

**General promises:** A general promise is one that is given by the Holy Spirit to every believer in every age.

**Specific promises:** A specific promise is one that is made to specific individuals on specific occasions.

(Examples) General Promises

### **Deuteronomy 4:7**

For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?

### **John 3:16**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

### **Philippians 4:7**

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **Jeremiah 29:11-12**

**11** For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. **12** Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

(Examples) **Specific Promises.** Remember a specific promise is one that is made specifically to individuals.

### **1 Kings 9:5**

then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’

The preceding and following verses make it clear that God is speaking only to King Solomon.

## **Genesis 17:1-2**

**1** When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, **2** that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”

## **Acts 13:47**

For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

So I was thinking, **what is the specific promises that God has made to Mrs. Min, my mother in law towards the end of her life?**

Let me begin with a funny story and how much she reeeaaaaaalllllllly loves Jesus:

I was the first of the three daughters getting married. So you could imagine the fear that her precious daughter would be getting married to a heathen like a martial arts instructor. She's thinking he is a TaeKwonDo instructor, probably believes in Buddhism or Confucius philosophy and does all this Yin and Yang kind of stuff, right. And she did hear that I do go to church, but was I a true believer? That's what she needed to find out.

We were at a restaurant together, My mother in law, Jackie's aunt (imo in Korean) and Jackie. So once, Jackie stepped out to the restroom with her aunt, I decided to take this opportunity to ask my mother in law for Jackie's hand in marriage. And I did it with confidence, like a real man, I thought.

I wanted to be a gentlemen, even though this was our second time meeting personally, I just knew Jackie was the right one. You know back then, long distance phone bills were so expensive that it was

cheaper for me to fly out to meet her then to call her in long distance. One time, I remember specifically paying \$500 dollars. It was 25 cents per minute.

Anyways, back to the story. So I said, “***Mother in law, I would like for your permission to marry your daughter. I have my own business and I will take care of all her needs.***” I was 27 years old and I felt that I was ready for marriage.

But then Mrs. Min (my mother in law) asked a very strange question: “***Mr. Choi, you seem like a very nice man. I like everything about you, but have you been baptized by the Holy Spirit?***” Now I remind you that she was talking to me in Korean, so I couldn’t understand exactly what the meaning of the “**Baptism of the Holy Spirit meant.**”

So, this was my response, “***Yes, I did get Baptized in church. In fact, when I was a kid, I got baptized like three times.***” She looked at me and knew that I had no idea what “Baptism of the Holy Spirit” meant. So this is what she said, “***You can NOT marry my daughter till you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.***” Now my mother in law grew up in a Charismatic or Pentecostal Church where speaking in tongues is part of your Christianity. Like healing and speaking in tongues were all part of sign that you are a true believer. And, she really wanted a sign from God.

Now, I’m a very practical and logical thinker. So in my mind, “***Where can I go and find this Baptism of the Holly Spirit?***” I was literally thinking of going to a supermarket store and get an olive oil, find a pastor nearby and ask him to anoint me with oil. I kid you not, that was literally in my mind, when I return back from Colorado.

[Show a bottle of olive oil]

Just a side note: During the time I was seeing Jackie, I made sure that no one knew that I was courting her for marriage. The only

person that knew was my mother, because she had to pray for a son who couldn't find a wife. All her sons got married really quick.

**A miracle happened.** I returned the next day, working and out of the blues, my pastor gives me a call and says this, “*How would you like to do a Bible study, so you can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?*” I kid you not. I thought that I was hearing things, so I asked the pastor repeat it one more time: “*How would you like to do a one on one Bible study with me, so you can receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?*” I said, “*Did my mother say anything to you?*” He responded, “*About what?*”

I was super excited. So I called up my mother in law and said, “*Guess what ‘mom,’ I’m going to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Now I can marry your daughter.*” I explained to her everything and she couldn't believe it. Now the catch was that the Bible study would be every Wednesday at 6 am in the morning. Now for someone who works from 9 am to 9 pm, this is a very hard work. But I did it because I wanted to marry Jackie.

She wanted a promise from God, and a sign from God, that I would receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Not exactly the way, she had hoped it would be like speaking in tongues but literally through the Word of God. But she received a specific promise from God to her.

**So what was the specific promise from God to her while she was in the hospital?**

What is very interesting in her three days of her being in concisions state and speaking as if she had no stroke at all, **I believe that God was finishing and finalizing that last promises of God** and that was to have quality worship time with her daughters.

Before, she passed away that was her desire to be in worship together with her daughters. And the ladies never left her side. They

did praise together. They read the scriptures together. They worshipped together. **God fulfilled all His promises to her** and **NOT** a single promise of God was lost. **NOT** a single promise of God had failed. **NONE of God's** promises for you will ever fail for those who believe, trust and obey Him.

On October 22nd, Sunday morning, they witnessed their mom breathing her last breathe and blessed her daughters

God fulfilled His promises to Esther Min.

### **The Promise Lyrics**

I never said that I would give you silver or gold  
Or that you would never feel the fire or shiver in the cold  
But I did say you'd **never walk through this world alone**

And I did say, **don't make this world your home**

I never said that fear wouldn't find you in the night  
Or that loneliness was something you'd never have to fight  
But I did say **I'd be right there by your side**  
And I did say **I'll always help you fight**

'Cause you know I made a promise that I intend to keep  
**My grace will be sufficient in every time of need**  
And my love will be the anchor that you can hold onto  
This is the promise, this is the promise I made to you

I never said that friends would never turn their backs on you  
Or that the world around you wouldn't see you as a fool  
But I did say like me you'll surely be despised  
And I did say my ways confound the wise

I didn't say you'd never taste the bitter kiss of death  
Or have to walk through chilly Jordan to enter into rest  
But I did say I'd be waiting right on the other side  
(Yeah, yeah)

**And I did say I'll dry every tear you cry**

'Cause you know I made a promise that I've prepared a place  
And some day sooner than you think you'll see me face to face  
And you'll sing with the angels and a countless multitude  
This is the promise, this is the promise I've made to you

So just keep on walkin', don't turn to the left or right  
And in the midst of darkness, let this be your light  
That hell can't separate us and you're gonna make it through  
This is the promise, this is the promise I made to you