

We aim to reconcile people unto God through Christ

SERMON TITLE:	BROKEN PROMISES
PREACHER:	ROELOF KWANT
DATE:	25.04.2010

He promised South Africans better education, better roads, a better health service, less crime and more jobs, but warned these promises would only be fulfilled in a few years' time.

His business-like approach to government is echoed in his promise that "government must work faster, harder and smarter"

Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build bridges even when there are no rivers. - **Nikita Khrushchev**

In our country about one in every three marriages break up in the divorce court within 9 years of being married. Even though these promises were made before witnesses and God:

I, James Ronald Thabo Tayler take you Joan Tebogo Ansie van der Merwe to be my wife and before God and these witnesses I promise to be a faithful and true husband. I will you love you, comfort and keep you and forsaking all other remain true to you as long as we both shall live?"

"With this ring I thee wed, and all my worldly goods I thee endow. In sickness and in health, in poverty or in wealth, 'til death do us part."

Promises of yes soon turn to no.

So if you give your word, a promise to one, prepare to make it come true.
Here is a poem written by a young woman called Pauline Hamblin.

Broken and Shattered Promises

Pauline Hamblin

You told me that you loved me
It seemed easy for you to say
But you failed to prove it
The first time temptation
Came your way

You told me we would last forever
And I believed your words were true
But the words that you had spoken
Seemed to have been forgotten by you

We are living in a society where we have become accustomed to the fact that that our and other peoples words mean nothing, we make promises that we and our hearers know we will not keep and we have come to accept that our word is not our word that our yes in fact may well or possibly be no.

Friedrich Nietzsche said

One must have a good memory to be able to keep the promises that one makes.

A German Proverb reads

Promises are like the full moon, if they are not kept at once they diminish day by day

Someone once said

Years ago, fairy tales all began with "Once upon a time..." now we know they all begin with, "If I am elected..."

Robert Service said

A promise made is a debt unpaid

Here is something worthwhile considering "how much verbal debts have you and I got. How many promises have we made that were or is still outstanding?"

- To ourselves-: this year I am going to lose weight, I will Kick the addiction and bad habit of smoking ect
- To our friends-: see u next Friday, I will pray for you
- To our clients-: I will see you on Monday at 9am or I will fix it or deliver it by Wednesday, don't worry I will phone u back.
- To our wives-: I will not be late from work again, never commit adultery
- To our husbands-: I will not use the credit card, disrespect you anymore
- To our children-: If you stop crying, mommy will buy you something from the shops, I promise you I will come and watch your next game

Life is filled with broken promises or vows. The motto of many has become "a promise we make is a promise we break"

A Hebrew proverb reads

Promise little and do much

Not only are there promises or vows outstanding to ourselves, our family and friends and colleagues our clients but we have made many vows or promises to God with no or little intention to honor them. If You heal me I will serve You, if You deliver me from this dilemma, I will go to church every Sunday, if You bless me I will tithe the rest of my life. This time I will be serious with You and read Your word and pray every day. I promise You God I will never watch porn or read adult magazines or sleep with my girlfriend or boyfriend or or or or or or or or or the list is endless of empty promises made to God.

Vow/Promise -: a solemn promise, pledge, or personal commitment:

a solemn promise made to a deity or saint committing oneself to an act, service, or condition.

a solemn or earnest declaration. to pledge or resolve solemnly to do, make, give, observe, etc.: to declare solemnly or earnestly; to dedicate or devote by a vow: *to vow oneself to the service of God.*

Promises are like babies: easy to make, hard to deliver. - **Author Unknown**

Promises are like crying babies in a theater, they should be carried out at once. - **Norman Vincent Peale**

Oaths are but words, and words but wind. - **Samuel Butler**

It is not the oath that makes us believe the man, but the man the oath. - **Aeschylus**

The best way to keep one's word is not to give it. - **Napoleon Bonaparte**

Never take a solemn oath. People think you mean it.- **Norman Douglas**

Eggs and oaths are easily broken. - **Danish Proverb**

Nothing weights lighter than a promise. - **German Proverb**

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 NKJV

Losers make promises they often break. Winners make commitments they always keep. - **Denis Waitley**

For every promise, there is price to pay. - **Jim Rohn**

Vote for the man who promises least; he'll be the least disappointing. - **Bernard M. Baruch**

Let God's promises shine on your problems. - **Corrie Ten Boom**

Promise only what you can deliver. Then deliver more than you promise. - **Author Unknown**

No pillow so soft as God's promise. - **Author Unknown**

God's promises are like the stars; the darker the night the brighter they shine. - **David Nicholas**

Num 30:2

This is what the Lord commands² When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.

Deut 23:21-23

²¹ If you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not be slow to pay it, for the LORD your God will certainly demand it of you and you will be guilty of sin.

²² but if you refrain from making a **vow**, you will not be guilty.

²³ Whatever your lips utter you must be sure to do, because you made your **vow** freely to the LORD your God with your own mouth.

Proverbs 20:25 NIV •

It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider his **vows**.

Ecclesiastes 5:4 NIV

When you make a **vow** to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your **vow**.

Ecclesiastes 5:5 NIV

It is better not to **vow** than to make a **vow** and not fulfill it.

Ecclesiastes 5:6 NIV

Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the temple messenger, "My **vow** was a mistake." Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands?

Matt 5 :37

³⁷Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.