

DEVO - Faith to Obtain Promises, Pastor Jeremy Richardson

8/16/2026

2 Corinthians 1:18–20 KJV

18 “But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay.

19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea.

20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

1. “As God is true” — everything starts with God’s character

Paul begins by appealing to **who God is**.

“As God is true...”

In other words:

- God is faithful.
- God cannot lie.
- God does not change His mind like people do.
- God does not promise something and then become unreliable.
- **His Word is trustworthy because His character is trustworthy.**

This agrees with:

Numbers 23:19 — “God is not a man, that he should lie...”

Hebrews 10:23 — “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; **(for he is faithful that promised;)**”

So faith ultimately isn’t confidence in our ability to believe. **Faith is confidence in the faithfulness of the One who promised.**

2. “Our word toward you was not yea and nay”

Yea = Yes.

Nay = No.

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The Corinthians had questioned Paul's reliability because his travel plans had changed. Some apparently thought, *Paul says yes, then he says no. Can we really depend on what he says?*

Paul essentially responds:

The Gospel we preached to you isn't uncertain like that.

God isn't saying:

"Yes...maybe."

"I promised it...but we'll see."

"I meant it then...but perhaps not now."

Paul moves the discussion from **his travel plans** to the much bigger issue of **God's faithfulness in Christ**.

3. "Jesus Christ...was not yea and nay"

This is powerful.

Jesus is **God's definitive answer**.

The coming of Christ proves that God keeps His Word.

For thousands of years God promised:

- A Redeemer
- A Messiah
- Salvation
- Forgiveness
- A new covenant
- The Holy Spirit
- Deliverance
- Restoration

Then Jesus came.

God didn't make those promises and abandon them.

Christ is the proof that God keeps His promises.

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4. “But in Him was YEA”

This is where the passage gets especially strong.

In Christ there is a YES.

Jesus is not merely someone who *talks about* God's promises.

Jesus is the fulfillment and guarantee of God's promises.

Think about it:

God promised redemption — **YES in Christ.**

God promised forgiveness — **YES in Christ.**

God promised eternal life — **YES in Christ.**

God promised the Holy Spirit — **YES in Christ.**

God promised access to Himself — **YES in Christ.**

God promised victory over sin — **YES in Christ.**

Everything God accomplished through the New Covenant comes to us **through Christ.**

5. “ALL the promises of God...”

Notice that word:

ALL.

Paul doesn't say *some* of God's promises.

“For ALL the promises of God...”

That is an enormous statement.

But there is an important qualification immediately afterward:

“...IN HIM...”

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This isn't saying that every sentence in the Bible is automatically an unconditional personal promise to every Christian.

Rather, **every promise God has made that finds its fulfillment in His redemptive purpose reaches its YES and fulfillment in Jesus Christ.**

Christ is the center.

That's why we don't approach God's promises apart from Jesus. We approach them **through Him, because of Him, and in covenant with Him.**

6. "Are YEA"

God has already supplied the **YES**.

This has tremendous implications for faith.

Faith isn't trying to convince an unwilling God to say yes.

Biblical faith discovers what God has promised **in Christ** and responds to His promise.

That's the pattern of Abraham:

Romans 4:20-21

"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;
And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

Notice Abraham's focus:

"What HE had promised..."

Faith starts with **God's promise**, not our desire.

Once we know what God has actually promised, faith can become settled:

God said it. God is faithful. Christ has secured it. Therefore I can believe Him.

7. "And in Him AMEN"

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This is beautiful because **“Yea” and “Amen” aren’t exactly the same thing.**

YEA is God’s side:

“Yes, I have promised it.”

AMEN is our response:

“So be it. I believe it. I agree with God.”

You could almost summarize verse 20:

God says YES.

Faith says AMEN.

God makes the promise.

We don’t create the promise.

We don’t manufacture the promise.

We don’t talk God into the promise.

We believe and agree with what He has said.

8. Faith puts its “Amen” on God’s “Yes”

This is where I think there is a tremendous faith message in this passage.

God says:

“My grace is sufficient for thee.”

Faith says:

Amen.

God says:

“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

Faith says:

Amen.

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God says:

“My God shall supply all your need.”

Faith says:

Amen.

God says:

“Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

Faith says:

Amen.

God says:

“Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Faith says:

Amen!

That’s essentially the life of faith:

Find God’s YES in His Word and put your AMEN on it.

9. “Unto the glory of God by us”

Here is the ultimate purpose.

God fulfilling His promises isn’t merely about us getting things.

It brings glory to God.

When God’s faithfulness becomes visible in someone’s life, **God receives glory.**

Abraham demonstrates this perfectly:

Romans 4:20 — “...was strong in faith, giving glory to God.”

Why does faith glorify God?

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Because faith declares:

“God is trustworthy.”

Unbelief questions God’s reliability.

Faith honors God’s character.

Faith says:

“If God said it, I believe Him.

If God promised it, He is faithful.

If Christ purchased it, I receive it.

God’s Word is enough for me.”

The entire passage in one thought

2 Corinthians 1:18–20 teaches that God’s character is completely faithful, Jesus Christ is the confirmation and fulfillment of His promises, and therefore believers can confidently answer God’s promises with “Amen”—faith-filled agreement—so that their fulfillment brings glory to God.

And there is a powerful progression here:

GOD IS TRUE

↓

CHRIST IS THE YES

↓

THE PROMISES ARE CERTAIN IN HIM

↓

WE SAY AMEN

↓

GOD GETS THE GLORY

That connects beautifully with **Hebrews 11:11**:

“...she judged him faithful who had promised.”

That may be one of the simplest definitions of faith in Scripture:

Faith judges God faithful.

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The question isn't primarily, **"Do I have enough faith?"**

The better question is:

"Do I believe that the One who promised is faithful?"

Because **"all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen."**