

# Two Kinds of Promises

## Joshua 23:14

### Joshua 23:14 (NASB)

<sup>14</sup>“Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the LORD your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed.”

The Bible records two kinds of promises from the Lord—unconditional and conditional. An unconditional pledge is one whose fulfillment rests solely with God; His commitment is independent of people and situations. An example would be His covenant never to send another flood to destroy the entire earth ([Genesis 9:11](#)). No matter how the world behaves, He will not take this action again.

### Genesis 9:11 (NASB)

<sup>11</sup>“I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.”

The second type of divine promise is conditional. In other words, the Lord is willing to act under certain circumstances. It's often written as an “**if-then**” statement and involves our cooperation. Let's look at three conditional promises involving salvation, forgiveness, and wisdom.

• [Romans 10:9](#) tells us that salvation is promised to those who confess with their mouth and believe in their heart that Jesus is Lord. We are saved when we genuinely trust in the Savior.

### Romans 10:9 (NASB)

<sup>9</sup>“That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

• If we come to the Lord with sincere confession of sin, we have the assurance of divine forgiveness and cleansing ([1 John 1:9](#)). The Lord's fulfillment of this vow depends upon our obedient action.

### 1 John 1:9 (NASB)

<sup>9</sup>“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

• [James 1:5-6](#) instructs us to ask God for wisdom without doubting that we will receive it. If we approach the Lord with faith, then He will give us understanding.

### James 1:5-6 (NASB)

<sup>5</sup>“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

<sup>6</sup>But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.”

God will do exactly what He's promised. But He requires our obedient cooperation before fulfilling His conditional pledges. To receive the blessing, we must satisfy the conditions He has set. If you are waiting for the Lord to fulfill His promise, check to be sure you are carrying out your part.