

“I Will...”
Revelation 3:7-13

Introduction: Pg. ____

Though I have read these 7 Letters of Jesus to these churches scattered across modern-day Turkey many times, they have hit my heart in a very fresh way as we've worked through this series. One of the most significant personal takeaways is the emotional tension I have felt. Think about it...

Vision of Jesus: Comforting, Inspiring, Captivating! Walks among the seven lampstands (he is present!). He died and came to life. His eyes are like a flame of fire. Then you have...

Intense Calls to Action: (many times coming as words of correction): Get back to your first love! Be faithful even if it means your death. Don't compromise! Reject false teaching that leads to immoral living. WAKE UP! They are given to jolt us back into alignment with God's perfect design for our lives. But then we also have...

Hope-giving promises: You will eat of the tree of life (forever). You will not be hurt by the second death. I will give you hidden manna and a new name that no one knows but you. I will confess your name before all of heaven. Wow.

Today, I want us to spend time thinking more deeply about the promises of God. The promises of God are like a big hug. God wraps his arms around us and says: "I am in control. You are in my hands. I will see you through."

Just think about the physical demeanor when someone that you trust shares a promise with you: their eyes communicate confidence. Their voice, conviction. Their touch, comfort.

Our God is the God of the Promise. He is a Promise Maker, and he is a Promise Keeper.

These seven letters are loaded with promises.

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire” (2 Peter 1:3-4)

Read 3:7-13

There are four promises Jesus makes that I want us to receive today.

1. I will give you complete access (7-8).

Have you ever had a door shut in your face? Physically? Metaphorically? They both feel bad. Sometimes the nonmaterial doors hurt the worst.

Have you ever had a door opened, and that, unexpectedly?

- Verse 7 tells us who he is... Jesus is the DOORMAN.
 - The key & Open/Shut imagery points to the absolute authority of Christ.

- This truth echoes the very words Isaiah 22:22 that speaks of the manager of King David's treasury. He had the royal key that will open or lock every door.
- Jesus holds the keys of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 16:19).
- Verse 8 tells us why it mattered for these Christians.
 - It is highly probable, by this point, that the Jewish leaders had kicked them out of the synagogue. They had shut the door to them.
 - But not Jesus. I have set before YOU an open door, which no one is able to shut.

I believe we need to think about this at two levels.

- First and foremost, Jesus has opened a door, giving us complete access to a real relationship with God.
 - We deserve to be on the outside of God's house.
 - But God in his grace, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, grants us access WE DO NOT DESERVE!!
 - He says, "Come on in. You belong here. You are loved and accepted. Simply receive the gift of salvation I offer you. I am the way, the truth and the life."
 - Listen to me very carefully: You don't say if you get in or stay out. He does. So the eternal concern is not what you think of you, but what Jesus thinks of you.
- With this open doors comes complete access to the life of Christ.
 - And the primary image through the NT of an open door is sharing the access we have received!
 - As Jim Hamilton says: "the meaning is almost certainly that they have an opportunity not just to stand firm but to make advances, to take the good news of Jesus into places and hearts where it has not yet reached." (Hamilton)

T: Step out in faith and watch God open doors. Last time I checked, we are on a victory march. We see doors opening through the eyes of faith. When one door closes, we rejoice, because Jesus is in control of every situation, and he will make a way when there seems to be no way.

2. I will have the last word (9).

Verse 9... BEHOLD (twice)... PAY ATTN TO THIS.

- No doubt these believers were facing persecution, negative consequence for their commitment to Christ. Being kicked out of the synagogue was only the beginning. We've seen the social, emotional, financial, and physical forms of persecution the Christians endured.
- On top of this, verse 8 tell us that they had "little power." This is probably an indicator of their small size and little social influence.
 - In our weakness, we are strong. Get comfortable with weakness. Anyone who pretends they've got anything in their own strength makes me smile. (Rw)

But JESUS SAYS, listen: This is how it will work. This is what's going down.

- For those who do not believe in me.
 - I have the last word.
 - Specifically, he's calling out those who claimed to be God's people (you know, everyone claims to be God's people)... but in reality, were not his people because they rejected God's plan and God's long-promised Messiah.
 - They will bow down. They will, one day, recognize Jesus as God's Savior and King. As Philippians 2 says: "Therefore, God has highly exalted him (Jesus), and given him the name that is above every name..."

- So here's my encouragement to every person in the room... You will bow before Jesus one day, BOW NOW.
- For those who do believe in me.
 - They/we are the recipients of his love.
 - What does God want from you the most: to let him love you.
 - He's got this. [Word from *Brittany* on Wed night... "You bring them. I'll change them."]
- **"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32)**

T: Promise #3.

3. I will protect you (10).

Look how he begins verse 10...

"Bc of you have kept my word."

- This is clearly a promise to those who persevere.
- Life is not easy. Faithfulness is costly. When you are attacked, demeaned, harmed by others, it takes a lot of grace to say: "Jesus, you are better." But look at this promise for those who do...

"I will keep you..."

- Jesus seems to be pointing the period of time before he returns when there will be an intensification of two dynamics.
 - Persecution against Christians, AND
 - Manifestations of judgment and trial for the whole world.
- It's likely that this is the period Jesus describes at the end of the gospels when there will be an intensification of wars, relational strife and natural disasters.
- And Jesus says, I will protect you through that time period. I will be with you. You will come out on the other side of the pain.

This is love.

- Love provides: Giving what is good.
- Love protects: Protecting from what is not.
 - I often wonder how many times God has protected me where I have no clue... One of the dynamics of eternity I'm most excited about.

T: Jesus gives us access. He has the last word. He will protect us, and finally...

4. I will give you my presence forever (11-13).

"Coming soon..." The end of our lives or the end of history will be here faster than we expect! This should give us hope but also cause us to live with a sense of urgency to make sure we are those who receive these promises.

This promise goes (like the others) to "the one who conquers":

- Who is the one who conquers? The one who "holds fast," so that no one can touch their crown.
- Hey! You're going to look good with that crown on your head. It's going to be gleaming, shining,

The promise is a secure identity in the presence of God.

- “I will make you a pillar”
 - Historic architecture: Pillars held the entire structure together. If they fell, everything went with them.
 - This region was known for earthquakes, making Philadelphia a vulnerable city.
 - But Jesus says, you are like strong pillars, immovable.
 - Look at the promise: “NEVER shall he go out of it.”
 - We remember the Garden.... (VERSE) Explanation.
- I will give you three tattoos with three names! Identity... Belong to Him. To his City.
 - My God
 - New Jerusalem
 - The New Name of Jesus! Whoa!
- What is all of this? A picture of our eternal union with God.

[[Think about it: this church, along with the church at Smyrna, has the greatest rewards promised. They are also the most commendable churches. We will give an account. The rewards are based on how we spend [and steward] our lives. There is access for all (that is infinitely amazing!) But rewards distributed according to our actions.]]

T: But all who are IN CHRIST receive the greatest reward, which is the gift of himself, living forever in the presence of God.

Conclusion:

How do we respond to the “I WILL” of Jesus?

As we claim the promises of God, we live our lives based on those promises. Our hopes rise because of our confident expectation in God’s willingness and ability to come through on every word he has said.

The only appropriate response to the “I WILL” of Jesus is to say “I WILL” right back to him!

Our “I will,” rests on the “I will” of Jesus. Paul puts it like this...

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

The promises of God that lie in the future, motivate our faithfulness in the present. We can move forward with complete confidence (not throw away words), because we’ve seen God’s faithfulness to keep his promises in the past.

One pastor calls it “faith in future grace,” but this faith in future grace that moves us to present action (the I WILL) is based on God’s faithfulness in the past.

This faith in future grace is the motive for obedience Obedience comes from trusting in God for more grace—*future grace*—and thus magnifying the infinite resources of God’s love and power. Faith looks to the promise: “I will be with you wherever you go” ([Joshua 1:9](#)), and ventures, in obedience, to take the land. [IT’S TIME TO TAKE SOME GROUND in JESUS’ NAME!]

The biblical role of past grace—especially the cross—is to guarantee the certainty of future grace: “He who did not spare his own son but gave him up for us all (*past grace*), how shall he not with him freely give us all things (*future grace*)?” [THERE’S THE PROMISE] ([Romans 8:32](#)). But trusting in future grace is the motive and strength of our obedience. The more we trust in future grace the more we give God the opportunity in our lives to show the glory of his inexhaustible grace. So take a promise of future grace and do some radical act of obedience on it. God will be mightily honored. (John Piper)

Do you hear that argument?

Past experiences of grace builds confidence for future grace.

God has kept his past promises. He will keep his promises to come. So...

Make a bold declaration. Take a radical step of obedience. [Every box]
Put your “I will” on the “I will” of Christ.

I will walk in the power of the Holy Spirit

I will say yes to every good thing you put before me. AND ABSOLUTELY NOT to whatever dishonors your holy name.

Yes, I will keep worshiping, keep praying, keep following in the steps of Jesus.

Yes, I will keep hoping - trusting in your promises, keep living the resurrected life, and expecting great things from you.

YES, I WILL move out in simple obedience to the people around me who need your love, and Yes, God, based on your promise to save anyone that calls upon your name - that means anyone and everyone.

YES, I will. GOD. Based on Your. I have and I will.

**PRAY.

**Intro new song... Let’s sing... let our voices RISE in this place.