Good morning, Family. We are going to continue, over the next few weeks, to look at some of the beautiful promises of God for the believer and how they impact our lives. We are going to look also at how we respond to His promises. You are each a recipient of Holy promises, literally the object of God’s promises. Standing upon these promises flows from a place of intimacy with God. Remember, the Lord’s promises are an expression of His love and care, and all the promises of God are “Yes and Amen!” And Family, here is a most wonderful promise of God: His promise of

new life in Christ for those who by faith receive this hope: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things pass away: Behold new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). How do we respond daily to His redemption and justification?

With this promise of God, we are called into fellowship with Jesus Christ—the creation of a spiritual life where there was once death. And this promise of new life in Christ is divine assurance from God. Paul writes, “God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:9). You see, Church, this promise of new life is so much more than just adding Jesus to your already existing life and trying to be a good person. It is rooted in the work of Christ (\*Romans 6:4-11). The new life of a believer in Christ is transformed and transforming life that begins with the realization of our need for a Savior.

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\*Romans 6:4-11

4 Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may live a new life.

5 For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united in the likeness of his resurrection. 6 We know that[c] our old man was crucified with him so that the body of sin would no longer dominate us, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 (For someone who has died has been freed from sin.)

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he is never going to die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 For the death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 So you too consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us—He is the means and the invitation to the born again. Each of the believers who have received a new life in Christ must recognize that they receive salvation through repentance and faith and being positioned in the promise of their new lives.

Walking in the new life means life is different. The nature of the new life in Christ is freedom from the bondage of sin (“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin” (Romans 6:6). This new life is filled with the Holy Spirit, characterized by a transformed mind and heart. The result of salvation and sanctification is to be awakened to His presence by the power and companionship of the Holy Spirit (see below Ephesians 2:5-10 in Passages in support of this sermon). Inside this inexhaustible union, what happens is a creation of spiritual life where there once was deadness. Family, listen. Jesus is not observing you from a distance. If you are a true believer, the same Spirit that hovered over the deep at the foundation of the world is at work in the life of each submitted believer. The same dusty feet that traveled the roads of Galilee and walked on water walk with and guide you. You, personally and specifically, are accompanied by the divine three-in-one. And in this walk comes peace with God: “Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).

This profound peace brings assurance of eternal life. That’s the promise in your new life in Christ. In this unio, there should be transformation, a daily increase in dedication of the believer to knowledge of God. But did you know that, according to the American Bible Society, only 9% of Christian Americans read their bibles daily? Only 45% report praying daily. These sad truths seem to give lie to the commitment of Christians to act out our faith in every area of life at all times. Without daily exposure to the Word and daily prayer, the believer faces severe difficulties with growing in grace and truth. The promise of a new life in Christ is divine assurance from God. If we walk with Him, His promise helps us grow in knowledge and appreciation of Him and His grace. This growth helps us continue to engage in developing our union with Christ. All of God’s promises are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. In this union, we come into agreement and participation with

the Son. Sin is less attractive, and the forgiveness of sin and the gift of the Holy Spirit is what our life is about, the “Koinonian” fellowship of Christ, the understanding that goodness and mercy *are* following you and me all the days of our lives. Paul affirms this relationship: “20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). The “I” that lives in Christ is the “I” that trusts Him and desires to live in close fellowship with Him. This submitted believer works every day to put the ways of the flesh to death, to remain positioned in His promises. The submitted believer lives awakened to His presence by the power and companionship of the Holy Spirit, positioned inside the divine union with Christ. This position is the creation of spiritual life where there once was sin and death. Where do you find yourself in the promise? Are you at peace with God? Do you live with faith in the Son of God? Are you positioned in the joy of His salvation? Remember every day that standing on the promises of God flows from a place of intimacy.

Passages in Support of this Sermon:

Colossians 2:13-15

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Ephesians 2:1-10

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when

we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.