

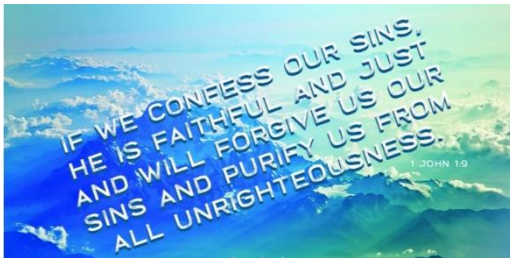
Guaranteed Victory

I remember it well, even though it was 55 years ago. The year was 1969. Even though it was the third league championship game, it was the first game titled the Super Bowl. I was a Baltimore Colts fan, looking forward to a resounding victory in Super Bowl III. Three days before the game, the flamboyant “Broadway Joe” Namath personally guaranteed the upstart New York Jets would beat the Colts. The Colts were a 19 ½ point favorite in the game, finishing the regular season with a 13-1 record and defeating the Cleveland Browns 34-0 to reach the title game. The Jets were a former American Football League team, losing four regular season games, following the merger of the NFL and AFL.



Even though the Jets scored first, Colts fans were confident their team would rebound and win the game. A fumble on the Colts’ own 12-yard line led to a Jim Turner field goal at the beginning of the second quarter. Two more field goals in the second half made the score 16-0 before the Colts scored a meaningless touchdown late in the 4th quarter. The final score ended up 16-7. Namath had delivered on his promise.

The entire world scoffed at the audacity of Namath for guaranteeing victory, but they could not see what Namath’s spirit felt. He played his heart out and was awarded the game’s MVP.



We were each made for a purpose. God gifts us with unique abilities to do something meaningful with our lives. We may be motivated, but only God can live up to His guarantee for the salvation of those who believe in Him. To be clear, Namath’s promise was a human promise reflecting his determination. In effect, it was a “battle cry.” God’s promises are assured.

Human guarantees are not assured. How many items in your home have guarantees in which the manufacturer would love to find loopholes to relieve them from making good on their promise? There aren’t loopholes for God’s promises to the faithful. Here are just a few of God’s promises to us:

Verse *Paraphrase of the Verse*

Old Testament Promises

Isaiah 41:10	He will strengthen us, and uphold us with His righteous hand.
Deuteronomy 31:8	God will never leave or forsake us.
Isaiah 40:31	Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength ...
Jerimiah 29:11	God has plans for us, for good, plans to prosper you,... to give us a future and a hope.
Isaiah 41:13	Do not fear; God will help you.
Isaiah 43:2	When you go through deep waters, God will be with you.

New Testament Promises

1 John 1:9	If we confess our sins, God will forgive them.
John 3:16	Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 6:35	I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.
Matthew 5:5	Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

John 16:33 He has overcome the world.
Matthew 11:28 When you are weary and burdened, God will give you rest.
2 Corinthians 12:9 His Grace is sufficient for you, and His power is made perfect in your weakness.
Romans 8:28 God works all things for the good of those who love him

Question: Have you accepted God's guarantee for eternal life?

The Bible Says: *Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Corinthians 5:5).*

The idea for this devotion came from Devotions from the World of Sports, by John & Kathy Hillman.