

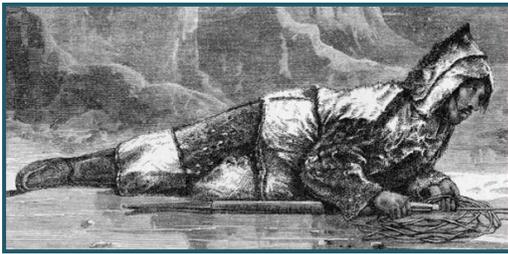
The Promises of God

In the early days of our country, a weary traveler came to the banks of the Mississippi River for the first time.

There was no bridge. It was early winter, and the surface of the mighty stream was covered with ice. Could he dare cross over? Would the uncertain ice be able to bear his weight?

Night was falling, and it was urgent that he reach the other side. Finally, after much hesitation and with many fears, he began to creep cautiously across the surface of the ice on his hands and knees. He thought that he might distribute his weight as much as possible and keep the ice from breaking beneath him.

About halfway over, he heard the sound of singing behind him. Out of the dusk there came a man, driving a horse-drawn load of coal across the ice and singing merrily as he went on his way.



Here he was – on his hands and knees, trembling lest the ice be not strong enough to bear him up! And there, as if whisked away by the winter's wind, went the man, his horses, his sleigh, and his load of coal, upheld by the same ice on which he was creeping.

Like this weary traveler, some of us have learned only to creep upon the promises of God. Cautiously, timidly, tremblingly, we venture forth upon His promises, as though the lightness of our steps might make His promises more secure – as though we could contribute even in the slightest to the strength of His assurances!

He has promised to be with us. Let us believe that promise. He has promised to uphold us. Let us believe Him when He says so. He has promised to grant us victory over all our spiritual enemies. Let us trust His truthfulness. Above all, He has promised to grant us full and free forgiveness of all our sins because of Jesus Christ, our Savior. And He has promised to come and take us to His heavenly home. Let us take Him at His word.

We are not to creep upon these promises as though they were too fragile to uphold us. We are to stand upon them, confident that God is as good as His Word and that He will do what He has pledged.

I love the lyrics to that old hymn *Standing on the Promises*:

*Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.*

(more)

*Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.*

We can see, in the work we are called to do in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, how those promises have strengthened and sustained our residents through many storms in their lives.

– Beecher Hunter