

# SPRING

(SPRING) VERB

1. A MOVEMENT UPWARD 2. BRING ABOUT THE ESCAPE OR RELEASE OF A PRISONER 3. A PLACE WHERE WATER WELLS UP FROM AN UNDERGROUND SOURCE

for the week of 24 April: it's worth the wait...

*Joshua 1.1-8: ... My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you as I promised to Moses... No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous... be careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go... I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

God's promises— His expectations and dreams for us are a gift and resource that sets us apart from the animal kingdom. God's promises cannot be deduced with the powers of our intellect nor apprehended through the insight of our intuition. They are revealed by His Spirit, presented in His Word (the Bible), and become embedded in our longings. When God's promises overtake us we can no longer conceive of our future without their fulfillment.

One of the tragedies of our times is that many Christians do not expect God to promise them anything except life after death. We have lost all sense that we are children with a purposed destiny because our God and Father has spoken over us before we were ever born. God wants us to enjoy our salvation and the fulfillment of His purposes for us.

I recognize that this is difficult to embrace because:

- Many of us are cautious. We have been hurt, and the more frequently promises have been broken, the more difficult this subject will be...
- Many of us are unsure of the timing of God's promises. We fear the commitments that trust requires— waiting, patience, fortitude, and a willingness to risk.
- Promises - yet to be fulfilled- can create ambiguity and anguish as we live between promise and fulfillment especially when our life circumstances and cherished relationships are so out of sync with what we long to see fulfilled.

Dear ones, beware of the human desire to domesticate your faith into something that is controllable, comfortable, predictable, and acceptable to the limitations of your patience and your vulnerability. Promises create tension. Yet-to-be-filled promises tempt us with disappointment and discouragement as we yearn and persevere until they are fulfilled. Yet-to-be-filled promises can be hard to endure! Remember:

*God's promises call us forward out of the shadows of death.* ("Moses my servant is dead.") The bluntness and the brevity of this statement must have been both devastating and liberating. Without God's promises it will be easy for us to languish in death— grief, disappointments, shame, failure, missed expectations. This is not the "kingdom" the child of God is called to inhabit.

*God's promises are linked to our personal histories.* ("Just as I was with Moses...") God's promises may destine us towards something heretofore unimagined, but they do not disregard those life experiences that God has authored to shape us and make us ready for His call.

*God's Promises have continuity with God's character and other promises.* ("As I promised to Moses...") God's promises are not new revelations. They are particular application of the promises of God, already fulfilled in Christ, for you. Twice in this passage God reiterates that this promise is consistent with what He has previously promised.

*God's promises declare God's high purposes for us.* ("Now cross the Jordan...") I can only say that God's Kingdom purposes for you are higher and more strategic than you can imagine on your own. From His perspective you have a Jordan to cross, a land to possess, and a tomorrow to walk into. His promises— despite trial, challenge, adversity, opposition, and disappointment— are worth the wait.

Enjoy your LifeGroup!

Mark

getting know one another better...

If you had a time machine that would work only once, what point in the future or past would you choose to visit? Why?

## Exploring Psalm 40

*1 I waited patiently for the LORD;  
And He inclined to me and heard my cry.  
2 He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay,  
And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.  
3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;  
Many will see and fear and will trust in the LORD.*

*4 How blessed is the man who has made the LORD his trust,  
And has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood.  
5 Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders which You have done,  
And Your thoughts toward us; there is none to compare with You.  
If I would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count.*

*6 Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired;  
My ears You have opened; burnt offering and sin offering You have not required.  
7 Then I said, "Behold, I come;  
In the scroll of the book it is written of me.  
8 I delight to do Your will, O my God; your Law is within my heart."*

*9 I have proclaimed glad tidings of righteousness in the great congregation;  
Behold, I will not restrain my lips,  
O LORD, You know. 10 I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart;  
I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation;  
I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great congregation.*

*Psa. 40:11 You, O LORD, will not withhold Your compassion from me;  
Your lovingkindness and Your truth will continually preserve me.  
12 For evils beyond number have surrounded me;  
My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to see;  
They are more numerous than the hairs of my head, And my heart has failed me.*

*Psa. 40:13 Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; make haste, O LORD, to help me.  
14 Let those be ashamed and humiliated together who seek my life to destroy it;  
Let those be turned back and dishonored who delight in my hurt.  
15 Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, "Aha, aha!"*

*16 Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;  
Let those who love Your salvation say continually,  
"The LORD be magnified!"  
17 Since I am afflicted and needy,  
Let the Lord be mindful of me.  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
Do not delay, O my God.*

In verse 2, David rejoices in God's deliverance from a "slimy pit" to a "firm place." What do you think he means by that?

In response to God's help, what "faith actions" does David say he did in verses 9-10?

The normal response of gratitude was to make an offering (verse 6). How is David's response different?

Compare verses 1-10 with verses 11-17. How does the psalm's tone change in the second half? How do you reconcile the differences coming from the same person in one song?

### reflecting on Psalm 40...

David begins this psalm by saying he waited patiently. He concludes by asking that God would not delay. How do the elements of patience and the need for a speedy answer contribute to your understanding of what it means to wait on God?

Waiting in a slimy pit—what a graphic picture of needing God's help! What has been or is currently in your "slimy pit"? How did you get in the pit?! What makes it "slimy"?

In Scripture God refers to David as "a man after his own heart" (1 Samuel 13.14). From this psalm, describe David's relationship with God. What aspects of David's faith would you like to cultivate in your own relationship with God?

David is threatened by others who oppose him & by his own sins. How are these twin themes a continuing presence in your life?

How does "waiting" and "crying out" impact your faith, trust, and hope in God?

Celebration and public testimony are the appropriate responses to being delivered from a pit to a firm place. Write down several things that you could say to a friend about how God has

delivered you in the past or how you are waiting on Him in the present. How can you share some of the things you have written in an appropriate, casual, and sensitive way?

my prayer requests (think of what you want to share in advance)...

praying for my group...

Highlighting...



### Annual Fundraisers

MOP'S at Faith Community has a goal to be able to give back to the church and community. Every Year we do a fundraiser to help this amazing group of Mother's of Preschoolers. The first way you can participate will be our Baskets for Bid, the second is the First Annual Spring Auction and Dinner!

#### **MOPS Spring Auction**

**April 22, 6-9pm**

**Fellowship Center**

We will be having our First Annual MOPS Auction on April 22, 2016! There will be hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dessert. We also have some amazing things to auction off. There are items from restaurants, things for you to go and do and things for your home! As an added bonus, our very own Pastor Mark has agreed to be our auctioneer! Tickets are \$10 to come to the event. You can get the tickets 2 ways, go on line to [faithsandiego.org/mops](http://faithsandiego.org/mops), or stop by the table in the courtyard each Sunday between now and the event.

#### **Baskets For Bid!**

**Sunday April 10 & 17th**

After service we will have our beautiful baskets on display so you can purchase raffle tickets and select the one you want to take home with you. These baskets are filled with things for the backyard, gift cards to shop with and ways to relax. The winners of these great baskets will be announced the night of the auction, so come join us there too!!!



**Apr 17 - The Night Shift with Jim Foreman**

8:30 am - 9:45 am in the Youth Center

**Apr 17 - Third Sunday, night of prayer**

6:30-8pm Worship Center

**Apr 22 - MOPS Spring Auction**

6-9pm Fellowship Center

**May 1 - Communion Sunday**

**May 8 - Mother's Day Partial Family Service**

**14 May - HER Spring Event**

9am-Noon Fellowship Center

**Upcoming Children's Events:**

**Jun 27-Jul 1 - Kids Camp 4yrs-6th grade**

**Jul 11-14 - Creative Camp 2nd-6th grade**

**Aug 8-11 - Science Camp 2nd-6th grade**