

August 13 & 14, 2022

Can God be trusted to fulfill the promises He makes? This is the question Jacob has to answer for himself as he is going through the transformation process of his faith. He has a sincere relationship with God, but judging by his behaviour, it seems that Jacob hasn't yet come to a point when he can "enter the rest" and put complete trust in the Lord, who has already proven Himself faithful.

As Jacob is fleeing Laban and now faces Esau, he finds himself between a rock and a hard place with no means left to save the situation. At this critical moment, all that is left is the promise of God. And this is the moment of truth. When God is the only one who can help, will He? And if He does, and there's nothing or nobody else who can get the credit for it, but God - then we don't just think that we can trust God, we know it!

In his book *Renovation of the Heart*, Dallas Willard gives an intriguing definition of faith. "We don't believe something by merely saying we believe it, or even when we believe that we believe it. We believe something when we act as if it were true."

Promises of God are a settled reality that will take place in the future.

- Can you think of situations in Jacob's life when he behaves as if God's promise to him weren't true?
- Why do you think he acted this way?

Try to come up with a few promises God has given to his church. Pick one that you feel is important for you personally and try to answer this question: "Do I live as if this promise is true (a settled reality that will take place in the future)."

- If the answer is 'no' or 'not exactly, why do you think it is?'

## Reflection Questions

Come up with a few of God's promises that are important to you personally and try to answer these two questions:

- Do I believe that these promises are true?
- Do I live as though they are true?

## WILLINGDON CHURCH ELDERS

Phil Balzer	Ray Harms-Wiebe	Ken Redekopp	Ed Thiessen
John Best	Ruben Heyn	Mark Reimer	Wayne Wiebe
Roman Bondartchouk	Danny Lee	Rick Reimer	Rick Wilson
Ken Dyck	Paul Lee	Vince Reimer	
Jim Eisenhauer	Mark Loewen	Willy Reimer	
Alfred Gomez	Dave Marshall	Norm Schmidt	

*Please continue to pray for the elders.*

*If you wish to contact an elder, please email [elders@willingdon.org](mailto:elders@willingdon.org).*