

# TALK IT OVER

Promises or Principles?

## BOTTOM LINE

Fix your eyes on Jesus, not your circumstances.

## CONVERSATION STARTER

If you could guarantee one miracle before the end of 2024, what would it be?

## THINGS TO CONSIDER

*What did you hear?*

*What do you think?*

*What will you do?*

## RESOURCES

- The Daily: [newpointe.org/thedaily](https://newpointe.org/thedaily)
- [When You're Disappointed by God](#) by Craig Groeschel (34 min.)

## KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*  
Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV

*Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*  
Hebrews 4:16 NIV

"Principles are concepts offering general guidance and are not to be understood as absolutes in every situation. God's promises are different. They are absolute and will take place in God's timing and in God's way. We tend to interchange principles and promises, and it leads to disappointment with God." – Dwight Mason

"The only thing worse than disappointment with God is facing disappointment without God." – Philip Yancey

## TALK IT OVER

Do you have a favorite promise? What about a core principle from the Word? How do you feel promises and principles impact your life? Do you consciously live by any? What are the first thoughts you tend to have when things aren't going as you hoped and prayed? Is there a hero of the faith with whom you most identify in Hebrews 11, or do you find more commonality with the others unnamed who didn't have the glorious outcomes? Explain. Who might you add to the "cloud of witnesses" in your own life who could encourage you to "throw off every weight" and keep going when you are disappointed and struggling? Why? Giving up your faith doesn't make life easier. It makes it more complicated. Discuss. Each person has a different race marked out for them. Why is this hard to remember and how does it impact me when I forget? The only way to deal with our circumstances is to fix our eyes on Jesus. How have you experienced that? When have you found "mercy and grace to help you in your time of need"?

## ACTION STEP

I will daily focus my eyes on Jesus through worship and obedience. I will have more faith in Him than fear of my circumstances. He will always be my go-to.