



<b>DATE</b>	January 21, 2018
<b>SPEAKER</b>	David Smith
<b>TITLE</b>	Rely On God's Promises
<b>SERIES</b>	We've all heard the phrase, "You should know better." But what does "better" look like, and how can we come to know it? Romans 8 reminds us that's what the Holy Spirit is here for. And as we trust and rely on Him, we can truly know better.

No one and nothing is certain in this world. Marriages wilt, jobs come and go, and friendships are broken. But Romans 8:31-39 asserts that, no matter who or what lets us down, God will never let us be defeated.

1. In Romans 8, we are studying the difference between failing and thriving in life. Compare the world's view of failing vs. thriving to God's view. How have you thrived this week based on your mindset and your knowledge of Romans 8:28?
2. Romans 8:31-34 is a reminder, that unlike any other religion in the world, being a Christ-follower graces us with instant forgiveness. How do we align this principle with Jesus' teachings in Matthew 7:21-23 and Matthew 19:16-30?
3. We have all fallen prey to the ear-flicking bullies like David experienced. Recount a few of your own that you have faced. Romans 12:17, 19 reminds us to leave room for God's wrath. What would this look like in your own situation? How would you advise others to live this verse when the rest of the world encourages retaliation?
4. How can people be against us and not determine the outcome of our lives? How do we reconcile God's promise – that "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) – with the lives of Christians who have faced persecution, torture, and even death throughout history?
5. Review the three promises we studied in Romans 8: No one can be against you; Nothing can separate you from God's love; Nothing can defeat you. These assurances should bring you joy and hope, but what do you do when you don't feel these promises in your life? Similarly, how would you mentor to someone else who is struggling? How can the following verses be of assurance: Jeremiah 29:11-13; Psalm 91; Psalm 27-13-14; Isaiah 54:16-17; Proverbs 3: 5-7?
6. God always fulfills His word; however, it is sometimes in unexpected ways. *The Bible* is filled with examples of God's creativity in keeping promises: Genesis 37-45 (Joseph); Exodus 16-17 (Feeding God's People); Joshua 6 (The Fall of Jericho); and Luke 2 (The Birth of Jesus). What did God require of many of the Biblical characters in order for His promises to be fully realized? Share some ways that you have seen God keeping His word in your life or in the life of someone you know.

This week claim God's promises for your own and take a stance of gratitude and joy, even when faced with opposition.