Promises

**A man apt to promise is apt to forget. *(Thomas Fuller)***

**Beauty is the promise of happiness. *(Stendhal)***

**The buds are the tree's hostages to the future -- the promise a tree makes to itself that there will be a tomorrow, another year*. (Hal Borland's Twelve Moons of the Year)***

**Both Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt were elected by promising more or less the opposite of what they did in office. Lincoln said he’d preserve the institution of slavery. F.D.R. said he’d balance the federal budget. *(Michael Kinsley, in Time magazine)***

**The more you listen to political speeches, the more you realize why America is called the land of promise. *(Arnold H. Glasow)***

**God's promises are like the stars; the darker the night, the brighter they shine. *(David Nicholas)***

**When Herbert Hoover made that promise of “two chickens in every pot,” little did he know it would one day come true only because we couldn’t afford anything else. *(Pat Mahan, Register and Tribune Syndicate)***

**January’s Promise: Change has already set in. Slight change. That’s one thing you must say for January: Its daylight hours increase rather than diminish. Cold may strengthen, as the old saying goes, and snow may deepen and ice may thicken on pond and river, but sunset now comes later. By the end of January there will be about three-quarters of an hour more daylight. Thus do winter’s days change, even as molasses-slow January flows past. Already, if we watch the sunset closely, we can glimpse the end of winter. On a brittle cold day that ice-green band of light may mark the horizon even as that knifing wind rattles window and door, but it comes later than it did a week ago. It’s still a matter of minutes, but the change has begun. That’s the promise, and that’s the proof. *(Editorial in New York Times)***

**Vote for the man who promises least; he’ll be the least disappointing. *(Bernard Baruch, businessman)***

**In 1927 a real estate and insurance company in Savannah, Georgia failed. Some 500 stockholders in the firm were out several hundred thousand dollars.**

**Both the owner of the company, a man named Mercer, and his young son, vowed that if it were in their power someday the stockholders would be repaid their losses. The company was never able to get going again and some years later the father died. His son, however, never forgot the debt – someday, somehow, he would repay it. Twenty-eight years later the son deposited a check for $300,000 in a Savannah bank to repay the debt to the stockholders. It had taken a long time for the son to fulfill his father’s promise, but finally it was done. The young man was Johnny Mercer, the songwriter and singer. One of the many popular songs that he wrote, and from which he earned enough in royalties to be able to pay off the debt, was Accentuate the Positive.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Life is a promise; fulfill it. (*Mother Teresa)***

**The first American settlers came expecting that almost anything could exist in the New World. They came because they had a love affair with their illusions. This was true of those who came across the ocean and those who moved across the continent. Disillusionment came on the installment plan. Only gradually did the settlers find out that the marvelous promises were not always or altogether true. *(Daniel J. Bornstin and Nicolas L. Noxon, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Politicians fail to keep many of their promises. It’s one of the main reasons this country has survived for more than 200 years. *(William D. Tammeus, in Kansas City Star)***

**He is poor indeed that can promise nothing. *(Thomas Fuller, M.D.)***

**A funny thing happens when you sit down with historians and ask them what presidential temperament is and when it matters and whether voters make a mistake to let it count for much. What emerges is that temperament is as elusive as it is essential. George W. Bush probably wasn’t lying in the 2000 campaign when he promised a humble foreign policy. He just had no idea what was coming. Franklin D. Roosevelt probably was lying when he promised the anxious parents of 1940 that “your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.” Always be sincere, Harry Truman said, even if you don’t mean it. *(Nancy Gibbs, in Time magazine)***

**When Ben Moser was in fourth grade, he promised his friend Mary Lapkowicz that he'd take her to prom. Moser had always watched over Lapkowicz, who has Down Syndrome, including her in every game. "If it was looking like she wasn't having fun, he would go over and talk to her," said their former teacher, Tracey Spogli. Mary ended up transferring schools, and the two fell out of touch. But Moser remembered his promise. Last week, the 17-year-old high school quarterback presented Mary with balloons, and the childhood friends attended his prom together. "You should do what's right," he said. "Simple." *(The Week magazine, May 22, 2015)***

**Woman to boyfriend after he proposed: "It's not like I'm totally turning you down, Randy -- it's just that I promised Steve I'd marry him first." *(Baloo, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**Dolly says to her Mom: “If you read me this bedtime story, I promise to stay awake.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Those who are slowest in making a promise are often the most faithful in its performance. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Husband, returning home from work, to wife: "Well, no vague promises this time -- I will definitely get my raise when hell freezes over." *(David Blalock, in The American Legion Magazine)***

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