



Your promise reflects **YOU**.

Do not withhold good when it is your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor “Come back later. I’ll give it to you tomorrow” when you have it with you now. (*Prov. 3:27-28*)

Promises are good. Action is better.

A promise to help “later on” is not sinful
in itself unless...

a) The need is **immediate**

b) I **could** help immediately

Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

(Prov. 13:12)

Promises provide **HOPE**. This has
a powerful **influence** on people.

A broken promise creates ruin
(sickness) in ways often **unrealized**.

Many a man claims to have unfailing love.
But a faithful man, who can find? *(20:26)*

Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on
the unfaithful in a day of trouble. *(25:19)*

Like clouds and wind without rain is the one
who boasts of gifts they do not bring. *(25:14)*

Like a madman shooting firebrands
or deadly arrows is a man who deceives
his neighbor and says, “I was only
joking!” (*Prov. 26:18-19*)

A promise is not a **joke**; therefore, a broken promise is not humor. It is **deception**.

Since an arrow is “deadly,” it must never be shot without **serious intent**.

A vow to provide
leadership/correction/accountability
is **no less significant** than a promise
to provide comfort/aid/security.

It is a trap to dedicate something rashly
and only later to consider your vows.

(Prov. 20:25)

The time to **consider** the implications of a promise is **before** giving it.

**Resist haste and demand
careful/prayerful thought from yourself.**