

Great is His Faithfulness

"Who is mighty as You are, O Lord, with Your faithfulness all around You" (Psalm 89:8). Another translation says, **"...And faithful is Your character."** God's divine nature is to be faithful, and He cannot deny Himself. God's faithfulness is unlimited (Psalm 36:5). The Psalmist went so far as to say, **"Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations"** (Psalm 119:89-90). Because God has spoken, and His word is completely reliable, every generation can count on what He has said (especially His promises). No wonder Jeremiah exclaimed with joy, **"Great is Your faithfulness"** (Lamentations 3:23).

It's interesting to note how often **faithfulness** and **truth** are used together in Scripture. For example, Isaiah said, **"Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth"** (Isaiah 25:1 KJV). The Apostle John also said that God's words are **"faithful and true"** (Revelation 21:5; 22:6). He said that Jesus Christ, the living Word in flesh, is **"the faithful and true Witness"** (Revelation 8:14), and that at His return to the earth He will bear the title, **"Faithful and True"** (Revelation 19:11).

All of God's attributes operate in conjunction, never in isolation. If everything about Him is true, then He has no alternative but to be faithful. We sometimes go back on our word because we are unable to do what we intended to do. But God is omnipotent. He can do anything He pleases. He has no reason to be unfaithful. God is totally self-sufficient. He does not need anyone else's approval to meet our needs. He is His own reason for everything He does. God never loses interest. He is immutable. He never changes His mind.

Scripture extols God's **faithfulness**. Our opening scripture said it "surrounds Him," that is, it is part of His being and affects everything He does. Moses assured the people of Israel that because God is faithful He could be expected to keep His covenant and carry out His promises (Deuteronomy 7:9). He has done exactly that. For example, He gave them the land He promised them, He gave them victory over their enemies, and He gave them rest from their conflicts - just as He said He would. **"Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; all have come to pass"** (Joshua 21:45). That is the essence of God's faithfulness.

God's **faithfulness** to His covenant promises is assured even if His people refuse to walk in His judgments, ignore His statutes, and break His commandments (Psalm 89:30, 37). Although He will discipline them, He will not violate His covenant, alter the utterance of His lips or, as He says, "deal falsely in My faithfulness" (Psalm 89:33). He can be counted on to do exactly what He promises.

So what's the extent of God's **faithfulness**? Since God's faithfulness is part of His essence, it affects everything He says and everything He does. This assurance is expressed to the Thessalonians: **"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass"** (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24). Paul longs to see every one of them standing before the throne of God, wholly set apart unto the Lord, perfectly pure and blameless. He is confident that they will, not because they have the innate power to make themselves holy, but because the One who called them is faithful.

What's more, God is **faithful** in providing for our victory. He has been **faithful** to His promise. He has given us His Spirit to live in us and help us, and He is the Spirit of power. He has equipped us with His Word which gives us authority over the devil. He is continually available for communication through prayer. He has created us with a human will by which we may choose to live a life that's pleasing to Him (1 Corinthians 6:18; 10:14; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22). When we step out by **faith** to obey Him, He meets us there with His strength. These are resources which He has faithfully provided, and when we use them we enjoy His victory. We become overcomers in this life!

Finally, God is faithful in sustaining us through hardship. One of the times we are most tempted to doubt God's faithfulness is when suffering strikes our lives. It often makes no sense to us and we see no reason for it. We may search our lives, and although we find some failings which we have previously overlooked, we still cannot believe we deserve what God has allowed to happen to us. We begin to think that He has forgotten us or really does not care about us. He may allow us to suffer, but He could never forget us in our suffering because He is faithful. And therefore, He cannot forget us. He really does care.

How can we appropriate this great doctrine of God's faithfulness and enjoy calmness and contentment when hard times come? The only way is to do what Peter suggested: **"Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right"** (1 Peter 4:19). As the Creator, God has the power to carry out His perfect plan for our lives and to accomplish His perfect purposes through our hardships. And as the faithful Creator, He can be counted on to do it.

Therefore we can consciously entrust ourselves to His care with complete confidence, and hand the safekeeping of our lives over to Him, believing that He will do what is best. When we do that, we will have peace in the midst of adversity.

We must learn to be encouraged by God's **faithfulness**. God will not only be faithful in assuring our salvation, providing for our victory, forgiving our sins, and sustaining us through hardship, but He will also be *faithful* in keeping every promise He has ever made. That is the greatest encouragement we could possibly have. The Bible contains thousands of precious promises from God, and at least one of them will have application to every conceivable situation you can possibly encounter—financial disaster, serious illness, the loss of a loved one, family tensions, or anything else. A faithful God can be trusted to keep every promise. The writer to the Hebrews encouraged his readers with these words: ***“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful”*** (Hebrews 10:23).

It is important to understand that many promises in the Word are absolute and unconditional. God is going to keep them whether we believe He will or not. He will fulfil His Word whether we are faithful to Him or not. The Apostle Paul said, ***“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself”*** (2 Timothy 2:13). To be faithless may also mean to be unbelieving. When God's promises are unconditional, neither our faithlessness nor our unbelief will affect His faithfulness. They may rob us of our peace, our joy, and our testimony, but He will keep doing what He promised to do, just keep being **faithful** to His Word. What a wonderfully faithful God we serve! **Great is Your faithfulness!**