

God's Faithfulness

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Sermon Notes:

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Devotional - Day 1

Day1 - God's Faithfulness

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) – prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture Reading: Lamentations 3:22-23

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Devotional:

Reflect on this poem written by Thomas O. Chisholm in 1923, (which was turned into one of the great worship songs of the early 20 century) about God’s faithfulness over his lifetime. After each section, write down how God has been faithful to you.

Great is Thy faithfulness,
O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee,
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above;
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

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Question to Consider:

Why is it that we forget about God's faithfulness to us each day?

Prayer:

Lord, I pray that my heart will soar when I remember to thank you for your great faithfulness to me. May I turn to you always knowing that you are ever true!

Conclude with silence and stillness before God (2 minutes)

Afternoon/Evening Question to Consider:

If you are God's child, what does **Lamentations 3:22-23** tell you about your identity and hope?

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Devotional - Day 2

Day 2 - The Faithfulness of Jesus

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) – prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:30-35 (ESV)

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.

Devotional

Have you wondered how Jesus looked when he made eye contact with Peter after his denial? Did his face burn with wrath, or was it as peaceful as the sound of God walking through the garden after Adam & Eve sinned?

I think we can imagine it was what grace and truth look like. Though Peter was broken by his sin, there was hope for his sinful broken heart. Jesus warned Peter of his impending denial, but he also prepared Peter for his impending forgiveness and restoration. “I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers” (Luke 22:32).

Jesus’ faithfulness to God and future work on the cross would pay the penalty for Peter’s pride, fear and shame. While Peter had been ashamed of the truth, Jesus would bear shame in the name of truth. While Peter was unfaithful, Jesus was faithful.

We all have our moments when we overestimate our devotion to God, trust ourselves instead of his word, and are unfaithful to the one we love. A rooster’s crow may not break the silence of our pride, but how sweet is the sound of grace’s faithfulness. - Jackie Hill Perry

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Question to Consider

How can the truth of Jesus help you live today like it did for Peter?



Prayer

Lord Jesus, may I see what the truth of your faithfulness means for my life. May I see that in the middle of the pressures and difficulties of this life, I can trust you for the outcome and be obedient to you because of your faithfulness to me!

Conclude with silence and stillness before God (2 minutes)

Afternoon/Evening Question to Consider:

How does Jesus' love for your life help you love others?

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Devotional - Day 3

Day 3 - Our Faithfulness

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) – prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24–27 (ESV)

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Devotional

Faithfulness means to be trustworthy. There is only one who has ever been trust worthy and that is Jehovah the God of the Bible.

C.S. Lewis says;

“Never, never pin your whole faith on any human being; not if he is the best and wisest in the whole world. There are lots of nice things you can do with sand; but do not try building a house on it.”

Much like love, our faith begins with the faithfulness of one greater than ourselves. The source of everything begins with God. He is a firm foundation!

He is faithful so we can be obedient...

...spouses...

...parents...

...children...

& friends.

The faithfulness of God leads us, it shows us the way. It is a firm foundation which enables and strengthens us to live a life of obedience that is dominated by love (1 John 4:18).

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Question to Consider:

What other things have you been using as a foundation for your life?



Prayer:

Oh Lord, thank you for the firm foundation you have given in Jesus.

Forgive me when I place my trust in something or someone other than you. Thank you for your amazing grace!

Conclude with silence and stillness before God (2 minutes)

Afternoon/Evening Question to Consider:

What words would you use to describe Jesus being a firm foundation on which to build your life?

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Devotional - Day 4

Day 4 - God's Faithfulness

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) – prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture Reading: 2 Pet. 3:8-9 (ESV)

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Devotional

“Dear heavenly Father, thank you for being patient with our impatience. You’ve never been late for anything. “Swiss timing” is tardiness, compared to the precision of your faithfulness. You will send Jesus back at just the right time, to finish making all things new. That grand Day will happen, not a day early and not a day late.

And how we long for that Day. No more death, pain, or mourning; no more knowing in part or loving in part; no more goodbyes or good riddance; no more disappointing others or being disappointed; no more betrayals or rejections; no more broken hearts or broken anything; no more heartaches or even heartburn.

But Father, your faithfulness isn’t just tied to the timing of the second coming, but to everything else you’ve promised as well. Indeed, there’s no panic or second-guessing in heaven today. You’re not distracted or perplexed about anything—that would be us, not you. Though it’s hard to imagine why you haven’t answered certain prayers we’ve offered, with a quick and big “Yes!” Nevertheless, you do all things well. You gave Jesus for our sins; certainly we can trust you to give us everything else we really need.

So grant us grace in our waiting, strength in our weariness, and wisdom in our bewilderment. And in the meantime, help us to be more attentive to the needs of others. Fill our hearts with kindness and gentleness, as we bear one another’s burdens. So very Amen we pray, in Jesus’ compassionate and grace-full name.” Scotty Smith

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Question to Consider:

In what things do you question God's ability to be faithful to you and the truth found in the Bible?

Prayer

Dear Lord, may I trust you with those things I just do not understand. When life seems to go sideways may I not lose hope in you, the faithfulness of your character and the truth found in your Word.

Conclude with silence and stillness before God (2 minutes)

Afternoon/Evening Question to Consider:

How does what you learn about God in **2 Peter 3:8-9** challenge how you live with people?

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Devotional - Day 5

Day 5 - Thankfulness for the Faithful One

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) – prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture Reading: Psalm 20:1

May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble!

May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

Devotional

Today as you read the following verses about God's faithfulness, may they show you that living a life of thankfulness is not only vital but very practical as we live for the glory of God every moment!

Deuteronomy 32:3–4

For I will proclaim the name of the LORD;
ascribe greatness to our God!

“The Rock, his work is perfect,
for all his ways are justice.

A God of faithfulness and without iniquity,
just and upright is he.

Proverbs 3:5–8

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

As we finish **Anchor for the Soul** what are the top five things God has shown you about Himself.

1.

2.

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3.

4.

5.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for making yourself known to me. With the guidance of your Holy Spirit and grace of Jesus may I grow in my understanding of you all my days! For I cannot trust that which I do not know, and I want to know you!

Thankfulness to God is a recognition that God in His goodness and faithfulness has provided for us and cared for us, both physically and spiritually. It is a recognition that we are totally dependent upon Him; that all that we are and have comes from God.

— *Jerry Bridges* —



Week #9 - God's Faithfulness

GOAL:

This week we are wrapping up our study on the attributes of God with His faithfulness. The dictionary defines faithful as “loyal, constant, and steadfast.”

As we live this life we soon find that total faithfulness in relationships is rare. It can be the unfaithfulness of a spouse, parent, friend, boss etc. It's devastating and has lasting effects upon our lives. It affects our relationships with individuals but also the way we live in community - in and outside of the church.

Because of the hurt that we have experienced through the unfaithfulness of others, we often avoid relationships that might prove to be good and beneficial for us out of fear of being hurt again. Although faithfulness is what we long for, it often eludes us leaving lasting consequences, not only in our horizontal relationships with people, but also in our vertical relationship with God.

Let's head into life seeking first the relationship with the One who is always faithful. He will never fail us! Our whole future lies with Him. We have assurance in this life that God is faithful. In *The Knowledge of the Holy*, A.W. Tozer states:

“Every heart can make its own application of this truth and draw from it such conclusions as the truth suggests and its own needs bring into focus. The tempted, the anxious, the fearful, the discouraged may all find new hope and good cheer in the knowledge that our Heavenly Father is faithful. He will ever be true to His pledged word.”

This week as we look at the truth of the faithfulness of God, take in all you have learned over the past nine weeks and let it bring you hope for the

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future and the relationships that will occupy the days ahead.

LOVING GOD:

* Memory Verse: **Lamentations 3:22-23**

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness”.

*2 Minutes of Silence

*Devotional: choose one of the 5 devotionals for this week on the Faithfulness of God to read aloud to the group

*Question to Consider: this will come from the devotional as well.

*2 Minutes of Silence

BUILDING COMMUNITY:

* Growing Connected Questions

- If there was something that you could have stay the same and never change what would that be? Why this thing?
- Why is this so important to you?
- What stood out to you from this past week’s message?

MAKING DISCIPLES:

* Bible Study Scriptures:

Read the following Scriptures out loud in the group: **Lamentations 3:22-23, Psalm 138:8, Psalm 46:10, 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, Romans 8:38-39**

* Questions:

- What do we learn about God in these verses?
- When has it ever been difficult for you to trust in the faithfulness of God?
- Over the last nine weeks we have learned so much about God through His attributes that impact how we live our lives and interact with others. The title to Psalm 20 in my Bible is Trust in the Name of the LORD Our God - A Psalm of David. “May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! **Psalm 20:1.** Knowing that God is faithful, what attribute that we’ve studied is going to have an immediate effect upon your life?
- How will trusting God affect your relationships with others?

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*** Application Questions:**

- How does understanding God being faithful – trustworthy – affect my relationship with Him?
- If I truly understand and believe this about God, how will it affect the way I live?
- What is God saying to me? What am I going to do about it?

*** Going Deeper (The following are added optional resources for you to help you grow in your understanding of this week's attribute(s) of God):**

- 1 - If you want to take a challenge, get a copy of A.W. Tozer's *The Knowledge of the Holy* and read chapter 15.
- 2 - Take a few minutes to listen to the song Faithfulness by Hillsong Worship 2015
- 3 - Look up these Articles online about God's faithfulness:
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/life-is-fragile-but-god-is-faithful>
www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/faithfulness-god
- 4 - For Parents:
www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/spiritual-growth-for-kids/reflecting-gods-faithfulness

Prayer Requests