

God Is Faithful

Introduction

1. Reading Nehemiah 1:8-10

- a. Nehemiah has just received a report concerning the plight of the Jews that had returned to Jerusalem, their distress, and the state of the city walls.
- b. Upon this he turns to God in a prayer where He emphasizes the sin of Israel and God's dealings with them.
- c. They had been unfaithful while God was faithful in what He said what happened if they rebelled and when they turned backed to Him.
- d. It was in this confidence in a God, almighty and faithful, that he prayed for success in his plea to the king.

2. Throughout the scriptures God is proclaimed as faithful, dependable and loyal to Himself and His people.

- a. "Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments" (Deuteronomy 7:9).
- b. "The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23).
- c. "God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9 NASB) - phrase found 7 times in NT
- d. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23).

3. How does the Bible define this concept of God? What does it mean for us personally?

4. These are some of the questions this lesson will hopefully be helpful in answering.

I. The faithfulness of God

A. Definition - faithful

1. Pistos: "objectively *trustworthy*; subjectively *trustful*: - believing...faithful...true" (Strong's). Thayer: "Of persons showing themselves faithful in transactions of business, in execution of commands, or discharge of official duties".
2. Taken from Vincent Words Study on 1 John 1:9:
 - a. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9 NASB).
 - b. "True to His own nature and promises; keeping faith with Himself and with man... God's faithfulness is here spoken of not only as essential to His own being, but as faithfulness toward us".
3. Faithfulness is an essential attribute of God
 - a. "faithfulness is one of the characteristics of God...it denotes firmness or constancy of God in His relations with men, especially with His people...It is, accordingly one aspect of God's truth and of His unchangeableness. God is true...because He is constant or faithful in keeping His promises, and therefore is worthy of trust" (ISBE).
 - b. This with scripture: "If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself" (2 Tim. 2:13).
 - c. God has many characteristics, each fundamental to His being - without them God would not be God.
 - d. God is totally and perfectly dependable, trustworthy, unchanging, steadfast and loyal.
4. There are also 2 fundamental aspects of God's faithfulness: He never lies and always keeps His promises.

B. God is faithful because He never lies - it is a moral impossibility

1. The fact is God cannot lie - speaks, "... not of infirmity but of incomparable strength" (JFB).
 - a. "Paul... in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago" (Titus 1:1-2).
 - b. "In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us" (Hebrews 6:17-18).

- c. “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” (Numbers 23:19).
- 2. Barnes says “...it is in His nature to always speak the truth...and that no circumstance can ever occur in which He can depart from it”.
- 3. Though these passages tie this trait to the promises of God, it clearly extends to whatever God says: every doctrine, every promise, every prediction or prophecy.
 - a. “Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him” (Proverbs 30:5).
 - b. “The sum of Your word is truth,...every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting” (Psalms 119:160).
 - c. “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).
- 4. God is faithful and His word, in all its facets, is totally trustworthy and absolute truth.

C. God is faithful because He always keeps His promises.

- 1. The Biblical record is clear; every promise recorded in scripture can be shown to have been fulfilled.
 - a. “So the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. And the LORD gave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hand. Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass” (Joshua 21:43-45).
 - b. “Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the LORD your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed” (Joshua 23:14).
 - c. “Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant” (1 Kings 8:56).
- 2. The fact that God always keeps His promises is logical truth as well as a scriptural truth; if one never lies, then one always keeps one promise.
 - a. Someone has counted up all the promises made by God recorded in Bible which amounts to approximately 7,000. But of all those promises, if one was shown to have failed, and 6,999 shown to be kept, not only would it reveal a God who did not keep His promises but also that the promise He failed to keep was a lie.
 - b. If this were so - if God were unfaithful even once - He would not be God - and we could not rely on any of His promises.
- 3. But just as those in biblical times could look back and see that every promise God made He fulfilled, we too can look back through scripture and see that all God says He does, having thus every reason for absolute confidences in His promises.
 - a. “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4).
 - b. “For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us” (2 Corinthians 1:20).
- 4. But if God is faithful - the in the way scripture defines it- how should we respond?

II. How Much Do We Trust God?

A. In our decisions. Do we trust God for His wisdom?

- 1. If we believe God never lies and speaks absolute truth are we careful seeks His instructions and be guided in our decisions by His wisdom; or we are being influenced by the world and it's so claim to enlightenment?
- 2. Do we still hold unequivocally to God's truth on morality and religion or we being swayed by human logic and our feelings:
 - a. “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 your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the

LORD and turn away from evil” (Proverbs 3:5-7).

b. “Thus says the LORD, Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD” (Jeremiah 17:5).

3. It is not always the case that what we think or feel is wrong; but it is the case that God is always right!

4. Do we trust in God enough to live by His moral code and religious truth, rather than that of man?

B. In our failures. Do we trust God for His grace?

1. Do we trust in God’s forgiveness, patience, loving-kindness, and mercy; or are racked with guilt even we have repented and asked God for forgiveness?

a. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

b. “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life” (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

2. What a comfort it is to know that no sin is so egregious, that if repented of and confessed, God will not completely remove and render us guiltless.

a. “Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:7-9).

3. The promise of grace also extends to everything needed for our spiritual well being and development:

a. “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 NASB).

4. This will not happen miraculously or by chance; it only happen as we play our part in studying the Bible, coming to services, engaging with brethren.

C. In our trials and adversity. Do we trust God for His deliverance?

1. As we go through life we will all be tried. It will be different for different people, but as Christians we are sure to face trials, even persecution. God has not promised to remove suffering, but to provide us a way out of temptation.

a. “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

b. “I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth” (Psalms 121:1-2).

c. “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

2. When going through adversity, the question is not is God faithful to His promises; but are we faithful in seeking His help.

D. In our needs. Do we trust God for His provision?

1. Do we trust God to provide for our physical needs - such as clothing, food and shelter - this is what we are called to do?

a. “³¹Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' ³²For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:31-33 NASB).

b. “Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU, so that we confidently say, THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN

DO TO ME?” (Hebrews 13:5-6).

2. God has promised to provide our needs, but the problem often is that we confuse our needs with our wants: A need is something we cannot do without, as oxygen. A want is not. I need food; but do I need to eat steak. I need clothing; but do I need name-brand. I need a home; but do I need a mansion.
3. Do we trust God enough to provide for us; or are we through our decisions doubting His ability to follow through on that promise?

Conclusion

1. Faithfulness is a fundamental characteristic of God; it is fundamental to our understanding of God; it characterizes who He is and all He does.
2. He is the definition of honesty, truth, and righteousness. He says what He will do and does what He says. This should be all the reason we need to place our trust in Him and remain faithful to Him.
3. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).