

Subject: *Our True and Faithful God*

Scripture: *Psalm 89:1-8*

The old story is told about George Washington when he was a boy. When George's father confronted him about a cherry tree that had been cut down, George confessed: "I cannot tell a lie. I cut down the tree." Ironically, his honest confession contained a lie because he said I cannot tell a lie. The fact remains that men can and do tell lies, but God cannot lie. He is the source and guardian of truth. Titus 1:2 says that God cannot lie.

How many people do you know that you can always depend on? How many people can you really trust to keep something confidential? Probably less than you think. People can be untrue and unfaithful, but God is always true and always faithful. Everyone else may fail you, but God will never fail you. Psalm 89 highlights the faithfulness of God, especially His faithfulness in the covenant He made with King David.

GOD IS TRUE AND FAITHFUL TO HIMSELF

God's faithfulness is rooted in His nature. All of God's attributes are related. We think of them and study them separately, but they are never separated in His character. God's faithfulness is related to His unchangeable character and power. If God had limited power, He would be limited in doing what He says. If He was changeable, He could change His mind about His promises or plans. If God were unfaithful, He would not be perfect. Men often prove to be unfaithful, but God cannot be unfaithful.

The word translated "faithful" comes from a Hebrew word that means to lean upon or rely upon. The idea is that God is a sure and steady support. He is always reliable. By contrast we see the evidence of human unfaithfulness. We see people who are not faithful in their family, their work, or their service to God.

Proverbs 25:19 *Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.*

People can be unfaithful, but God is always faithful. **2 Timothy 2:13** *If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.* When we are unfaithful, it just shows how faithful God is. **Lamentations 3:22-23** ²² *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.* ²³ *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.* **Psalms 36:5** *Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.*

As we read the Bible and think about people at that time trusting God and living for God. And we often feel like we are so far removed in time and culture. It is true that times are different and things have changed a lot, but God is still the same. The link between us and the people of the Bible is God Himself. The God they knew then is the same God now. God is faithful to Himself. He cannot change. **James 1:17** *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.* **Malachi 3:6** *For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

GOD IS TRUE AND FAITHFUL TO HIS PROMISES

God is faithful to control creation, **Genesis 8:22** *While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.*

God is faithful to answer prayers, **Psalms 143:1** Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.

God is faithful to forgive sins, **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God is faithful to keep all His promises

Psalms 119:138 Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful.

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Joshua 23:14 And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.

Near the end of the Bible God reminds us that He is true and faithful in all He says.

Revelation 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. **Revelation 22:6** And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

GOD IS TRUE AND FAITHFUL TO HIS PEOPLE

God is always faithful to care for His own people. He made special promises to them called covenants. Israel was not always faithful to God, but He was always faithful to them.

God was faithful to His covenant with Israel, **Deuteronomy 7:9** Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.

God is faithful in calling us to salvation, **1 Corinthians 1:9** God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

God is faithful in our temptations, **1 Corinthians 10:13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

God is faithful in our sufferings, **Psalms 119:75** I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. **1 Peter 4:19** Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator. God is molding us and shaping us in our trials. We must trust God even when things don't make sense. **Isaiah 50:10** Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. Don't doubt in the dark what God has shown you in the light.

God is faithful in preserving us, **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.²⁴ Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

God is faithful in working out His purpose, **Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. And what is God's purpose for us? **Romans 8:29-30**²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Our whole future depends on God's faithfulness. Since He is faithful His purpose and His promises must be fulfilled.

GOD EXPECTS HIS PEOPLE TO BE TRUE AND FAITHFUL

God expects us to be true and faithful to Him

He is a jealous God, which means He deserves and expects our complete trust and devotion. Since God is trustworthy and He always does what He says He will do, he expects us to be like Abraham, **Romans 4:20-21**²⁰ He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;²¹ And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. **Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) What if you said this about someone: "He is good, loving, patient, forgiving, and kind, but you just can't trust him."

God expects us to be true and faithful in our character

Psalms 15:1-2¹ LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?² He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.
Psalms 51:6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts.

God expects us to be true and faithful in our service

Faithfulness is the one thing God is looking for. **Matthew 25:21** His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.