

Great Is Thy Faithfulness!

2 Corinthians 1:18-20; Psalm 91

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Old “reliable” breaks down
- Our society values dependability
- Our culture struggles with honoring commitments

Great is Thy Faithfulness!

A. Our God is Faithful!

1. The “dependability” God!
 - Psalm 11:7-- *“the works of his hands are FAITHFUL and just; all his precepts are trustworthy!”*
 - Psalm 86:15-- *“But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and FAITHFULNESS.”*
2. God must be true to Himself and cannot deny Himself.
 - 2 Timothy 2:13-- *“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.”*
 - Deuteronomy 7:9-- *“Therefore, know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.”*

B. Because God is faithful, we can count on God to...

1. Follow through on what He has promised.
 - a. Our failure to follow through with what we have promised.
 - b. All the promises of God are “YES”
 - 2 Corinthians 1:18-20--*“But as God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”*
 - c. Illustration: God’s promise to Abraham
 - Genesis 12:2-3-- *“I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you; And in you all families of the earth shall be blessed.”*
 - 1) God repeats the promise—Genesis 15
 - Genesis 15:6-- *“Abraham believed God, and God counted it to him as righteousness!”*
 - 2) The faith of Abraham
 - Romans 4:19-21-- *“And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old) and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was able also to perform.”*
 - 3) The faith of Sarah
 - Hebrews 11:11-- *“By faith, Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised!”*
2. Furnish whatever we need in time of crisis.
 - a. Protection from Physical Harm
 - 1) God can protect us from physical illness and harm.
 - Psalm 91:4-- *“God will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.”*
 - Psalm 91:3-- *“Surely he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence.”*

- Psalm 91:5-- *"You shall not be afraid of the terror by night nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor the destruction that lays waste at noontime."*
 - Psalm 91:11-12-- *"Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling."*
 - Psalm 91:14-16-- *"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation."*
 - Psalm 91:2-- *"I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I trust.'"*
- 2) God allows us to be afflicted...
- a) As a means of discipline or correction
 - Psalm 119:75-- *"I know, O LORD, that your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness, You have afflicted me."*
 - Psalm 119:67-- *"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word."*
 - Psalm 119:71-- *"It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes."*
 - b) As an opportunity to display His mighty works
 - John 9:2-3-- *"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?" "Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.'"*
- b. **Protection from Spiritual Harm!**
- 2 Thessalonians 3:3-- *"But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one."*
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13-- *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."*
- 1) Illustration – Job
 - 2) God limits our exposure to temptation
 - 3) Parallels between physical COVID-19 pandemic and the spiritual WARFARE we face.
 - a) We are facing an invisible enemy.
 - Ephesians 6:12-- *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*
 - b) We need to put on PPE—Personal, Protective Equipment
 - Ephesians 6:11-- *"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."*
 - Ephesians 6:13-- *"take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand."*
 - c) We have no cure other than God's intervention through prayer!
 - Ephesians 6:18-19-- *"praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—and for me that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel."*
 - d) We must maintain vigilance in our fight against these invisible foes.
 - 1 Peter 5:18-19-- *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brothers in the world."*
 - 3) Illustration—Jeremiah
 - Lamentations 3:22-24-- *"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassion fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul. 'Therefore, I hope in Him!'"*
 - 4) Even when we fail, God is faithful!
 - 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. "*

3. Finish whatever He has started—1 Corinthians 1:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

- a. God started a complete makeover of you and I.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:8-9-- *“Who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord”*
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24-- *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who will also do it.”*
- b. God will finish what He has started.
 - Philippians 1:6-- *“Being confident of this very thing, that he who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*