"PUTTING FULL FAITH IN GOD WHO IS FAITHFUL"

(Selected Scriptures)
7/17/94

Introduction: Psalm 89:1,2,8,24,33,34

Definition: The Hebrew word for faithfulness literally refers to the firmness or stability of God. The Greek word means to be trustworthy; believable; reliable; dependable.

God's faithfulness rises far above human comprehension (Ps. 36:5).

God is clothed with the attribute of faithfulness (Ps. 89:8; Is. 11:5). This characteristic should be part of the believer's armor: we are to have "our loins girt about with truth" (Eph. 6:14).

God's faithfulness is an extension of His truthfulness. It is called "transitive truth". In the same way that God's righteousness is His holiness in action, God's faithfulness is His truthfulness in action.

When we say God is faithful, we are saying "God is worthy of my faith" or "I can have full faith in Him."

God is worthy of our trust (faith), for 2 major reasons:

I.GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS <u>PROMISES</u>

(He keeps His covenants)

Rom. 4:19-21 - *"And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb; He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform."*

Heb. 11:11 - *"Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised."*

Examples:

A.God's promise as evidenced by the <u>rainbow</u>

Gen.9:16 - *"And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth."*

B.God's promise of deliverance from <u>Egypt</u> (Ex.6:4-5)

C.God's promise to keep His <u>Word</u>

I Kings 8:56 - *"Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant."*

D.God's promise to give the believer <u>eternal life</u>

Titus 1:2 - *"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began."*

cp.II Cor.1:20

II.GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS <u>PEOPLE</u>
(He protects and provides for His chosen ones)

A.God will be faithful to <u>Israel</u>

1.Isaiah 44:21 - *"Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me."*

2.Jeremiah 31:31-37 -

B.God will be faithful to <u>His Church</u>

1.*Because God is faithful,*
We have <u>eternal security</u>

I Cor.1:8,9 - *"Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."*

"The Lord . . . forsaketh not His saints; they are preserved forever" (Ps. 37:28).

a)God's salvation comes with an irrevocable <u>promise</u> - Titus 1:2 - "In hope of eternal life,

which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" (cp. Heb. 6:12-20).

b)God's salvation comes with an unconditional guarantee - I Cor. 1:8, 9 (v. 8 - "confirm" = guarantee).

God does not say, "I will keep you saved if you do . . ." Our security is not dependent upon our faithfulness to Him (this would be works salvation) but on His faithfulness to us.

Some might twist this blessed truth, to then say: "This means I can live anyway I want." No.

Because God is faithful to us (since we are His children by the new birth), He will be faithful in disciplining us (heb. 12) so that we will not be able to live anyway we want. Also, because of what He did for us, we will not want to live anyway we want.

Unlike the unfaithfulness prevalent (in marriages etc) in our society today, God will never be unfaithful to His Bride. He promises, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5).

2.*Because God is faithful,*
We will never be tested above our ability to resist

I Cor. 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."*

a)God is in sovereign control of every test (this does not mean that He sends them, but that He allows them - EX: Job 1).

b)God knows how much you can handle.

God is faithful; therefore, He will never allow us to be tested with tests too hard for us to pass.

3.*Because God is faithful,*

We can trust Him to preserve our <u>sanctification</u>

I Thess.5:23-24 - *"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. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."*

Paul's confidence - Phil. 1:6 - "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

EX: Paul had to leave the churches he founded in God's care. He commended (delivered them over) to God to guard. (Acts 14:23, 20:32).

God (our Father) like any concerned parent totally cares about how we "turn out" as His children. He has taken it upon Himself to see to it that we are kept pure.

EX: We must do all we can to teach our children moral standards, etc. But ultimately we must entrust them into God's watch-care.

The same goes for your spouse (husbands and wives who are suspicious of each other are not trusting God). He is faithful to sanctify them, if we are faithful (I Cor. 7:14).

4.*Because God is faithful,*
We can trust Him to guard us from <u>evil</u>

II Thess.3:3 - *"But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil."*

"Evil" = The Evil (possibly a reference to the Evil One - Satan, or to his evil tools - cp. v. 2)

God promises to provide our <u>strength</u> and <u>protection</u> from the enemy.

Our Father, who "never sleeps nor slumbers" can be trusted to protect us.

As I reflect over my life, I can see how God has been guarding me.

Our Shepherd's rod and staff are a comfort (Ps. 23).

5.*Because God is faithful,*
We can have confidence in <u>prayer</u> (Heb.10:19-22)

We can rely upon God to hear His children (Mt. 7:7-11).

6.*Because God is faithful,*
We have no need to doubt His salvation

Heb.10:23 - *"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;)"*

The only unforgivable sin that can be committed is unbelief - to not believe God, is to call Him a liar. It is a strike (blow) against His perfect character.

II Tim. 2:13 - "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."

a)God's faithfulness should be our reason not to let go of our confidence in His salvation (a true believer will not let go - Heb. 3:6).
b)God's faithfulness should be our reason not to waver in our confidence in His salvation.

7.*Because God is faithful,*
We can trust Him in times of suffering

I Pet.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."*

Rest on Job 5:19 - "He shall deliver thee in six troubles; yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee."

EX: the faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Dan. 3:17 - "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.").

"Trust Him when dark doubts assail thee,
Trust Him when thy strength is small;
Trust Him when to simply trust Him
Seems the hardest thing of all."

"God is greatly honored when, under trial and chastening, we have good thoughts of Him." (Pink, Attributes, p. 56).

8.*Because God is faithful,*
We can have assurance of forgiveness and cleansing from confessed sin

I 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."*

NOTE: Receiving God's forgiveness throughout a Christian's life is not necessary to keep our salvation, but to keep in close communion with our Lord.

Many live their lives with false guilt (thinking that something is on their backs, when in fact it has been taken off) because they forget that God is faithful to forgive.

He will forgive the one who admits his sin. It is a certainty!

* God's faithfulness never ends (Psalm 119:90)

Conclusion: What should our response be to God's faithfulness?

1.Daily thank and praise Him for being faithful

Ps.92:1 - *"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High."*

2.Tell others about His faithfulness

Ps.89:1 - *"I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations."*

3.Always keep your word (do what you say you will do)

4.Be faithful (dependable; consistent)

Prov.20:6 - *"Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"*

Examples of faithful men:

1)Moses was said to be "faithful in all his house" (Heb. 3:2, 5).

2)David - Abimelech the priest said this to King Saul: "Who is so faithful among all thy servants as David?" (I Sam. 22:14).

3)Hananiah - Nehemiah put Hananiah in "charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man and feared God above many" (Neh. 7:2).

EX: the faithfulness of Micaiah, who, when asked to tickle the ears of the king like all the other prophets had done, said: "As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak" (I Ki. 22:14).

Be faithful in little things. Luke 16:10 - "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

Be faithful in your stewardship (I Cor. 4:2).

Mt. 25:23 - "Well done, good and faithful servant."

ILLUS: The consistency of a man to church attendance saved his life (Knight's, p. 120).

5.Step out by faith (trust and obey whatever God says, even if it looks impossible, and leave the results to Him)

If Israel had understood God's faithfulness, they would not have murmured.

If Thomas had believed Christ, he would not have doubted.

Many times we trust man more than God!

We trust forecasters to predict accurately.
We trust airplanes not to crash.
We trust elevator cables not to snap
We trust social security to provide for retirement.
We trust the U.S. military to protect our country.

"Trust God's wisdom to guide,
Trust His goodness to provide;
Trust His saving love and power,
Trust Him every day and hour;
Trust Him as the only light,
Trust Him in the darkest night;
Trust Him in sickness, trust in health,
Trust in poverty and wealth;
Trust Him living, dying too,
Trust Him all the journey through."

"PUTTING FULL FAITH IN GOD WHO IS FAITHFUL"

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7/17/94

Introduction: Psalm 89:1,2,8,24,33,34
Definition: The Hebrew word for faithfulness literally refers to the firmness or stability of God. The Greek word means to be trustworthy; believable; reliable; dependable.

God is worthy of our trust (faith), for 2 major reasons:

I.GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS PROMISES
(He keeps His covenants) Examples:

A.God's promise as evidenced by the rainbow
B.God's promise of deliverance from Egypt (Ex.6:4-5)
C.God's promise to keep His Word
D.God's promise to give the believer eternal life

II.GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS PEOPLE
(He protects and provides for His chosen ones)
A.God will be faithful to Israel
B.God will be faithful to His Church

1.*Because God is faithful,*
We have eternal security I Cor.1:8,9

2.*Because God is faithful,*
We will never be tested above our ability to resist I Cor. 10:13

3.*Because God is faithful,*
We can trust Him to preserve our sanctification I Thess.5:23-24

4.*Because God is faithful,*
We can trust Him to guard us from evil II Thess.3:3

5.*Because God is faithful,*
We can have confidence in prayer (Heb.10:19-22)

6.*Because God is faithful,*
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We can trust Him in times of suffering I Pet.4:19

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"He Abides Faithful"

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4/2/03

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