"GOD IS FAITHFUL"

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:

A. GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS PROMISES
(He keeps His covenants)

Examples:

1. God's promise as evidenced by the rainbow (Gen.9:16)

2. God's promise of deliverance from Egypt (Ex.6:4-5)

3. God's promise to keep His Word (I Kings 8:56)

4. God's promise to give the believer eternal life
(Titus 1:2; cp.II Cor.1:20)

B. GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS PEOPLE
(He protects and provides for His chosen ones)

1. God will be faithful to Israel

a. Isaiah 44:21 -

b. Jeremiah 31:31-37 -

2. God will be faithful to His Church

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

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

1) God's salvation comes with an irrevocable promise - Titus 1:2 - "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" (cp. Heb. 6:12-20).

2) 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).

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

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

2) 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.

c. Because God is faithful,
We can trust Him to preserve our sanctification
(I Thess.5:23)

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).

d. Because God is faithful,
We can trust Him to guard us from evil
(II Thess.3:3)

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

God promises to provide our strength and protection 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).

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

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

f. Because God is faithful,
We have no need to doubt His salvation (Heb.10:23)

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."

1) 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).

2) God's faithfulness should be our reason not to waver in our confidence in His salvation.

g. Because God is faithful,
We can trust Him in times of suffering (I Pet.4:19)

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).

h. Because God is faithful,
We can have assurance of forgiveness and cleansing from confessed sin (I John 1:9)

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)

2. Tell others about His faithfulness (Ps.89:1)

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

4. Be faithful (dependable; consistent; see: Prov.20:6)

   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."