



(6) The Faithfulness of God

Confident He will help me where and when I need it (Lam 3:22-23)

Our problems with consistency largely lie in our inability to control life's details, but a larger part is due to our plaguing uncertainty, ignorance, and wavering on personal issues. It is a good thing God is not like that less we would perish due to an inconsistency in the way He carries out His covenant. What the Lord says, He does. God is faithful! Always.

→ Individual assignment: List the promises you can find in Psalm 37:1-7.

• Our Relationship with God

- Understanding God's attributes are crucial to possessing a strong Christian life. God's faithfulness helps us maintain a growing trust in God. If we believe God is faithful, then we will trust Him. Growth occurs even when problems occur.

Psalm 37:1-7	List the Promises
37:1 (A Psalm of David.) Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers.	
2 For they will wither quickly like the grass, And fade like the green herb.	
3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.	
4 Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.	
5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.	
6 And He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your judgment as the noonday.	

1) Understanding God's Faithfulness

• God claims to be 'fully' faithful

- "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; **A God of faithfulness** and without injustice..." (Deut 32:4).
- "And **My faithfulness** and My lovingkindness will be with him, and in My name his horn will be exalted" (Ps 89:24).

• Biblical analysis

- The Hebrew word for 'faithfulness' is 'Amen', depicting certainty, also meaning truth. Its root verb means to confirm, support or uphold (TWOT#116). This support can refer to the steady hands of a parent who carries his child.
- As a God of revelation, we are totally dependent on the words and pictures that He reveals to us. They are totally reliable and therefore depict truth. Other words for faithful are truth, firmness, fidelity, steadfastness, and steadiness.

• Description of God's faithfulness

God's faithfulness depends on both His power and goodness. God's faithfulness is that effectual control over all things to ensure what He says and plans comes true. Prophecies and promises both depend on God's faithfulness.

- His faithfulness depends on God's ultimate control of things to make sure nothing invalidates His Word. "For the word of the LORD is upright; And all His work is done in faithfulness" (Ps 33:4).
- His faithfulness depends on God's goodness God is good and trust in His plan is not only right but meaningful, helpful and fulfilling. "And My faithfulness and My lovingkindness will be with him, And in My name his horn will be exalted." (Ps 89:24).
- God's faithfulness is dependent on His unchanging person and plans (immutability) (1Sam 15:29; Psalm 90:2). "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?" (Num 23:19). "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Since God is all-powerful to carry out His good and beneficent plans toward us, shall we not trust everything He has said in each area of our lives?
- God is faithful in judgment. "Thine eyes are too pure to approve evil, And Thou canst not look on wickedness with favor" (Hab 1:13). He cannot overlook evil, even the 'smallest evil' as we can.

2) God's Faithful Ways

- God's plans are wrapped up in His tremendous merciful redemptive plan. "The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23).
- God's comprehensive redemptive plan (Ephesians 3:7-11) is accentuated by God's promises and thus enfolds the many variables of life. It is the untouchable plan. God, however, is not faithful in just one area but in all areas of our lives.
- It is a good thing God does not reflect our inconsistencies lest we would perish due to an inconsistency in the way He carries out His covenant. We need a perpetual High Priest faithfully interceding for us. "Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (Heb 7:25).
- **God's faithfulness is great and is exhibited in all His actions and ways.**
 - Faithful to carry out His plan in our lives (Phil 1:6,12-14).
 - Faithful as a father to His children. "Just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children" (1 Thess 2:11).
 - Faithful to discipline as needed. "Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness" (Heb 12:9-10).
 - Faithful to help as needed. "He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you may seek refuge; His **faithfulness is a shield** and bulwark" (Ps 91:4).
 - Faithful to enable us to withstand temptation. "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, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Cor 10:13).



God's faithfulness assures us that what He says will come about. Comfort can be found in God's saving promises as well as His coming judgment.

3) Developing a Discerning Mind Regarding God's Faithfulness

The evil one does all He can to thwart our trust in the certainty of God's faithfulness to His Word. If he tinkered with Adam and Eve, surely he will attempt to destroy our trust in God too. If we compromise, we will think God is like us, changeable or subject to outside forces bending His will. If we stand firm in our trust, we will see God's faithfulness in its glory and join the Psalmist in praising God. "For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations" (Ps 100:5). Here are some events that make us question God's faithfulness.

- What about Israel, God's chosen, being taken captive to foreign nations?
- What about David's anointing and such delay?
- What about God's blessing upon the righteous such as Jesus and yet He suffered?
- **Our Expected Response**
 - We are expected to respond to His faithfulness. Because He has revealed Himself, then we ought to trust Him and respond to what He has revealed as trustworthy. Conformity to His Word is called obedience. Though the world's picture of the world is distorted, we can live by our trust in what He has said in His Word.
 - Our lives are to be shaped by this trust in Him. "Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land and **cultivate faithfulness**" (Ps 37:3). Our lives increasingly display faithfulness because we are shaped by what is true and real. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness" (Gal 5:22).
- **My testimony**

God has faithfully watched over BFF's mission training trips to Africa and Asia. They are always fully supported, but not like you would think or I would want! The adjacent chart depicts how little money we have in the few weeks prior before we go. We, with those I work overseas, must trust Him. Notice that most of the funds for this trip came in the last week. Otherwise, I would not be able to go. God provides just enough to do what I need to do. How do I encourage my faith? I remember what He has done in the past.
- **God's Reminders to His Faithfulness**

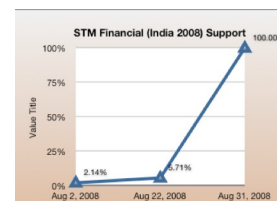
Trust and faith in God's faithfulness is so important that God provides many reminders to boost up our confidence in His faithfulness.

- **Crossing the Jordan:** The crossing of the Jordan River was nothing compared to the Red Sea, but it affirmed Joshua's authority and reminded that new generation that God's presence was equally with them to conquer the Promised Land.
- **Setting up memorial stones:** The water only stopped after the priests feet entered the water. Trust often requires us to show our earnestness by taking the first step according to His guidance (John 6:30-44). The monument reminded them not to forget!

- **Study Questions**

- What area of your life do you have most difficulty trusting to Him? Why?
- Can you peacefully sleep at night trusting your Father in heaven to care for you (Mat 6:33-34)?
- Are you consistent, that is, does your words and confession match your behavior?

→ List a story, from Bible or otherwise, that God uses to help us trust in His Word. Be sure to identify what it is that encourages your faith. (If not, read the Bible and Christian bibliographies more!)



“Everything about God is great, vast and incomparable. He never forgets, never fails, never falters never forfeits His Word.”⁸