

God's Faithfulness Triumphs Over Our Fickleness

- ✓ **To be faithful is to be reliable and trustworthy**
- ✓ **Faithfulness is an extension of the word faith**
- ✓ **We can be full of faith in a person who is faithful**
- ✓ **We have faith in a statement in proportion to the faithfulness of the one who made the statement**
- ✓ **The strength of one's faith is determined by the degree of the faithfulness and reliability of the one we are trusting or believing**

- ✓ **The greater the thing that is promised the more incredible it seems**
- ✓ **Abraham had great faith not because of what was promised but because of who promised it**
- ✓ **The same with Sarah.** *'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'* **(Heb.11:11)**
- ✓ **And also with us.** *'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...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'* **(2 Cor.1:18-20)**

- ✓ **Faithfulness is essential if we are to have faith**
- ✓ **People lose faith when they have been let down**
- ✓ **God is faithful. And because the Bible is *His* Word it can be trusted**
- ✓ **Faith – *what* is believed; Faithful – *the one* who is believed**
- ✓ **A faithful statement is something on which the hearer can absolutely rely**

- ✓ ***'This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners' (1 Tim.1:15)***
- ✓ ***'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (1 Jn.1:9)***
- ✓ ***'The Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one' (2 Thes.3:3)***
- ✓ ***'Let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator' (1 Pet.4:19)***

- ✓ ***'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 the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it' (1 Cor.10:13)***
- ✓ ***God '...will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful...' (1 Cor.1:8-9)***
- ✓ ***'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 also will do it' (1 Thes.5:24)***

- ✓ ***'If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself' (2 Tim.2:13)***
- ✓ ***It's not a question of whether God can depend on you. You can depend on God. 'Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful' (Heb.10:23)***
- ✓ ***The message of Jesus in the book of Revelation: 'These words are faithful and true' (Rev.22:6)***

- ✓ **The great covenants of the Bible depend upon the faithfulness of the parties involved. In the Old Covenant, God was faithful but Israel wasn't**
- ✓ **In the New Covenant, Jesus' faithfulness has made the covenant sure – He is 'A merciful and faithful High Priest' (Heb.2:17). Merciful to us, faithful to God. 'Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house...' (Heb.3:1-2)**
- ✓ **Not only may we depend on Jesus, but God, too, could! He is 'The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness' (Rev.3:14). 'And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True' (Rev.19:11)**

- **The Bible contrasts the fickleness of man with the faithfulness of God. E.g. Simon Peter**
- **But the fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness. Paul was one whom the Lord had made faithful**
- **True success is measured by faithfulness.**
'Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful' (1 Cor.4:2). See Matt.24:45-51
- **Faithfulness is discharging the trust that has been committed to us. Not laying down the gift. Not deserting our post. Not changing the job description. Not tampering with the message**
- ***'...I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry' (1 Tim.1:12)***

- **Truth should be committed to faithful men who would teach others also - 2 Tim.2:2. Examples:**
- ***'For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in the church' (1 Cor.4:17)***
Tychicus was 'A beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord' (Eph.6:21). '...as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ' (Col.1:7)
'Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord...' (Col.4:7)
'Silvanus, our faithful brother' (1 Pet.5:12)
- **The truth is always just one generation away from extinction**

- ✓ **Faithfulness is the same in the home and the workplace as it is in ministry. 'His lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord"' (Matt.25:21)**
- ✓ **Responsibility is our response to our God-given abilities!**
- ✓ **Stewardship means to use what God has given us for His glory**

- **The man in the parable who hid his talent was motivated by fear. He probably compared himself with those who had greater talents**
- **The greatest thing that will conquer fear is faith in the One who is faithful. The principle of self-preservation operates out of fear**
- **Each time we give away we naturally think we have been diminished. But as we faithfully give out, God replenishes our resources. *'Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom'* (Lk.6:38)**
- **To be faithful is to be full of faith in the One who is faithful**

- ✓ **It is easier to be faithful sometimes more than other times**
- ✓ **Special mention is made in the Bible of those who were faithful in times of apostasy (Num.14:24; 1 Kings 19:18) and persecution**
- ✓ **The book of Revelation was written against a background of persecution**
- ✓ **Martyrdom is inflexible loyalty to Jesus Christ. 'Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life' (Rev.2:10)**