

CHAPTER 24

GOD

IS FAITHFUL

One day in Armenia in 1988, Samuel and Danielle sent their young son, Armand, off to school. Samuel squatted before his son and looked him in the eye. “Have a good day at school, and remember, no matter what, I’ll always be there for you.” He hugged his young son, and the boy ran off to school.

Hours later, a powerful earthquake rocked the area. Buildings crumbled; electrical power went out everywhere; people panicked. In the midst of the pandemonium, Samuel and Danielle tried to discover what happened to their son. As the day wore on, the radio announced that casualty estimates were in the thousands. People were trapped under beams and rubble in flattened buildings—even schools were destroyed.

Kissing his wife, Samuel grabbed his coat and headed for the school yard. When he reached the area, what he saw brought tears to his eyes. Armand’s school was a pile of debris. Other grief-stricken parents stood nearby, weeping.

Samuel found the place where Armand’s classroom used to be and began pulling a broken beam off the pile of rubble. He picked up a rock and put it to the side, then another, and another.

One of the parents looking on asked, “What are you doing?”

“Digging for my son,” Samuel answered.

The man exclaimed, “You’re just going to make things worse! This building is

unstable,” and tried to pull Samuel away from his work.

Samuel just asked, “Are you going to help me?”

The man’s wife shook her head sadly, “They’re dead. It’s no use.”

Samuel set his jaw and continued digging. As time wore on, one by one, the other parents left. Concerned, a firefighter tried to pull Samuel away from the rubble. “What are you doing?” he asked.

“Digging for my son,” was the reply.

“Fires are breaking out. You’re in danger. We’ll take care of it.”

“Will you help me?” Samuel asked without stopping his work.

The firefighter instead hurried off to a more pressing emergency, leaving Samuel still digging.

All through the night and into the next day, Samuel continued digging, his hole growing larger. Parents placed flowers and pictures of their children on the ruins. Soon, a row of photos of young, happy faces smiled up from the rubble. But Samuel just squared his shoulders and snatched up a beam. Wedging it under a stubborn boulder, he tried to pry it out of the way. Finally, the boulder gave.

A faint “Help!” came from under the rubble. Samuel stopped his work and listened. He could hear nothing. He kept digging.

The faint voice came again. “Papa?”

Samuel recognized the voice! “Armand!” He began to dig furiously. Finally, he could see his young son. “Come out, son!” he said with relief.

“No,” Armand said. “Let the other kids out first, ‘cause I know you’ll get me.”

Child after child emerged until, finally, a sputtering Armand appeared. Samuel took him in his arms.

“I told the other kids not to worry,” Armand said confidently. “I told them that if you were alive, you’d save me and when you saved me, they’d be saved. You promised you’d always be there for me.”

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Fourteen children were saved that day because one father was faithful.

How much more faithful is our heavenly Father! Whether trapped by fallen debris in an earthquake or trapped by life’s hardships and struggles, we are never cut off from His love for us. As Jeremiah writes, “Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is

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Your faithfulness.”

THE ANCIENT PATRIARCHS TRUSTED GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

We commonly speak of *faithfulness* as loyal, conscientious, or true in affection or allegiance. But as you look deeper at this word, you see the root word in faithfulness is “faith.” Spiritually, the word means being full of faith. Hebrews 11 defines what God means by faith: “It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.”³ If you read this entire chapter in Hebrews, you will see a thread running through it: “By faith.” Hebrews lists great deeds of faith by the ancient patriarchs.

Hebrews 11:7 mentions Noah, who “built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about something that had never happened before.” Abraham is sometimes called the “father of the faith.” Hebrews says, “It was by faith that Sarah together with Abraham was able to have a child, even though they were too old and Sarah was barren. Abraham believed that God would keep his promise.”⁴ Abraham believed that God would keep His commitment to provide an heir because *he considered God faithful*. In time, God did send a son, Isaac, to Abraham and Sarah. Isaac became the physical link to the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The most serious challenge to Abraham’s trust came when God asked him to sacrifice his own son. Strengthened by his experience with God’s faithfulness to His promises, Abraham bound Isaac and placed him on an altar, lifting the knife to sacrifice his son to God. Abraham believed that when God said that He would provide a physical line through Isaac, God would fulfill that promise—even if it meant raising Isaac from the dead. That is when the faithful God provided the ram in the thicket as a substitute for Isaac.⁵

Isaac blessed Jacob because he believed that God would be faithful to the promise He made to Abraham that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars in the sky or the sand on the seashore. The parents of Moses hid him for three months after he was born because they were not afraid of the edict of the Pharaoh. They knew God had a special purpose for their son.

In the experience of the patriarchs, God did not exist in a vacuum. He was working in their behalf at each step of life’s journey. Their faith flowered into heroic deeds because they trusted in an absolutely faithful God. Their God was faithful down to the smallest detail.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO US

All of us understand a little bit of how an automobile engine functions. Pistons, fan belts, water pumps, and thousands of moving parts all whirl around within a small space, making power for us to drive our car. Each piece in the motor has a different part to play in helping the engine function as it should. If one piece gets even a fraction of an inch out of line, the engine malfunctions. At the same time, oil and coolant circulate to keep the engine running smoothly. The parts all work together harmoniously as part of the whole engine.

That is the way God's attributes function too. If you took away love, God's character would not be complete. God's love works with all other attributes, like His justice, to produce the right kind of results. We can compare God's faithfulness to the oil in the engine that keeps the internal parts running smoothly. God's faithfulness means that each attribute in His character is working at full capacity at all times. When does God's love fail? Never, because He is faithful. When is God less than holy? Never, because His character is pure and He is always faithful to who He is and what He says. Therefore, you can count on Him to keep His promises and carry out His purposes.

In fact, God's faithfulness is at the core of God's nature. He is always all-knowing, all-powerful, ever-present, holy, righteous, merciful, and loving because He is faithful to His own character. He never changes any of His attributes to accommodate someone else's wishes. Paul drew on that knowledge when he wrote to the Thessalonians that they could depend on God because "the one who calls you is

faithful and He will do it."⁶ The psalmist writes, "Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures."⁷

So when you get up in the morning and the sun is shining, thank God for His faithfulness. When you look outside and find it raining, thank God for His faithfulness in watering the earth and all the plants on it. If as evening approaches lightning flashes and a thunderstorm roars, thank God for His faithfulness in producing valuable nitrogen to renew the plants and trees. Truly, God's faithfulness is new every morning and refreshes us every night.

One experience I recall about God's faithfulness began in the early 1970s. God impressed upon me that Campus Crusade for Christ should start a university to train hundreds of thousands of Christian leaders. Specifically, I understood God to say *go purchase 5,000 acres for this school and endowment residencies*. Due to legal and

zoning complications, the dream never came to reality. From a human perspective, the setback did not make sense to me, but I continued to trust God. Now, more than 25 years later, God is helping us to start the International Leadership University with extensive worldwide outreach and impact. God has been so faithful to Campus Crusade for Christ and to me.

GOD’S FAITHFULNESS IS NOT CHANGED BY MAN’S RESPONSE

We tend to put conditions on our relationships. “If you look good, I will love you.” “If you have lots of money, you can be part of my inner circle.” “If you do this for me, I’ll do that for you.”

God’s faithfulness, however, is unconditional. We can sometimes see that quality reflected in the godly examples of faithfulness among His people. Let me give you an example.

Dr. Robertson McQuilkin was the well-loved president of the highly respected Columbia International University. When his wife began to show symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease, Dr. McQuilkin resigned his distinguished position to care for her. Hearing of someone who is faithful to another, like Dr. McQuilkin, lifts our spirits because this kind of sacrifice is so rare. We realize that actions like these are not normal to our human nature, but that they must come from a higher source.

God’s faithfulness is so much a part of who He is that He cannot become unfaithful to anyone—whether to grateful believers or to skeptics who doubt the reality of God—despite the cost. Paul assures us, “If we are faithless, He will remain faithful,

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for He cannot disown Himself.”

God also is faithful to us when we feel we have no faith left in us. Paul writes: “What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God’s faithfulness?

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Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar.” God’s faithfulness is not affected by anyone’s lack of faith.

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

It follows then, that in His faithfulness, God *always* keeps His covenants, or promises—without fail. The psalmist declares: “He remembers His covenant forever, the word

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He commanded, for a thousand generations.” Paul writes, “No matter how many

promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through Him the ‘Amen’ [so be it] is spoken by us to the glory of God.”¹¹

That is why we can completely trust God’s Word. The writer to the Hebrews reminds us: “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.”¹²

One way I have seen God’s faithfulness over the years is that His Word produces fruit in the lives of those who love Him. As reporter Clarence W. Hall followed American troops through Okinawa in 1945, he and his Jeep driver came upon a small town that stood out as a beautiful example of a Christian community. He reported, “The old men proudly showed us their spotless homes, their terraced fields, and their prized sugar mills.” The newsman saw no jails and no drunkenness, and divorce was unknown in the town.

Why was this village so unusual? An American missionary had come thirty years earlier and led two elderly townspeople to Christ and left them with a Japanese Bible. These new believers studied the Bible and started leading their fellow villagers to the Lord Jesus.

The reporter’s Jeep driver was equally amazed at the difference: “So this is what comes out of only a Bible and a couple of old guys who wanted to live like Jesus.” God’s faithfulness to His Word had resulted in the transformation of the whole village.

I have found God faithful to His Word on tithing and sacrificial giving. When God’s Word tells me “God loves a cheerful giver,”¹³ I believe it. When I read, “God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that

you need, you will abound in every good work,”¹⁴ I believe it—and act on it. I constantly check to make sure that our tithes are paid up-to-date. I would rather live on bread and water to save money than to get behind in paying our tithes. I also feel we should give offerings above our tithes in a spirit of gratitude, compassion, and concern. Believers who give tithes, offerings, and alms to the poor and needy have few if any financial problems. In all my years of ministry, God has always provided everything I have needed in order to do what He wanted me to do.

God never forgets a promise He has made. God is perfectly capable of standing behind His Word. God is ready and able to deliver all He has promised. But we must claim His

generous promises!

EXERCISING OUR FAITH

I recently boarded a plane in Europe bound for the United States. A man I had never seen before, whose name I did not even know, boarded the same plane, entered the captain's cabin and seated himself at the controls. A short time later, the aircraft began to move, and soon—by some means that I do not understand—it left the ground. Hours later we touched down in Orlando.

Not once during our flight did it occur to me to question the man at the controls. I never even thought to ask for his pilot's license or some other identification to prove he was capable of flying that plane. I never asked him to explain to me the physical laws by which he could keep such a heavy object in the air. I have flown millions of miles to most parts of the world. On each of those flights, I have placed my faith in such a stranger, believing he was capable of taking me safely to my destination.

Every day in hundreds of similar situations, believers and nonbelievers alike exercise faith without even thinking twice. If we have such unquestioning faith in fellow human beings—who are not only fallible, but also deliberately sinful and even unfaithful at times—how much more should we put all our faith in God, whose character and capabilities for faithfulness are beyond question?

God is reliable. He is trustworthy. He cannot be otherwise. His faithfulness ensures that every attribute we have studied so far is available to us. He wants us to reflect His faithfulness on earth. He is the example; we are His ambassadors to the world. Yet even though we understand this fact, in our humanity, we must grow in our Christian experience. That means exercising our faith in Him daily to build our trust in God as the Faithful One. Each time He proves Himself faithful in our life, our trust will become stronger.

What can you trust God for today that you were unable to trust Him for yesterday? What circumstances do you struggle with that you can begin turning over to Him? Exercising faith is just like exercising a muscle. The more you use it, the stronger it becomes. If you have difficulty trusting God, take baby steps of faith. Then lengthen these steps in the days to come.

In the next chapter, we will discover additional ways we can become more faithful as God is faithful.

LIFE APPLICATION

EXALT YOUR GOD—Worship our faithful Creator by singing the wonderful hymn, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*.

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Praise Him for the ways He has been faithful to you personally.

REFLECT HIS IMAGE—Search your heart by answering the following questions:

- Do people consider you someone they can count on?
- When you say you will do something, do you always come through?

Go to God with your answers to these questions, and ask Him to help you become a faithful person.

SHARE HIS MAJESTY—What insights have you gained about God’s faithfulness from this chapter? Share them with a friend or family member and encourage them to draw even closer to their faithful Father.

CHAPTER 25

GOD ENABLES

US TO BE

FAITHFUL

Unfaithfulness has become a hallmark of contemporary society. Too often, husbands and wives are unfaithful in keeping their marriage vows. Parents are frequently unfaithful in their commitment to the well-being of their children. Children tend to disobey their parents. Employees do not always serve their employers as they should, and some employers take advantage of those who work for them.

God is the only one we can completely trust because He has the integrity and flawless character that enables Him to be absolutely faithful to His Word and commitments. No one else can fulfill all promises as He does.

The Bible is filled with praises for the faithfulness of God. David writes, “Your unfailing love, O LORD, is as vast as the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches beyond the

clouds.”¹ Psalm 89:8 declares, “O LORD God Almighty! Where is there anyone as mighty as you, LORD? Faithfulness is your very character.”

But merely understanding God’s faithfulness is only part of our responsibility as Christians. God’s faithfulness is the essential foundation to building faithfulness in our lives. Let me give you an analogy that will help explain this principle.

The sun is the most important body in our sky. From it we get warmth, light, and beauty. If the sun would ever burn out, we could not survive. The moon is also a familiar sight in our sky. It has its own beauty, but it does not provide us with heat or light. All the light that comes from the moon is actually a reflection from the sun.

Almost every year, you could travel to some place in the United States to see a lunar eclipse. It usually lasts an hour or two. It is caused when the Earth moves between the moon and the sun, and the Earth's shadow falls upon the moon. Because the moon generates no light of its own, when the sun's light does not strike the surface of the moon, the moon is dark. We cannot see it.

We are like the moon. In our own strength, we cannot be faithful. At best, we are inconsistent, wavering, and selfish. Even when people who do not know God personally act in a faithful manner, it is only because they are created in God's image. They are reflecting God's quality of faithfulness. But it is only believers, walking in the power of the Holy Spirit, who can become truly faithful to God, their families, and themselves. Whenever we allow any sinful act of disobedience to break our fellowship with God, we no longer reflect His faithfulness. Our lives become like that darkened moon.

God wants us to have a better understanding of His faithfulness, which will result in more intimate fellowship with Him. We know that "God, who has called you into

fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful." ² Daily, the faithfulness of God should cause us to love Him more, study His Word, share the message of salvation with others, and pray without ceasing. Such responses draw us ever deeper into our fellowship with the Savior. As we spend more time with Him, our lives begin to reflect more of His faithfulness in how we love others and in the mercy we are able to give.

OUR FAITHFUL GOD HAS PLANNED

A LIFE OF JOY FOR US

God's faithfulness enables us to live a life of joy and fruitfulness. Years ago, a friend told me the story of Sally, a woman whose life is a vivid illustration of the bittersweet way many Christians live.

When Sally's husband, Jeb, died years before, as far as she knew, he left only enough life insurance to pay off the mortgage. Now she was almost penniless. The house was deteriorating around her. Her car had been junked long ago when she could not keep up with the repair and insurance bills. When the electric bill got too high to

pay, she made do with a camping stove and candlelight. She lived this way for years: destitute, lonely, and defeated.

One day an old acquaintance remembered her childhood friend and decided to visit. Miriam was heartbroken when she saw Sally's living conditions. She decided to stay a few days to encourage her friend. As she helped straighten up the house, Miriam made a startling discovery. Tucked away in the file drawer of Jeb's old roll-top desk was a folder labeled "For Sally." Inside, Miriam found a bank savings book and a key.

Sally discovered that the key fit a safety deposit box at the bank. Her eyes widened as she lifted the metal lid. Inside were several bundles of cash totaling \$32,000, a pile of stock certificates, and three folders of rare coins. In all, Sally was worth more than \$883,000! She had been living in misery and despair when more money than she would ever need had been available to her all along.

Although God has promised us all the strength and help we will ever need, many of us try to "go it alone." We seem unaware of the boundless resources God has provided in the person of the Holy Spirit and His faithfulness to bring about everything He promised to do. As a result, we live like Sally—unfulfilled, fruitless, and spiritually malnourished. Frantically hurrying about in our self-imposed spiritual poverty, we never cash the checks of joy, peace, and abundance that are in our hands. No wonder we think at times that God has abandoned us.

God has not moved away from us; we have just not taken advantage of the miraculous life He has planned for us. Our faithful God has reserved for us a life of abundance and joy; we have the key of the Spirit-filled life to give us access to all that God has provided for us.

I urge you to rely on our faithful God for every part of your life—emotional, financial, and spiritual. He is faithful to give us whatever we need to enjoy every moment here on earth.

GOD IS FAITHFUL DURING TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES

We all experience hard times in our lives. These struggles with sickness, danger, financial problems, grief, or depression happen to each of us at times. But these only prompt us to cling ever tighter to God—not to turn away from Him, blaming Him for causing or allowing all our troubles. He does not promise to prevent problems from coming into our lives, but He does promise to go through them with us. Suffering and death are as much a part of living as eating and breathing, and we can rely on God to

use these situations to build character and faith in our lives.

God will never fail us! Moses exhorted the people of Israel, “Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps His covenant for a thousand generations and constantly loves those who love Him and obey

His commands.”³ The more we understand this, the less room we have in our hearts for worry.

I have found that as I rely on God’s faithfulness and the promises in His Word, He has proved more than able to walk with me through every situation. Truly, He’s been faithful to me!

In Pakistan during a time of great political upheaval, Vonette and I finished a series of meetings in Latbre and rushed to the train station. Although we did not know it, an angry crowd of thousands was marching on the station to destroy the train with cocktail bombs. The director of the railway line rushed us to our compartments and told us not to open our doors under any circumstances.

As I put on my pajamas for the night, a peace filled my heart. From my studies of God’s Word, I knew the Lord was with Vonette and me and our party. I was confident God would protect us. It was not until we arrived in Karachi some 28 hours later that I discovered how guardian angels had indeed watched over us. The train before us had been burned when rioting students had lain on the track and refused to move. The train ran over them and, in retaliation, the mob burned the train and killed the officials.

Our train was next to arrive. The angry mob was prepared to do the same to us, but God miraculously went before us, and we arrived safely in Karachi to discover that martial law had been declared and all was peaceful. It was during this incredible, memorable train ride that I revised my book, *Come Help Change the World*.

Today even more than ever, I rely on God to faithfully respond to my prayers when I pray in accordance with His Word and will. David writes of this assurance, “O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in Your faithfulness and righteousness

come to my relief.”⁴ God does not promise to make life easy for us. But He promises to be with us in all our trying circumstances, protecting us from anything that is not in the center of His will. He will be there by our side as we walk through all the difficulties and trials that come our way.

GOD FAITHFULLY PROTECTS US FROM TEMPTATION

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, “Remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can’t stand up against it. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.”⁵

God’s faithfulness is a great encouragement when we face temptation. He knows exactly the limits of what we can bear. He promises that He will not allow us to get into situations where we are overpowered by temptation.

Whenever we give in to sin, it is not because we cannot say “no.” Rather, it is because our focus is on the attractiveness of the temptation, instead of on God’s faithfulness to deliver us from that situation. Scripture declares, “The Lord is faithful;

He will make you strong and guard you from the evil one.”⁶ God limits Satan and his demons from tempting us beyond our ability to resist. If we trust and obey God, He always gives us a way out of any predicament without having to yield to sin.

Often, we are more afraid of offending individuals with their own worldly agenda than we are of offending our holy, righteous, loving God. The results can be catastrophic. But never forget—God is as loving and faithful as He is just. Every day try to live before Him in a spirit of reverential awe as a child who knows that God loves and cares for him.

GOD FORGIVES US WHEN WE ARE UNFAITHFUL

When we first trusted in Christ to forgive our sin, He did so. Not one person who has called on God in faith has been refused. He has always been—and always will be—faithful to the sinner who comes to Jesus in faith.

The Holy Spirit inspired John to write, “If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.”⁷ Since John was writing to believers, we have assurance that God has also forgiven all the sins we commit after our spiritual birth as well as the ones we had piled against our account before we received Christ as our Savior. No matter when we are unfaithful to God, He will be faithful to forgive when we ask. But on our part, we must be sincere in our repentance and not abuse God’s grace.

Because we are still in these bodies of flesh, we have a tendency to sin and,

ultimately, to be unfaithful. Our unfaithfulness may be motivated by fear or desire. At other times, our fleshly weakness competes with our desire to do God's will. No matter the cause, how encouraging it is to remember God's promise to be faithful to us even when we fail Him!

GOD FAITHFULLY GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM

God's faithfulness continues beyond the act of giving us new life in Christ and help in times of need. Paul writes to the Corinthians:

Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into

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fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Our faithful God called us into fellowship with His Son—and in that act He also committed Himself to our future. That starts with giving us everything we need for our life of worship and witness, for we “do not lack any spiritual gift.” Our faithful God never gives us an assignment for which He has not prepared us and enabled us.

God leads us into work experiences and training when we are available to Him. While in his teens, a young man committed himself to serving the Lord wherever God wanted to use him. In his late teens, he began teaching a preteen Bible study class on Sunday morning and as a mission outreach Sunday afternoon. Some years later, he taught high schoolers in one church and early teens in another church. While serving the Lord in the bookstore at Moody Bible Institute, he interacted with neighborhood African-American children who came into the store. Thus he was not surprised when he was called to write Sunday school curriculum for inner city teenagers. Later he was given an opportunity to write Bible studies for preteen boys for a national magazine. The Lord prepared him for these assignments over two decades—both by giving him a gift for writing and by providing life experiences that matured him in his service for God.

God is also faithful to give us less tangible gifts when we experience suffering, such as the pain of a child turning away from the Lord, a friend rejecting us, or the death of a loved one. In these life experiences, God gives us strength, wisdom, and peace to enable us to reflect His faithfulness through the situation.

In his letters to the early Christians, Peter wrote at length about the benefit of suffering. He concludes: “So then, those who suffer according to God's will should

commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”⁹ Peter recognized that it is easy to turn inward and become bitter during times of inner pain and suffering. That is why he urges us to turn upward to our faithful Creator and

commit ourselves to Him and find the purpose He has for us in these situations.¹⁰

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 1:8 that “He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (NIV). That is the glorious promise of God to all who follow Him. He will keep us faithful to the end, so that we will be with Him in eternity.

NO BETTER WAY TO LIVE

As we have seen, it is God’s plan for us to become holy and advance His kingdom, and He is faithful to bring this to pass. He will leave nothing undone to bring us to a point of maturity in our Christian growth and faith. Paul declared to the Philippians, “I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is

finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.”¹¹

In what area of your life is fear of failure beginning to plague you? Which of your relationships is in danger and you wonder who cares? What task do you face that you feel you cannot do? You can make it through anything—for our faithful God is there for you even when you do not feel like a hero of the faith. He is working in your life right now, even though you may not see Him at work or feel His presence. Let His faithfulness in the past fuel your faith and the power of His Holy Spirit fill your soul. Then you, too, can be a hero of the faith in whatever situation you face.

Once He has filled your heart with the joy of His faithfulness to you, He will strengthen you with His power. Then you will reflect His faithful nature to others. They will see the love of God shine through you as you relate to others. Your friends and relatives will notice the consistency of your standards in all areas of your life, opening up many opportunities to help others understand the depth of God’s faithfulness. As God meets your needs, lifts you up during trying circumstances, and gives you gifts to serve Him beyond your expectations, you will be a reflection of His holy nature and never-failing love and joy.

I cannot imagine a better way to live. If we can just be more and more faithful as God is faithful, we truly will change our corner of the world for Him!

As we consider all the attributes we have studied, it leads us to a characteristic of

God's nature that assures us that God will always act in the way the Bible describes. This quality enables us to come to God in an intimate way with complete confidence. This attribute is that God never changes. In our last two chapters on our Gracious Savior, we will see how God's unchanging nature brings us comfort and security.

LIFE APPLICATION

WRITE IT ON YOUR HEART—Commit the following statement and verses to memory. Then as you encounter situations during this week where you need to remember that God is faithful, claim these promises.

- Because God is faithful, I can trust Him to always keep His promises.
- 1 Peter 4:19—“If you are suffering according to God’s will, keep on doing what is right, and trust yourself to the God who made you, for He will never fail you.”
- 2 Timothy 2:13—“If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”

COUNT ON GOD—The Bible states, “Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep His promise” (Hebrews 10:23). People, institutions, and even churches may fail us, but our faithful God can always be trusted. Is there a specific problem or situation that you have a hard time placing in His capable hands? Give it to Him right now. He will strengthen you and help you through any difficulty.

OBEY GOD—Are you faithful to God? Do you love Him more than anything else? Jesus says in John 14:23, “If anyone loves me, he will obey My teaching” (NIV). We demonstrate our faithfulness by our obedience. In what areas of your life are you in disobedience to God’s Word? Ask God to reveal these areas to you. Start today obeying the little things you know to do. Your faithful Lord will help you obey the big things when they come along later.