

The Promises of God

Promise of God's Faithfulness

“Now may the God of peace himself make you completely holy and may your spirit and soul and body be kept entirely blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is trustworthy, and he will in fact do this.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

<http://tinyurl.com/GodOfPromises>

Promise of God's Faithfulness

Key Verses

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 Now may the God of peace himself make you completely holy and may your spirit and soul and body be kept entirely blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **24** He who calls you is trustworthy, and he will in fact do this.

2 Timothy 2:10-13 So I endure all things for the sake of those chosen by God, that they too may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus and its eternal glory. **11** This saying is trustworthy: If we died with him, we will also live with him. **12** If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we deny him, he will also deny us. **13** If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, since he cannot deny himself.

Core Theme

God promises to stay faithful to His word and to His people.

His faithfulness is part of His character, so it does not change.

Key Points

- God's faithfulness is rooted in His character.
- God keeps covenant even when people are inconsistent.
- Jesus fulfills every promise God made.
- The New Covenant rests on God's faithful action.
- God's faithfulness gives the believer confidence to live and endure.

God's Faithfulness in Scripture

God keeps His covenant even when His people fail.

It's part of His name and nature...

- **Nehemiah 1:5** - "O Lord God of Heaven... the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and loyal love."
- **Psalm 138:8** - "Your loyal love, O Lord, endures forever."
- **Psalm 145:13** - "The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises."

Examples – This truth shows-up again and again...

- God kept His word to Abraham, even when Abraham stumbled (**Genesis 17**).
- God kept Israel alive in the wilderness, even when they complained (**Deuteronomy 7:9**).
- God kept His promise to send the Messiah (**Luke 1:72–73**).

God's faithfulness holds the whole story of Scripture together.

- **Lamentations 3:22-23** - The **steadfast love (Hebrew : hesed)** of the Lord never ceases; His **mercies** never come to an end. They are new every morning; **Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord, Great is Thy faithfulness!**

God's Faithfulness in Scripture

The Bible often describes God as faithful.
It's part of His name and nature.

God's faithfulness holds the whole story of Scripture together.

Lamentations 3:22-23 - The **steadfast love** of the Lord never ceases; His **mercies** never come to an end. They are new every morning; **Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord, Great is Thy faithfulness!**

Lamentations 3:22-24 - The LORD's loyal kindness never ceases; his compassions never end. **23** They are fresh every morning; your faithfulness is abundant! **24** "My portion is the LORD," I have said to myself, so I will put my hope in him. (NET)

His Nature Revealed

In Christ, steadfast love (i.e. *hesed*) and covenant faithfulness converge — God keeping His oaths through the obedient Son.

The revelation of true *hesed* (i.e. *steadfast love and faithfulness*)

When viewed from the cross:

- *hesed* = God's faithful love that fulfills every promise despite human failure.
- In Christ, that *hesed* becomes personal — poured into hearts by the spirit (Romans 5:5).
- The "mystery" hidden for ages (Colossians 1:26–27) is that gentiles and Jews together share this covenant faithfulness through union with Christ.
- "Now the main point of what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven... he is the mediator of a better covenant, enacted on better promises." — *Hebrews 8:1,6*

Summary Thoughts

- The ancient covenants were **shadows**; Christ is **substance**.
- Their rituals hinted at what his *hesed* (God's steadfast love and faithfulness) would achieve: forgiveness, transformation, and unbreakable fellowship.
- So, when we read backward through the new covenant, we see the same God — steadfast, loyal, merciful — fulfilling His own covenant from the inside out.

God's Faithfulness Revealed in Jesus

Proof of God's steadfast love and faithfulness

Jesus is the proof that God keeps His promises.

2 Corinthians 1:20 - "For every one of God's promises are 'Yes' in him."

- God promised a Savior.
- God promised forgiveness.
- God promised a new covenant.
- Jesus is the fulfillment of all three.

Jesus also shows the Father's faithful heart.

Hebrews 13:5 - "*I will never leave you and I will never abandon you.*"

John 10:8 - Jesus says, "*No one can snatch them from my hand.*"

God's faithfulness is seen first in Christ's cross, and then in His resurrection.

- The cross shows God keeps His promise to deal with sin.
- The resurrection shows God keeps His promise to overcome death.

Contemplations...

- How does historical hind-sight reveal Jesus as the culmination of God's plan for humanity?
- How can we encourage one another to hold to God's promises?

God's Faithfulness Revealed in Jesus

God's Faithfulness and the New Covenant

He finishes what He starts

The promise of faithfulness is rooted in the New Covenant.

Jeremiah 31:33-34 - "*I will put my law within them. I will forgive their sin, and I will no longer call to mind the wrong they have done.*"

- The faithfulness of God guarantees both forgiveness and inner renewal.

The Apostles taught the same...

Philippians 1:6 – "*He who began a good work in you will perfect it.*"

- This means God finishes what He starts.
- He does not abandon His people halfway.

God commands. God promises. God fulfills.

- His faithfulness bridges His Word and our lives.
- His faithfulness shows up in baptism, the Spirit's work, the work of the church.
- God's faithfulness is the reason the church endures.

Contemplations...

- How does God's faithfulness give you confidence in your walk with Him?
- What changes when you believe that God finishes what He starts?
- How might God's faithfulness be obscured or doubted by Christians?

God's Faithfulness and the New Covenant

Early Christian and Restoration Themes

Early Christian writers saw God's faithfulness as the ground of Christian hope.

They taught that God's covenant loyalty (*hesed*) reaches its high point in Jesus.

Restoration teachers often said:

"God commands. God promises. God fulfills."

His faithfulness is the bridge between His word and our lives.

They stressed that God's faithfulness is not abstract.

It shows up in baptism, in the Spirit's work, in the gathering of the church, and in daily obedience.

God's faithfulness is the reason the church endures.

How does God's faithfulness give you confidence in your walk with Him?

Which part of God's faithfulness do you struggle to trust?
How does Jesus show God's faithfulness to you personally?
What changes when you believe that God finishes what He starts?
How can we encourage one another to hold to God's promises?

God's Faithfulness in Life of Disciples

Gives the Believer confidence

God strengthens us...

2 Thessalonians 3:3 - “*The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.*”

God forgives us...

1 John 1:9 - “*He is faithful and righteous, forgiving us our sins.*”

God keeps us...

1 Peter 1:5 - “*By God’s power you are protected through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed.*”

God stays steady even when we fail...

2 Timothy 2:13 - “*If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful.*”

Philippians 1:6 - “*For I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*”

Contemplations...

- God's faithfulness does not excuse sin.
- But it does remind us that God does not quit on His people.
- He keeps working, correcting, restoring, and shaping us.
- How might people misinterpret God's faithfulness in theological understanding?

God's Faithfulness and the Life of a Disciple