



“GOD’S COVENANT FAITHFULNESS”

FAITHFUL GOD, SO UNCHANGING

God’s righteousness is to be understood as his covenant faithfulness (*Romans 3:3-5, 25: 15:8*).

What is a covenant in Bible terms?

“Covenant is a dominant theme in the Scriptures and serves as a foundation to the story of God’s people. In a literal sense, a covenant means a binding agreement, a legal contract. It is a seal between two or more parties.”

Read the list of key Bible verses on God’s faithfulness.

- Which of these verses stand out for you and why?
- Today’s society is not big on faithfulness in any aspect of life. Do you think it is easy to be faithful as a Christian?

For me, one of the most important areas, is that of forgiveness of sins. *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23*. Other wonderful verses on this topic are found in *Psalm 103:1-12*.

Let us look at some of the Biblical examples of God’s faithfulness.

Abraham: (Genesis 12-25) You will no doubt recall from our previous studies how God miraculously took Abraham from Ur of the Chaldeans to a land about which he knew nothing and had to completely trust God. Later God asked him to sacrifice his son.

- How did God remain faithful to Abraham in this seemingly impossible situation?
- Have we ever felt God wanted us to do something way out of our comfort zone?
- What was God’s wonderful promise to Abraham? Was he faithful to his promise?

Joseph: (Genesis 37-50) Called *The Dreamer* by his brothers, he genuinely believed that God had shown him, through dreams, that his brothers would all bow down to him; that he would in some way, play a pivotal role in their lives.

- What was the first example of God's faithfulness to Joseph?
- Do we believe that God is concerned about our life?
- Did God show faithfulness in allowing Joseph to be imprisoned following the false accusation of Potiphar's wife?
- God miraculously enabled him to become second only to Pharaoh, in the land of Egypt. What was the ultimate outcome of God's faithfulness?

Just one more Old Testament example out of so many, is that of *Nehemiah* (1-6). God asked something seemingly impossible, in that Nehemiah was in exile when he was asked to return and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The opening chapter of the book also shows that Nehemiah had remained faithful to God despite being taken from his own land. He was also faithful in his service to the king.

- Two verses in chapter 6 (15-20) say: *"So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God."*
- Are we prepared to give God a chance to show his faithfulness? Do we trust him?

Likewise, there are many examples in the New Testament. Think about Paul and all that he suffered to further God's Kingdom. 2 Timothy 4:6-8 NKJV: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."* Paul had complete trust in God's faithfulness to deliver him from any situation. Think about Acts 16 when he and Silas were in the Philippian jail and Acts 27 when Paul was in the storm and shipwrecked on the island of Malta.

One thing we should notice about all these examples are that everyone of them had to go through difficult situations, yet they always trusted God.

- Do we understand that God's faithfulness does not mean our Christian walk will be easy? How do you feel about that?

The ultimate example we have is that of Jesus himself. From Genesis and throughout the Old Testament, as we have seen from previous studies, God promised a Messiah would come to redeem his people. One of the most powerful scriptures is that in Isaiah 53: *Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our*

transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement (physically taking the punishment for our sins) for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Isaiah 9:6 "For a child is born unto us, a son hath been given unto us, and the government is placed on his shoulders; and his name is called, Wonderful, counsellor of the mighty God, of the everlasting Father, the prince of peace."

The evidence of scripture and the testimony of those throughout the ages would wholeheartedly support those words.

- But, what about us? Do we trust God's word in its entirety?
- Are there things that make us doubt?
- How do we react when going through difficult times?

The words of that beautiful song we sing wonderfully sum this up:

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."



Prayer: Father God, we praise and thank you that you cannot change, and your compassion never fails. Help us to be faithful to you in all aspects of our life.

Amen