

"TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM"

3. Attributes of God: His Faithfulness

God's Faithfulness is perfect follow-on to our study on His Righteousness. If we think about it, we can really only believe in His Righteousness because of His Faithfulness.

"Your faithfulness endures to all generations;

You established the earth, and it abides."

(NKJV, Psalms 119:90)

The very fact that the earth still exists is ongoing proof of God's Faithfulness. In spite of the wickedness that abounds, God has not destroyed the earth. In His Word He said that He wouldn't, and He hasn't.

(NKJV, Deu 7:8-9) "[8] but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. [9] Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;"

What is Faithfulness?

Faithfulness is "ACTING on what was previously PROMISED". The only reason why words have any meaning is if there is action behind them. There's a saying from my old Brooklyn neighborhood that colorfully describes this premise. *"Don't let your mouth write checks that your posterior can't cash."* When words are backed by the omnipotence of God, those words are POWERFUL!

(NKJV, Psa 138:2), "I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name for Your loving-kindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name."

Faithfulness can also mean "to remain steadfast, to endure".

(NKJV, Heb 10:23), "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

(NKJV, Lam 3:22-23), "Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. [23] They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."

God's Faithfulness gives us the fundamental reason to believe the Bible.

One third of the Bible is of prophetic statements... statements that at the time they were spoken/written had not yet happened. All prophetic statements that were supposed to have happened, have indeed took place. Only those prophecies of the End Times remain to be fulfilled. Fulfilled prophecy provides evidence that the Bible is true, and that God is faithful.

God's faithfulness will protect us.

(NKJV 2Th 3:3), "But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one." (See also 1Co 10:13)

Not only did God NOT destroy the earth, He has also prevented man from destroying it! Throughout the devastation of World War II, the nuclear brinksmanship of the Cold War, the current powder keg that the Middle East is today, man's lack of concern for the environment, God has been faithful in preserving the earth. How reassuring is it that He will not allow ANYTHING to interfere with His Faithfulness?!

God's faithfulness triumphs over all.

(NKJV, 2Ti 2:11-13), "This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. [12] If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. [13] If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."

It is God's Faithfulness that is the basis for our hope and belief that we have a guarantee of spending eternity with God if we accept Jesus as our Savior and our Lord.

Group Discussion

- What would the implications for man be if God was NOT Faithful?
- How do the trials we encounter demonstrate God's Faithfulness?
- How did the Lord reveal His Faithfulness to you this last week, either through the study of His Word or through the circumstances of your life?