



Part 2

GOD IS FAITHFUL

KEY VERSES: Psalm 36:5, Lamentations 3:22-23, Matthew 25:21

- *What do you understand by the word 'faithful'? Can you think of examples of people you know who are strong in this area? Any Bible characters? Why would you like people around you to think of you as 'faithful'?*
- *How has God been faithful to you?*

1. WHAT IS GOD REALLY LIKE?

Defining faithfulness ...

- a) LOYALTY with no VARIABILITY (Psalm 100:5, Deuteronomy 7:9).
 - * Faithfulness is not an UP-AND-DOWN CURVE; it's a STRAIGHT-LINE (James 1:17).
 - *Are you a straight-line or an up-and-down curve? What are the contributors to any variability in your life, mental health, emotions, spirituality, etc. Where do they come from? Is a little up and down inevitable? What is the power of the straight-line?*
- b) Attends TENACIOUSLY & NEVER GIVES UP
 - * RELENTLESS & UNSWERVING.
 - * STRONG like a FATHER & DEVOTED like a MOTHER.
 - * God's faithfulness is ALWAYS AT WORK, because it's WHO HE IS (Psalm 86:15, 40:11, 1 Corinthians 13:7).
 - *What do we learn about God's faithfulness from these three verses? How does it 'watch over you?' What does it mean to say that God 'never gives up?' Why do we tend to give up and why is a revelation of God's faithfulness crucial in us becoming more tenacious?*
- c) IMPOSSIBLE for Him to LET YOU DOWN (Deuteronomy 32:4, 2 Timothy 2:13).
 - * God will NEVER let you down. If you think He did, YOU'RE WRONG!
 - *Is it okay to 'shout at God?' Is there any point?*
 - *What should be our response when people 'let us down?' How would faithfulness respond?*
- d) CLINGS to His WORD (Psalm 71:22, 138:2)
 - * The full RESOURCES of Heaven are behind EVERY PROMISE.
 - * It is utterly IMPOSSIBLE for His WORD to be BROKEN.
 - * It's so important that this FRAMES your THEOLOGY.
 - *Why is it so important that God's faithfulness, each of these four definitions, defines our theology? What might happen if it doesn't?*

2. HOW DID JESUS MODEL THE CHARACTER OF GOD?

John 1:14,17, Revelation 19:11, Hebrews 13:8

- * A perfect manifestation of the faithfulness of God: Faithful to the MISSION of God, the WORD of God, the SPIRIT of God & the PEOPLE of God.
- *How did Jesus model each of the four definitions we looked at on #1?*

3. WHAT EXPECTATIONS DOES THAT THEN PUT ON US?

John 8:31, Matthew 25:21, 2 Timothy 2:22, 4:7

- * We have a clear CALL to be FAITHFUL as He is FAITHFUL.
- *What do those four verses tell us about our call to faithfulness? Are there any other relevant New Testament verses?*
- * As always, the challenge is HUMAN NATURE.
- *How does human nature pull in the opposite direction? Where do we (or others) tend to slip up or fail? What causes that? What are the consequences of that? Why do we have good days & bad? How do we get 'manipulated & tricked by our own emotions?'*
- * So, how do we move from VARIABILITY to STABILITY? From SAND to ROCK? From being at the MERCY of HUMAN NATURE to the STRENGTH of His FAITHFULNESS?

4. HOW DOES HOLY SPIRIT HELP US GROW IN & LIVE OUT GOD'S CHARACTER?

Galatians 5:16-26

- * Faithfulness is a Holy Spirit FRUIT (v22): the inevitable WORK of His SPIRIT deep in our HEARTS, as He makes us MORE LIKE JESUS.
- *Will the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts inevitably make us more faithful? Why is it significant that faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit, rather than of our own determination?*
- * At every decision point, we have a CHOICE: Respond to the PROMPTING of the HOLY SPIRIT or give in to FLESHLY TEMPTATION (Galatians 5:19-21).
- *How does our decision at each point affect our stance of faithfulness? How does the Holy Spirit 'prompt' us? How does the flesh 'tempt' us?*
- * THE KEY = To FOLLOW the SPIRIT'S LEADING at every TURN (v16,25).
- * We have within us ALL the FAITHFULNESS we NEED, because we're CONTAINERS of the FAITHFUL ONE.
- *How does the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit help us to be more faithful? What attributes or assistance does He give us that we need to stay on that straight line, rather than undulating like the curve?*
- * If we want that STABILITY, that unwavering CONSTANCY, we have to learn to IGNORE the nagging, tugging impulses of the FLESH and LISTEN, FOLLOW & OBEY the gentle promptings of the HOLY SPIRIT within.
- * The Holy Spirit always moves us from UNCERTAINTY, INSTABILITY & INSECURITY to CERTAINTY, SECURITY & IDENTITY.
- *How does He do that, short term and long?*