

## 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 will 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!

Thomas Chisholm 1923

*Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed.  
Because His compassions fail not, They are new every morning;  
Great is Your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23*

The lyrics to the beloved hymn “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” were penned by Thomas Chisholm. Thomas Obediah Chisholm was born in a log cabin in Franklin, Kentucky in 1866. He received his education in a little country schoolhouse, and at age 16 began teaching there. He became a Christian at age 27, and with no college or seminary training was ordained to the Methodist ministry at age 36. He served as a Methodist minister for a year, but ill health made it impossible for him to continue. Even though Thomas experienced ill health most of his life and never had material wealth, he still understood and worshipped God for His faithfulness. He wrote this beloved hymn based on the truth of the verse from Lamentations printed above; as well as the many displays of God’s provision and blessing in his own life, which he once said “filled him with astonishing gratefulness.” The lyrics of this well-known hymn have inspired millions to express their gratitude to their faithful God as well.

Let’s sit before Our faithful God and contemplate what the word “Faithfulness” means to us personally.

Synonyms of Faithfulness:

Antonyms of Faithfulness:

Using a good English dictionary copy out a definition of faithfulness below. To be especially thorough look up and write out definition of “faith” as well.

Faithfulness:

Faith:

As with *ANY* of the defining words of the Fruit of the Spirit we find in our key verse:

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

...**we must always first and foremost realize** that these are character traits and expressions of the person and heart of Our Amazing Creator God. Any discussion of faithfulness in the life of believer must first be firmly rooted in the understanding of the Faithfulness of God Himself.

*God has*

- *promised to be faithful,*
    - *declared Himself to be faithful,*
      - *and shown Himself to be faithful*
- .....all through the Old and New Testament.*

*IN FACT... it is **God's complete and utter faithfulness** that energizes all the other fruits we have discussed so far.*

**His love is a Faithful Love**

**His Joy is a Faithful Joy**

**His Peace is a Faithful Peace**

**His Longsuffering is a Faithful Longsuffering and so on.....**

Let's explore some Scriptures on God's faithfulness in both the Old and New Testament.

IN the Hebrew a word that is often translated as faithfulness is Emunah ( em-oo-naw') This Hebrew word is translated as firmness, fidelity, security, stability, truth, steadiness.

It is in the following OT verses. Look each one up and either write it out or paraphrase it in your own words...using the understanding of the Hebrew definition above:

Psalms 36:5

Psalms 37:3

Psalms 89:1-2

Psalms 119:137-138

Isaiah 25:1

Lamentations 3:23

Hosea 2:20

*From these verses I learn that God's faithfulness:*

*Reaches Higher than I can imagine (Ps. 36:5)*

*Nourishes my Soul (Ps.37:3)*

*Is Established to All Generations (Ps 89:1-2)*

*Is Express in His righteous Commands (Ps 119:137-138)*

*Is Found in His counsel and His Truth (Isaiah 25:1)*

*Is Expressed in His new Mercy for every day (Lam 3: 22-23)*

*Is wooing us into deeper Intimacy and Oneness with Him (Hosea 2:20)*

*One of the most amazing pictures of the faithfulness of Our God and Savior is the covenant relationship He has had with His Chosen people...the people of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...the nation of Israel.*

*Let's look at Psalm 78...underline/highlight all the ways God showed His faithfulness to His People*

**Psalms 78:1-72 ESV**

- (1) **A Maskil of Asaph.** Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!
- (2) I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,
- (3) things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.
- (4) We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.
- (5) He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,
- (6) that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children,
- (7) so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;
- (8) and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.
- (9) The Ephraimites, armed with the bow, turned back on the day of battle.
- (10) They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law.
- (11) They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them.
- (12) In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.
- (13) He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.
- (14) In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light.
- (15) He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
- (16) He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.
- (17) Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert.
- (18) They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved.
- (19) They spoke against God, saying, "Can God spread a table in the wilderness?"
- (20) He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed. Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?"
- (21) Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel,
- (22) because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power.
- (23) Yet he commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven,
- (24) and he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven.
- (25) Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance.
- (26) He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind;
- (27) he rained meat on them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas;
- (28) he let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their dwellings.
- (29) And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.
- (30) But before they had satisfied their craving, while the food was still in their mouths,

- (31) the anger of God rose against them, and he killed the strongest of them and laid low the young men of Israel.
- (32) In spite of all this, they still sinned; despite his wonders, they did not believe.
- (33) So he made their days vanish like a breath, and their years in terror.
- (34) When he killed them, they sought him; they repented and sought God earnestly.
- (35) They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer.
- (36) But they flattered him with their mouths; they lied to him with their tongues.
- (37) Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not faithful to his covenant.
- (38) Yet he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath.
- (39) He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and comes not again.
- (40) How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the desert!
- (41) They tested God again and again and provoked the Holy One of Israel.
- (42) They did not remember his power or the day when he redeemed them from the foe,
- (43) when he performed his signs in Egypt and his marvels in the fields of Zoan.
- (44) He turned their rivers to blood, so that they could not drink of their streams.
- (45) He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them, and frogs, which destroyed them.
- (46) He gave their crops to the destroying locust and the fruit of their labor to the locust.
- (47) He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamores with frost.
- (48) He gave over their cattle to the hail and their flocks to thunderbolts.
- (49) He let loose on them his burning anger, wrath, indignation, and distress, a company of destroying angels.
- (50) He made a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death, but gave their lives over to the plague.
- (51) He struck down every firstborn in Egypt, the firstfruits of their strength in the tents of Ham.
- (52) Then he led out his people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.
- (53) He led them in safety, so that they were not afraid, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.
- (54) And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won.
- (55) He drove out nations before them; he apportioned them for a possession and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.
- (56) Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God and did not keep his testimonies,
- (57) but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers; they twisted like a deceitful bow.
- (58) For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols.
- (59) When God heard, he was full of wrath, and he utterly rejected Israel.
- (60) He forsook his dwelling at Shiloh, the tent where he dwelt among mankind,
- (61) and delivered his power to captivity, his glory to the hand of the foe.
- (62) He gave his people over to the sword and vented his wrath on his heritage.
- (63) Fire devoured their young men, and their young women had no marriage song.
- (64) Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows made no lamentation.
- (65) Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, like a strong man shouting because of wine.
- (66) And he put his adversaries to rout; he put them to everlasting shame.
- (67) He rejected the tent of Joseph; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,
- (68) but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loves.
- (69) He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever.
- (70) He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds;
- (71) from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance.
- (72) With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.

Wow!! How amazing to see God's faithfulness expressed in all the ways He provided and sheltered His chosen people. More powerfully still is the way He dealt with their sin by chastisement and correction, and then lovingly forgave and restored them again and again.

***This is truly God's covenant faithfulness in action !!***

Mark Twain who was agnostic at best, could not help but be aware of the message that the Jewish nation proclaims to all the world.

As Mark Twain said in his essay *Concerning the Jews*:

"The Jews constitute but 1% of the human race ... It suggests a nebulous dim puff of star dust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly the Jew ought hardly be heard of; but he is heard of, has always been heard of... His contributions to the world's list of great names are away out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in the world, in all the ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself and be excused for it. The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose... the Greek and the Roman followed, and made a vast noise, and they are gone... The Jew saw them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no dulling of his alert mind. All things are mortal but the Jew... What is the secret of his immortality?"

**Mark Twain might not have known the answer, but students of the Bible know the secret to the immortality of the Jews is found in their Immortal God and His covenant of Faithfulness to them.**

"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

(Deuteronomy 7:6-9 ESV)

What were NOT the reasons God has chosen Israel?

What was the reason God has chosen them?

What does God promise in v. 9?

## God's faithfulness is *not* based on who *we* are but in *WHO* He Is!!!

Let's look at some of the ways we see God's faithfulness expressed towards us in the New Testament. Fill in the blanks in the following verses. (NKJV)

### Faithful to Save

**Heb 7:25** Consequently, he is able to save to the \_\_\_\_\_ those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to \_\_\_\_\_ for them.

**1Co 1:9** God is faithful, by whom you were called into the \_\_\_\_\_ of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Faithful to Forgive

**1Jn 1:9** If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, he is faithful and just to \_\_\_\_\_ us our sins and to \_\_\_\_\_ us from all \_\_\_\_\_.

### Faithful to Keep Us from Sin

**1Co 10:13** No \_\_\_\_\_ has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is \_\_\_\_\_, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your \_\_\_\_\_, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of \_\_\_\_\_, that you may be able to endure it.

### Faithful in Trials

**1Pe 4:19** Therefore let those who \_\_\_\_\_ according to God's will \_\_\_\_\_ their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

**Heb 10:23** Let us hold fast the \_\_\_\_\_ of our hope without \_\_\_\_\_, for he who promised is faithful.

### Faithful in His presence

**Heb 13:5-6** Keep your life free from love of money, and be \_\_\_\_\_ with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor \_\_\_\_\_ you."

So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my \_\_\_\_\_; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

### Faithful to Sanctify

**1Th 5:23-24** Now may the God of \_\_\_\_\_ himself \_\_\_\_\_ you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept \_\_\_\_\_ at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Now as God's chosen people we are called to live a life of faithfulness, or another way this could be expressed is "A Life Full of Faith". Our faith in Who God is should infuse and influence all that we say and all that we do. It is a way of declaring our love and trust in an Always Faithful God.

*We as believers delight ourselves in the Promises of God, knowing that  
He is The Ultimate Promise Keeper!!!!*

**For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.**

**(2 Corinthians 1:19-20 NKJV)**

*Here are some Scriptures that exhort us to be faithful in various areas of our life. Draw a line from the verse to the area of our life that God seeks for faithfulness.*

Psalms 119:30	In Prayer
1 Corinthians 4:2	In Money
1 Timothy 3:11	In Teaching
2 Timothy 2:2	In Speech
Matthew 23:14-29	In Obedience to the Word
Proverbs 25:13	In Marriage
Luke 16:9-13	In Use of Gifts
Matthew 5:37	In Refreshing Others
Romans 12:12	In Service to Others



To close this week's study, it is interesting to note all the various men and women Paul and other NT authors sent greetings and thanks to in their epistles. Although we know Paul and Peter and the other disciples and gospel writers were well known servants of God...there are countless others that were just as highly valued and esteemed by God. They may have been people who prayed faithfully, opened their home to others, fed the poor, encouraged and strengthened others, led home churches, collected donations and alms, etc....but each one is highly esteemed in the Kingdom of God because they were faithful to obey and serve God.

Here are some of their names. Write your name in the space provided and then read the verses below prayerfully. At the end write a prayer to the Lord asking Him to show you ways you can express the fruit of faithfulness at this time and hour in history.

### **You are His Body and Your Faithfulness is Desperately Needed.**

*Silas Priscilla Aquilla Apelles Urbanus Lydia Tryphena Tryphosa*  
*Timothy Herodian Ampilia Junia Andronicus Persis Rufus and His Mother*  
*Titus Mary Phoebe Dorcas Epaphroditus Narcissus Julia Philologus Nereus and His sister*  
*Olympas Stephanaas Fortunatus Achaicus Nymphas Silvanus Tychicus Epaphras Archippus*  
*Demas Onesiphorus Eubulus Claudia Linus Pudens Trophimus Zenas Apollos*  
*Onesimus Barnabas Aristarchus Mark Artemas Philemon Apphia Gaius Jude Demetrius*

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Read 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and write your prayer below.