SUMMARY

How do you make significant decisions?

When you're waiting on God’s promise, and prayers seem to go unanswered, how do you respond? Some people choose to give up on prayer and remain confused, but there's a better way to face these moments and bring matters into a right perspective. We can remember why we believe that the Lord is always faithful (1 Cor. 1:1-9). By looking at five of God’s key attributes, as well as the nature of His promises, we will understand how we can find rest in His faithfulness and be strengthened in hope.

SERMON POINTS

Inherent Characteristics of God

In life, there are times when our trust in God is tested. It’s simply part of the journey. Knowing we would need to be reminded of this, the Father provided many passages about His faithfulness in both the Old and New Testaments. So it’s very important we understand its significance. God’s faithfulness means that He always does the right thing in every situation. It also means He’ll never fail to meet a promise. Although circumstances change, the Lord and His Word remain the same. In order to truly believe this, however, there are five key attributes of God that must be understood. Reflecting on them renews and strengthens our confidence in His faithfulness:

- **Omniscience.** God can be faithful because He knows everything in the past, present, and future. And He knows every detail about you and me—our wants, desires, or weaknesses never catch Him by surprise. We are always welcome to pray about the things He’s promised, but not because He needs reminding. God is fully aware of everything He has said in His Word or spoken to you personally. As such, the Lord is trustworthy and true to guide your every step.

- **Omnipotence.** Likewise, God must be able to accomplish anything necessary to fulfill a promise. If some circumstance or situation was beyond His power, there could be no guarantee of His ability to work all things for the good of those who love Him. However, since He is all-powerful, even the obstacles and trials in life that seem to spoil God’s plan are also used to fulfill it when we keep our focus on Him.

- **Omnipresence.** An additional comfort comes from knowing that we’re always within God’s reach. Under no circumstances can you flee from His presence or be separated from His love in Christ Jesus. At any moment or place you can cry out to Him and know He is available.

- **Truthfulness.** The attributes of omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence are closely related in that all three are essential for God to remain faithful. But His character is also important to keep in mind because integrity is at the heart of God’s faithfulness. He will not lie or misguide us (Titus 1:2). He will do what He’s promised and remain true to His own nature in every circumstance, even when we fail to do so ourselves (2 Tim. 2:13).

- **Immutability.** Similarly, God’s character and attributes cannot change (Mal. 3:6). If His essence is altered, His faithfulness would also be subject to revision and would therefore be unreliable. The same is true with His promises. If they could change, we’d live in constant uncertainty. How thankful we should be that this isn’t the case! We can rely on the stability of His love and discernment in all things...
and find peace in knowing that although heaven and earth be shaken, His words will never be.

**Does God Change His Mind?**

Some people make the argument from Scripture that God can change His mind or abandon a promise. One of the passages they refer to is the story of Jonah. As instructed by God, the prophet warned Nineveh that it would be destroyed in forty days. Once the city repented of its wickedness, however, the Lord forestalled the disaster.

While this might seem like God changed His mind, something much different actually happened. When God spoke of coming disaster, He didn’t make a promise; He issued a warning. It was a conditional statement given so the people might avoid disaster, not guarantee it. Therefore, the issue here isn’t God’s change of plans but rather Nineveh’s change of heart.

**Two Kinds of Promises**

This misconception of God changing His mind sheds light on another point of confusion that people often encounter—what constitutes a promise from God? Does He say that some things will come to pass no matter what, while others depend on our response? The answer is yes. Some promises are guaranteed, and nothing we can do will change their course. One such example is God’s covenant with Abraham to make Him a father of many nations; another is the rainbow as a symbol of God’s pledge to never again flood the Earth. These are the kinds of promises we cannot alter.

On the other hand, certain promises in Scripture are conditional. For example, we will receive anything we ask for if we pray according to the Father’s will (1 John 5:14). Just because we don’t receive something doesn’t make God a liar. It just means we misunderstood God’s will in that particular instance. So God is always faithful and consistent, no matter how we may perceive Him. No one can truly say that He lies or changes His mind.

**Many Promises on Which to Rely**

If we are to rest in God’s faithfulness, we must believe in certain promises. Below are several promises that can bring hope to all who believe in Him.

- God empowers us concerning whatever He calls us to do (2 Pet. 1:3).
- If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive them (John 1:9).
- God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear (1 Cor. 10:13).
- God will meet your needs (Matt. 6:33).
- All things work together for good for those who love God (Rom. 8:28).
- As believers, we are sealed forever as God’s children (2 Cor. 1:22).
- As believers, we will receive a resurrection body (Rev. 5:20).
- Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ has eternal life (John 3:16).

These powerful assurances are just a few of many contained in God’s Word. And you can be certain that He won’t change His mind or forget about any one of them (Mal. 3:6). That is because He is an infinite, indescribable, and awesome God who is committed to His children for all eternity.

**RESPONSE**

The next time you’re facing a challenge of a trial, remember the attributes that ensure God’s faithfulness. God cannot and will not fail to fulfill His purpose and promise in your life. By reminding yourself of this, your heart will be strengthened in the Lord, and you will find rest in His faithfulness.

- How can you wisely conquer the enemies of doubt and discouragement?
- Numerous verses refer to God’s faithfulness. Which verse most resonates with you? What makes it significant to your life?

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