



God's Word for Today

Sonja Hunt Ministries

Teaching Letter 37

God's Faithfulness

"being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6 NKJ).

God's faithfulness stands in bold contrast in a world in which unfaithfulness abounds. Paul could tell the Philippian Christians unequivocally he was confident in God's faithfulness to complete the good work He had begun in them. This verse in the Amplified Version says:

"And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you."

Paul could be so confident about God's faithfulness because he had experienced it. Even though we might be tempted to think Paul had "arrived" in his walk with God, Paul wrote: "Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect [or complete], but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12).

God was continuing His work in Paul and would complete that work at the appointed time. The writer of Hebrews said we should focus our eyes on Jesus, "the author and the finisher [developer and perfecter] of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). This is the same confidence Paul had.

To be sure, we have a part to contribute in the process. We must not give up in times of doubt and fear. In the midst of any trouble, we can trust God's faithfulness. God will develop our faith if we keep "looking unto Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2). He will take us all the way through. Paul wrote: "But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one" (2 Thessalonians 3:3 NKJ).

Have you ever felt like giving up? You may have felt that way, but God has not. God's faithfulness regarding His work in us is limitless. I have at times thought—foolishly, I might say—that my issues might be a little more than God could handle. I've had those fleeting thoughts when I became overwhelmed by my problems. God, however, is not overwhelmed by anything—not even nearly so. He is well able to do everything He has ever said He would. And He will not give up on us.

God has made many promises—none of which shall fail because of God's faithfulness. Paul wrote: "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us" (2 Corinthians 1:20 NKJ). God is faithful to His Word; He "is not slack concerning His promises" (2 Peter 3:9 NKJ).

God is not only faithful to complete the work He has begun in us, He also is faithful to keep all of His Word. It is stated in Numbers 23:19 that "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" In Titus 1:2, Paul too points out that God, who promised eternal life before time began, "cannot lie."

Until we know a person over time, we cannot truly know their faithfulness to their word. In fact, today in some arenas, we have come to seriously doubt the majority of people's faithfulness to the truth. Isaiah's day must have been similar. He wrote: "Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and

equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey” (Isaiah 59:14-15 NKJ).

Man’s unfaithfulness does not and cannot negate God’s faithfulness for “if we are faithless, He remains faithful” (2 Timothy 2:13 NKJ). We are fallible, but we seek to be faithful to our word as God is faithful to His. If I say I will do something, I should do it unless I made a foolish promise and have to repent and request forgiveness for my foolishness. If I am providentially hindered from doing what I said I would do, I should follow up with an explanation.

It is a great comfort to know God’s faithfulness far exceeds human faithfulness. Whereas faithfulness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5:22) that God will develop in us as we yield to and cooperate with Him, God’s faithfulness is an aspect of who He is. He is faithful, and it is impossible for Him to be otherwise. The Apostle John wrote about Jesus: “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war” (Revelation 19:11 NKJ). “Faithful” is one of the names of Christ.

God not only is faithful to that work He has begun in us, and He not only is faithful to His Word, but He also is faithful to each of us individually. God told Joshua: “. . . I will not leave you nor forsake you” (Joshua 1:5 NKJ). Joshua needed to hear that right then. Moses had died, and Joshua may have felt somewhat forsaken. Joshua had been Moses’ assistant and military leader, but Moses had carried the responsibility for leading Israel. Now Joshua would lead.

God had been faithful to Moses and Israel until then. But what now? They were standing for the second time at the entrance to the Promised Land—a land of walled cities and giants. They faced a large task, but still it was the task God had called them to and had promised to them. It was their destiny.

Joshua knew these things. Forty years earlier, he and Caleb had been the only two spies to declare they should immediately go in and take the land. The ten other spies, however, convinced the people it was useless and a disaster waiting to happen. They saw themselves as grasshoppers—not victorious conquerors (Numbers 13:33). Joshua and

Caleb, however, knew they were well able for God had called them to conquer this land. It was a God calling, and what God calls one—or a nation—to do, He will enable them to do.

Now—after going round and round in the desert and literally getting nowhere for forty years, Joshua stands ready again to enter the Promised Land. God spoke to Joshua to renew His promises made years before. God had not changed His mind nor His plan. Joshua did not have the great leader Moses to follow now, but He had God’s promise He would go with him all the way. There would be battles, but if Joshua did things God’s way, victory would be certain. God—in His faithfulness—would carry them through every situation. Joshua need not worry nor fear.

Do you stand on the threshold—or right in the middle of—a difficult situation? Well, God has brought you to that place and He is standing right there with you. Be encouraged and do not fear. God says to you what He said through the prophet Samuel to Israel: “For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people” (1 Samuel 12:22 NKJ).

With David, we can confidently say: “Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures t**S**till generations. . . .” (Psalm 119:89-90 NKJ).

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