

KNOW GOD : Faithful

As one considers the characteristics of God, they begin to know Him in a more personal way. In this series of bulletin articles on knowing God, we have made an effort to look closely at the qualities of the one true God of heaven that we all might get to know Him better. It is important to know God as the book of Job 18:21 states, “Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked, and this is the place of him who does not know God.” Could this terrible statement be said of the nation in which we live today? What about your state, city, or even more personal, your home, and even your own life?

In our previous article we considered that God is omnipotent or that He has all power. With this great power comes a quality in God that demonstrates His reliability. God is faithful in every word that He has spoken from the beginning of time. In every generation God has promised to be true to His covenants that He has made with mankind. Since God never fails us, it is important that we learn about and appreciate His dedication in service and love to His creation. Let us consider the message of the word of God in light of Divine faithfulness and build a trust that never waivers in our obedience to our God.

GOD IS FAITHFUL

Since the beginning of time, God has been faithful in everything that He has set out to do. Moses recoded in Deuteronomy 7:9, “Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments...” The psalmist also recorded in Psalm 100:5, “For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations.” This suggests that even in our generation, God is being faithful in His love and kindness toward us, hoping that we will realize this truth and serve Him in obedience to His word.

When God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us, He opened the door of fellowship with Him and His Son that we might be saved. Paul described it this way in 1 Corinthians 1:9 “God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” While we live in fellowship with God and His Son, sometimes we can fall short of God’s expectations, as we are tempted to sin. A good passage to keep in mind during these times is 1 Corinthians 10:13, where it says, “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.” When you find yourself in sin, you need to remember that God will still be faithful to you if you recognize your wrong and confess your faults. The passage in I John 1:9 teaches, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. As we grow in the Lord we will be strengthened in our service to Him. Paul wrote in I Thessalonians 5:23-24, “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete,

without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.” In his second letter to Thessalonica, Paul stated in II Thessalonians 3:3, “But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil {one.}”

Sometimes we may have a tendency to doubt certain promises that God has made in His word. We need to be diligent in continuing to keep a strong faith in the promises of God. In Hebrews 10:23 the writer penned, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful...” No matter what we do with our life, God is going to be found faithful in His endeavors. The apostle Paul, by inspiration recorded in Romans 3:3-4 “What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it? May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man {be found} a liar, as it is written, “**THAT YOU MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS, AND PREVAIL WHEN YOU ARE JUDGED.**”

Remember every morning that God’s love and care for mankind is renewed, and that this demonstrates the faithfulness of God. In Lamentations 3:22-23 Jeremiah writes, “The LORD’S loving-kindness indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. {They} are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” The faithfulness of our God can be called great because God is always faithful, even when we are faithless and He continues to do His good will. In II Timothy 2:11-13 we read, “It is a trustworthy statement: for if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; If we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny himself.”

Sometimes when the trials of life are faced, we feel like the presence of God has left us. Yet it is during these difficult times that we need to be reassured that God is a faithful Creator and that He cares for us. In I Peter 4:19 it says, “Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.”

Once we realize the faithfulness of God, we will be able to say with boldness how much we appreciate Him in all that He does for us. For example, in Deuteronomy 32:4, Moses wrote, “The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.” Isaiah said in chapter 25 verse 1 “O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will give thanks to your name; for you have worked wonders, plans {formed} long ago, with perfect faithfulness.”

In order to show God that we believe in His faithfulness, we must be faithful to Him. When Sarah was barren and very old God promised her a child. She, like most of us, would be shocked by such a concept. Yet, the Bible tells us that she judged Him to be faithful and she believed His promise by acting upon it. Her name goes in the faith chapter of Hebrews 11 in verses 11-12 in saying, “By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, {as many descendants} **AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND**

INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE.” God has demonstrated His faithfulness to all of us in promising eternal life to those who will obey His Son. After we have been obedient unto salvation, we must remain faithful even unto our death. The Bible says, “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10) Are you faithfully serving the God of heaven and earth? Will you realize His faithfulness and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ demonstrating your faithfulness to Him? Remember that God is going to be faithful no matter what you choose to do.