

“Faithful”

Rev. 19:11-16 (text: v. 11)

Here we have another name of Christ—*“Faithful and True”* (cf. 3:14). Faithfulness and truth go hand-in-hand. You cannot be one without the other.

Faithfulness speaks of trustworthiness... honesty... reliability... loyalty... steadfastness... and consistency.

Faithfulness is essential to God’s character. God is faithful because of who He is—**God is faithful!** He lives up to His name—*“FAITHFUL and true.”*

God is 100% reliable, 100% of the time. He never fails... forgets... or falters. He says what He means and means what He says. In our text, He is returning to earth, LIKE HE SAID HE WOULD!

- Everything God does is good and right.
- Every word God speaks is true.
- Every promise God makes He keeps.
- Every command God gives brings a blessing.

God’s faithfulness does not depend on you and I being faithful. *“If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself”* (2 Tim. 2:13).

1. Galatians 3:9 calls Abraham *“faithful Abraham.”* Yet we know Abraham was not always faithful. But God was always faithful to Abraham.
2. David was not always faithful, but God established David’s throne forever. **Why?** Because God made a covenant with David. God made a covenant with Abraham. *“Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant ...”* (Dt. 7:9).

In other words, God keeps His promises. He wouldn’t be faithful if He didn’t. That’s why we can trust Him. We know He will do what He says. He is true to His Word. *“Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it”* (1 Thess. 5:24).

- I. God’s faithfulness will FREE you from discouragement** (Lam. 3:1-25).

- Background of Lamentations: Lamentations is what the word implies—It is Jeremiah weeping and baring his heart to God over the destruction of Jerusalem.
- In chapter 3, there are NINE LAMENTS. Jeremiah is really “bummed.” He lets it all hang out!
 1. 3:1—He has witnessed the affliction brought about by God’s wrath.
 2. 3:2—He is in the dark; he can’t see clearly; feels alone (cf. v. 6).
 3. 3:3—He feels God has turned against him. He compares God to a bear and a lion ready to pounce on it’s prey (v. 10). It is as if God was using Jeremiah as a target for His arrows (vs. 12-13).
 4. 3:4—He is tormented mentally and physically. He felt like God has busted his teeth and left him in the dust (cf. v. 16).
 5. 3:5, 7—He feels trapped and cannot escape (cf. v. 9).
 6. 3:8—He prays but no answer comes.
 7. 3:14—People are making fun of him.
 8. 3:15—He is bitter.
 9. 3:18-19—He feels it’s hopeless. All he can think about is his troubles (vs. 19-20). He is ready to hang it up. He just wants to “bag it” and “throw in the towel.”
- Perhaps you felt the same things. It’s OK to be honest with God and express how you feel like Jeremiah did—BUT it’s not OK to stay there. **What do you do?** Notice what Jeremiah grabbed a hold of when his world was falling apart (vs. 21-23): Jeremiah changed his focus and began to think on the faithfulness of God.
 - A. Faithful in **mercy** (v. 22). Why doesn’t God destroy me? He could and should. Plural- “mercies”
 - B. Faithful in **love** (v. 22). It is unconditional love. Plural- “compassions”
 - C. Faithful in **supply** (v. 23).

➤ Imagine waking up every morning to find your wallet full of money... your car full of gas... your refrigerator full of food... and your youth and vitality fully restored? That's the way it is with God's compassions and mercies. You can never use them up.

1. Provision of "manna." God faithfully sent it every day except the Sabbath.
2. Gather as much as they could use for a day. They could not store it (except the day before the Sabbath). They had to use what they gathered. Then go gather a fresh batch the next day.
3. God was teaching them to trust Him to meet their daily needs.
 - We cannot live on yesterdays' blessings. They are "new" every morning.
 - God's mercies are never early, and never late. They are "new" every morning.

II. **God's faithfulness will FORTIFY you when you are tempted** (1 Cor. 10:13).

- A. He is faithful to recognize the limits of our ability to resist. God knows what we can bear and how much we can bear; therefore, He limits every single temptation within our limits to overcome it.
- B. He is faithful to restrain the intensity of temptations. *"But the Lord is faithful who shall establish you and keep you from evil"* (2 Thess. 3:3).

➤ He never allows a temptation to confront a believer that is... too enticing... too powerful... too appealing... too arousing... to stimulating... to promising.

III. **God's faithfulness FORGIVES you of your sin** (1 John 1:9).

- A. Christ shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins (1 John 1:7).
 - God accepted Christ's payment for our sins at Calvary.

- B. When we sin, we confess it was our sin that caused Jesus to shed His blood.
- C. God is faithful to His Son's payment for our sins on the cross to forgive and cleanse. To hold back forgiveness of sin would be to deny the finished work of Christ on the cross. That He will not do—He cannot do because God is faithful and righteous.

SUMMATION: Philip Yancey tells about a trip he made to visit Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park. Tourists surrounded the geyser, their video cameras focused on that famous hole in the ground. A large digital clock stood beside the spot, predicting 24 minutes until the next eruption.

Philip and his wife stayed in the dining room of the Old Faithful Inn, overlooking the geyser. When the digital clock reached one minute, almost everyone left their seat and rushed over to the window, to see the big event. When the geyser went off, the tourists oohed and aahed and clicked their cameras. But, glancing over his shoulder, Philip saw that not a single busboy or waiter looked out the huge windows. Old Faithful had lost its power to impress them.

Few things are more quickly taken for granted than the faithfulness of God. But few things are more important. God's faithfulness deserves our constant praise and wonder—Never take the Lord's faithfulness for granted.

God is reliable and trustworthy. You can always count on Him! Can He count on you to be faithful?