

GOD

God's Word is Faithful

God, our loving heavenly Father, has **given** us **everything** we need to overcome this world with its devilish influences so we can live a **victorious life**.

I John

5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our believing.

We claim the victory by our **believing**. What do we believe? **We believe God's Word**, both His written Word and revelation that He may give. God's Word contains many **promises** that are ours to **claim** as we **believe**:

II Peter

1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

God wants us to **know Him**, and we **do** this by **knowing His Word**, which gives us **everything we need**. In five of the seven Critical Greek Texts, the **last** part of this verse reads: "...hath called us **by his own glory and virtue**." The **next** verse continues:

1:4 Whereby are given to us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

We have **Christ in us**, and as we **believe** and **claim God's promises** we can overcome the world.

In order for us to truly believe and claim God's promises, we need to know that **the One** who **made** these promises is **faithful**. And, because we find the promises in **His Word**, we need to know that **God's Word is faithful**. As we'll see, God gives us the **assurance** we need that this is true.

What does it **mean** to be faithful? "**Faithful**" can be defined as **reliable, trustworthy, and worthy of confidence**. It can also be defined as "**stable**", meaning **unchanging, enduring, or permanent**. If something or someone is faithful, you can **depend on them**.

God is faithful. Let's look at a few verses that **declare** this in the context of **what He has done**.

I Corinthians

1:9 God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word “**faithful**” in this verse is from the Greek word *pistos*, related to the word *pistis* which is translated “**faith**” or “**believing**”. This verse says that **God called you** to the fellowship, or **full sharing**, of His Son Jesus Christ, whom we made Lord as we got born again. **We are God’s children**, and we **know** this because we can **speak in tongues** (Romans 8:16). This is just one example of how we can **know** that **God is faithful**, trustworthy and reliable.

II Thessalonians

3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

Our God is **faithful**, and we can trust and rely on Him to **establish** us and keep, or **guard**, us from evil. We can see one way He does this in **I Corinthians, Chapter 10**:

I Corinthians

10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Again, we see that **God is faithful**. We can rely on Him to provide a “**way to escape**” in any adverse situation that may come along, so we can **endure** and move on.

Because God is **faithful**, we can trust and rely on Him to **forgive our sins** so we can get back in fellowship and on track:

I John

1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Consider **I Thessalonians chapter 5, verses 23 and 24**:

I Thessalonians

5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5:24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

Because **God is faithful**, we can **be at peace** as we **trust and rely** on Him to **set us apart** and present us blameless **when Christ returns**. We have **the Hope** of Christ’s Return.

Hebrews

10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

In the text, “profession of *our* faith” is “**confession of the hope**”. We are exhorted to **hold fast** to our confession of the Hope of Christ’s Return. We can do this without doubt or wavering because we know that **God**, who promised that Christ will return, **is faithful**. When we keep God’s faithfulness in mind and **believe**, we can claim His promises, just like **Sara** did:

Hebrews

11:11 Through faith (*believing*) also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

God made the **promise**, Sara judged Him **faithful**, and she got the **deliverance**. We can **expect** fulfilment of all of **God's promises** when we **recognize** that He is **faithful** and we **believe**:

II Corinthians

1:18 But *as* God is true, our word to you was not yea and nay.

In this verse, the word “**true**” is from *pistos*, the same Greek word we've seen translated “**faithful**”. **God is faithful**: we can count on Him and His Word. Look at **verse 20**:

1:20 For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

The word “**Amen**” in this verse literally means “**truth**”. **God's promises are true**, and **because** He is **faithful**, we can **count on Him** to fulfill them when we **believe**. As He fulfills His promises, **we give Him the glory**.

We find several verses in the Book of **Psalms** that refer to **God's faithfulness**. We'll just look at a couple:

Psalms

36:5 Thy mercy (*lovingkindness*), O Lord, *is* in the heavens; and thy faithfulness *reacheth* unto the clouds.

We see the **magnitude** of **God's faithfulness**. The Hebrew word translated “**faithfulness**” here is *emunah*. Even though it's most often translated “**faithfulness**”, it is **also** translated in **other** ways, so we need to be **diligent** in our study of God's Word. Look at **Psalm 100, verse 5**:

Psalms

100:5 For the Lord *is* good; his mercy (*lovingkindness*) *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations.

The word “**truth**” in this verse is from the **same** word *emunah*, so can be rendered “**faithfulness**”. God's faithfulness **endures**: we can **always** rely on it.

Lamentations

3:22 *It is of* the Lord's mercies (*lovingkindness*) that we are not consumed, because his *compassions fail not*.

3:23 *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness*.

Verse 23 says that **God's compassions**, which **never fail**, are new, or **fresh**, every morning, a figure of speech meaning "**for always and continually**".

We've seen that **God is faithful**. What about **His Word**? Consider this verse in **Isaiah**:

Isaiah

33:6 **And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear (*respect*) of the Lord is his treasure.**

"**Wisdom and knowledge**" refer to **spiritual wisdom** and **revelation knowledge**, both of which we get from the **written Word** and the **revelation manifestations**. The word "**stability**" in this verse is from *emunah*, the **same** Hebrew word translated **faithfulness**. **God's Word** is the stability, the **faithfulness**, of our time. **We can count on it** just like we can count on God Himself who is faithful.

We see the Hebrew word *emunah*, translated "**faithful**", used to refer to God's Word in **Psalm 119**, where **every verse** refers to **God's Word**:

Psalms

119:86a **All thy commandments *are* faithful...**

119:138 **The testimonies *that* thou hast commanded *are* righteous and very faithful.**

It is in the **New Testament** that we see God's emphatic declaration and assurance that **His Word is faithful** – reliable, trustworthy, and stable – **especially** in the so-called "Pastoral Epistles" of **I and II Timothy** and **Titus**. First, let's read **Titus chapter 1, verse 9**:

Titus

1:9 **Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine (*teaching*) both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.**

The word "**faithful**" is from the Greek word *pistos* we saw earlier. Once we are **taught God's faithful Word**, we are to "**hold it fast**" – keep it in our hearts and minds. **Then**, by sound **teaching**, we can **exhort** the **believers**, and we can "**convince**", or convict or refute, the **unbelievers**.

Look at **I Timothy chapter 1, verse 15**:

I Timothy

1:15 ***This is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am (*became*) chief.**

The word "**saying**" is from *logos*, "**word**", referring to **God's Word**. In the Stevens Text, this verse begins: "Faithful *is* the Word" (**The Word is faithful**). As we'll see, **four** other verses in the Pastoral Epistles **begin** with **this same phrase**, making a total of **five** times that

God explicitly states that **His Word is faithful** (Biblically, **five** is the number for **grace**, God's unmerited divine favor).

As we read these verses, we'll see that **each time** God makes this statement He **calls attention** to a **great truth** He wants us to **believe** and **act on**. We **can** act on these truths when we recognize **the faithfulness of God's Word**, and as we do, our **believing** allows us to **overcome** the world.

In **I Timothy 1:15**, God declares His Word to be **faithful** and **then** states the truth that Christ Jesus came into the world to **save sinners**. Our **salvation**, made possible by the works of Jesus Christ, is the **first step** in our being able to overcome the world.

The **next** usage of the phrase "**The Word is faithful**" is found in **I Timothy chapter 3, verse 1**:

I Timothy

3:1 **This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.**

The word "**true**" here is from the word *pistos*, meaning **faithful**, so again we see that "**The Word is faithful**". Now, God states that to desire to **serve** as a spiritual overseer is to desire to do a **good work**. When we are **saved**, we **can do** "good works" as we **serve others** in the Body.

We'll find one more usage of the phrase "**The Word is faithful**" in **I Timothy** in **chapter 4, verse 9**. Let's begin in **verse 8**:

I Timothy

4:8 **For bodily exercise profiteth little (*for a while, in this life*): but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life (*life in all its fullness*) that now is, and of that which is to come.**

4:9 **This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.**

4:10 **For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.**

In this **third** usage of our phrase in **I Timothy** (**three** is the number for **completeness**), God declares His Word to be **faithful** in the context of **the Return of His Son**, our **Hope**. We can rely on what God's Word says and overcome this world by our believing as **we look forward to Christ's Return**.

We see a **second** usage of this phrase in the context of **the Return** in **II Timothy chapter 2**:

II Timothy

2:10 **Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.**

2:11 **It is a faithful saying: for if we be dead with *him*, we shall also live with *him*.**

It's **established**: we can **rely on God's faithful Word** as we anticipate **the Hope of Christ's Return**.

The **fifth** and final usage of the phrase "**The Word is faithful**" is in **Titus chapter 3**. We'll **begin** in **verse 7**:

Titus

3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

3:8 *This is* a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed *in* God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto them.

In these verses we see again that when **God saved us**, we were **justified**, we can **perform good works**, including **service** to the Body, and we have **the Hope** of Christ's Return with **eternal life** to look forward to.

We have seen that **God's Word is faithful**: we can **trust** it; we can **rely on** it. We have **salvation**, we can **serve** in the Body, and we have **the Hope** of Christ's Return. **Because** God's Word is faithful, we can **claim God's promises** with **confidence**, **overcoming the world as we believe**.

- Dr. Rick Batt