

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 God and claim God's promises we can overcome the world.

In order for us to truly believe God 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 Him, we can claim His promises, just like Sara did:

Hebrews

11:11 Through faith 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 believe Him:

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.

I Timothy

1:15 *This is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, 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 Him 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 Him 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 Him.

- Dr. Rick Batt