

God's *omnipresent* faithfulness

In the word of God, which are God's thoughts and promises, it states repeatedly that it is God's desire is to live with us in a constant state of intimacy, much like a new mother attending to her newborn. She will very rarely let him out of her sight, even then, her mind is constantly attuned to him. She is "**obsessed** with concern" for his care!

God is **omnipresently attentive** to us...that is so hard for us to imagine! Sometimes we forget things 10 minutes after we hear them. He doesn't forget anything, except our sins, when we repent and give them to Him to be disposed of. (*Trisagion... "three times holy" or, a divine repetition, for emphasis*)

Repeatedly, God reminds us of this promise...

In **Psalm 91:4 NLT He says...

"He will **cover you** with his feathers. He will **shelter you** with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection."

Deuteronomy 31:6 NKJV says...

[6] Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. **He will not leave you nor forsake you.**",

Hebrews 13:5 NKJV, "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**"

In Matthew 6:31-32 NLT Jesus tells us...

[31] "**So don't worry about these things**, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' [32] **These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers**, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. [33] Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

John 14:16,23 NKJV

[16] And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that **He may abide with you forever-**

[23] Jesus answered and said to him, "**If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.** (*Promise of omnipresent faithfulness in us.*)

And **Matthew 28:20** says.. “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Our only response to this is to be in the moment, is our practice of being constantly conscious and faithful to God in our thoughts and actions. **1 Thessalonians 5:17** says “**Pray without ceasing**” This devotional lifestyle is designed to be an unbreakable bond. Consider that Christ went to the cross over an unbreakable bond of devotion to His Father. The disciples were murdered, martyred, because of an unbreakable bond of devotion, to Jesus, their friend and their God! Their devotion to His cause became their purpose...to see people like you and I saved and growing in the faith. This is similar to the bond between fathers and daughters, mothers and sons...crazy strong bonds of devotion...and marriage, which is designed to be an unbreakable bond of devotion...for life. Our spiritual life begins as an acquaintance with Christ that turns into a relationship that fuels our service for Him. And when he returns He is either going to say “**Thank you, well done good and faithful servant. You were attentive to My will and purpose for you.**” , or He will be forced to say something else. I shudder to think.

Early in human history, a pattern of **unfaithfulness** and **betrayal** entered the universe. It is called sin. Sin, is more than just disobedience. It is a personal betrayal of God’s parental desires and His good will towards us. Just like we love our own children, and His primary concern is to keep us close and keep us safe. In **Hosea chapter 1**, God instructs the prophet Hosea, who was called to warn Israel before their moral collapse and subsequent fall to Assyria in **722 BC**, about the horrific consequences of their **unfaithfulness and idolatries**. God told Hosea to marry a working prostitute, thereby making some of his prostitute own wife’s children, not his own. ****Hosea 1:2 NLT** says... “**When the LORD first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, "Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. This will illustrate how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the LORD and worshiping other gods."**

In other words, **God wanted Israel to understand that their unfaithfulness and betrayal of Him was very personal!** Sometimes we preach and “the mechanics” and the facts about the scriptures...about the spiritual laws and principles of the Gospel...but we struggle to explain the real horror of sin experienced in the heart of our loving Father. Sin, in general, breaks God’s heart. My sin, you’re sin breaks His heart.

God knows we are made of dust, so our flawed human nature does not offend him. What offends Him, is our lack of desire for mutual devotion with Him and our willful disobedience...our disregard for the treasure of His Word, and our distain and apathy for His gift of the Holy Spirit.

In ****Hosea 6:7 NLT...** God speaking to Isreal, He laments [7] **But like Adam, you broke my covenant and betrayed my trust.**

Israel: God's unfaithful wife. *(I tried to identify with Isreal)*

With that in mind, I want highlight a very **important 210 year period of time** in biblical history, a period in which **11 books** of the Old Testament were written. This is a relatively short time period, compared to the entire 4000 years of O.T. history, and within this **210** years, God is desperately trying to save Israel and Judah from harming themselves by failing to trust Him. Just like ourselves, Israel the Israelites were constantly being **tempted** to *seek other sources for their resources and comforts, instead of trusting the Lord.*

Hence, they repeatedly betrayed His trust, they thwarted His desire to care for them and participated in destructive idolatries. In these 11 books, are “**Divine patterns**”...repeated patterns of **God's appeal to Israel to return to faithfulness** and then **warnings** of impending **judgment**. However, salted throughout these warnings, there was always the **hope of the promise of redemption**. From 740 to 530 BC, (**Isaiah**), Jeremiah, Lamentations, (**Ezekiel**), Daniel, (**Hosea**), Amos, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah, all appealed to both Israel and Judah to **return to faithfulness**. All of these prophets had a very simple and consistent message, and they warned repeatedly, that if the message was ignored, God promised it would lead to catastrophic consequences. These men prophesied in the *pre, mid and post exile timeframe*, a time when both Israel and Judah were destroyed by foreign nations. This included the city of Jerusalem and the first temple, all because they chose to ignore God's warnings about their *unfaithfulness* to Him. This started a slow slide into *idolatry, injustice and violence*. Within these scriptures numerous reasons and concise explanations are given to why the Lord was *so disappointed, so brokenhearted and so angry* with His own children! Enough to destroy their lifestyles, and for many their very lives.

Even though He loved them like we love ours, **God's Holiness does eventually demand complete and final justice for sin and rebellion.**

Jesus states this when he said in ****Matthew 23:37-38 NLT...**[37] "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! **How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me.**[38] And now, look, your house is **abandoned** and **desolate**.

This scripture expresses God's desire to gather Israel to Himself, to walk closely with them. As parents, our primal instinct is to keep our children safe from lethal threat and there is a horrible recoiling emotional component regarding the potential loss of a child. Many of you know it well. God feels and knows these emotions... He created us in His image...he created us to share the emotions He feels. Compassion means to "suffer with." To suffer along side. This statement in **Matthew 23** by Jesus towards Israel is His frustration and emotional [lament](#) about His children's unwillingness to draw close and be [faithful](#), and [stay safe](#). God **does not** desire a punitive outcome from His relationship with us, His desire is to keep us from harming ourselves.

As noted earlier, in just 210 years, 10 men, ordinary men like you or I, originating from all walks of life, from all over Israel, Judah and Babylon, were sent to plainly say to his friends and neighbors and to Israel as a whole, that the time would come when He would judge them for their [unfaithfulness](#), for their [idolatry](#), for their [immorality](#), [injustice](#) and [corruption](#). This [divine pattern](#) of warning to [return to faithfulness](#), is repeated hundreds of times in those 11 books. It is interesting to note that a similar pattern of moral degradation is visible in the moral decline in **Sodom and Gomorrah**, **Judah**, the **Assyrian** empire, the **Babylonian** empire, the **Roman** empire, the **Aztec** empire, the **Inca** empire and more. Even today, in some Western nations see this pattern repeating itself. Scripture says that, there is nothing new under the sun. Human behavior doesn't [change](#) without God's help, nor does God's [character](#) and [temperament](#) change regarding His standards for human activities. His **Word** stands true in time and eternity, and history records the evidence that breaking His divine laws governing human morality has a corresponding divine consequence.

I chose just a few scriptures out of these books to illustrate this pattern:

****Hosea 4:1-2 NLT says...**

[1] Hear the word of the LORD, O people of Israel! The LORD has brought charges against you, saying: "[There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land.](#) [2] [You make vows and break them; you kill and steal and commit adultery.](#) [There is violence everywhere- one murder after another.](#)

****Ezekiel 6:9 NLT says...**

[9] Then when they are exiled among the nations, they will remember me. [They will recognize how hurt I am by their unfaithful hearts and lustful eyes that long for their idols.](#)

In these two scriptures, you can very clearly hear God's **lament** over Israel's unfaithfulness and the corresponding emotional component, where the Lord is literally brokenhearted about their **unfaithful hearts and minds**.

(Again, trying to compassionately identify with being an Israelite...)

Idolatry becomes prevalent in a society when it **abandons** (*willful act*) it's true Source, our **Creator**, or when we have **no knowledge** (*ignorance*) of God as their Creator. We absolutely need the help of a power greater than ourselves, and since we are weak and in constant need of help and emotional support. Israel (*who knew about God*) turned insolently to Egypt, which represents their attempt to gain wealth power and security by depending on a larger nation alliances instead of on God. **That failed**. Instead of listening to God's prophets, they listened to false prophets, to men (*they listened to many voices*) who courted their favor for financial gain, by telling them what they wanted to hear instead of what they needed to hear. **They where then willfully deceived**. Then they started worshipping (*turning themselves over to the influence of*) false gods, trying to solicit the power of underlying supernatural entities, looking for miracles and resources, which lead led them into **idolatry**. (*Idolatry is simply trusting in someone or something in an attempt to replace God.*)

Then they abandoned themselves into **immorality**, first in their minds and imaginations, fantasizing that these supernatural entities represented by images of Baal and Molech could in reality meet their physical needs. (*today it's tarot cards, horoscopes, healing crystals, sage smudging kits, ect.*)

Hosea 4:11-12 NLT says...

"Wine has robbed my people of their understanding. [12] They ask a piece of wood for advice! They think a stick can tell them the future! **Longing after idols has made them foolish."** Being so deceived to think physical objects, or the stars or the moon or the planets could comfort and empower them, they engaged in ritual sexual acts, thinking that sexuality, as creative act, would please and inspire theses foolish "gods" to bring fertility to their land and bodies and give them wealth and health. These sexual acts soon degraded to the next level and they began the abominable acts of killing their own children, practicing blood sacrifices and burning there bodies to gain Satanic authority. Then then even callously, on the Lords Sabbath days, entered the Lord's temple on the same day they committed these heinous acts, thereby defiling themselves and God's house.

In ****Ezekiel 23:37-39 NLT** God said to them...[37] They have committed both adultery and murder-adultery by worshiping idols and murder by burning as sacrifices the children they **bore to me**. [38] Furthermore, they have defiled my Temple and violated my Sabbath day! [39] On the very day that they sacrificed their children to their idols, they boldly came into my Temple to worship! They came in and defiled my house.

All of this all leads to grave injustices and promotes violence.

Remember, **Hosea 4:2 NLT** says... "There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land. [2] You make vows and break them; you kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere- one murder after another.

This next level of moral decent in Israel's was amplified by the unfaithfulness of their spiritual leaders who had long ago, stop teaching Gods Word. They exchanged they're calling to speak truth in the face of opposition, and instead become unfaithful to God, leading the people into physical and then spiritual corruption.

****Hosea 4:4-9 NLT** says... "Don't point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame! **My complaint, you priests, is with you.** [5] So you will stumble in broad daylight, and your false prophets will fall with you in the night. And I will destroy Israel, your mother. [6] **My people are being destroyed because they don't know me.** Since you priests refuse to know me, I refuse to recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten the laws of your God, I will forget to bless your children. [7] **The more priests there are, the more they sin against me. They have exchanged the glory of God for the shame of idols. [8] When the people bring their sin offerings, the priests get fed. So the priests are glad when the people sin! [9] 'And what the priests do, the people also do.'** So now I will punish both priests and people for their wicked deeds.

Yet, even as God had warned the people in a his **word** centuries beforehand in **Deuteronomy 28**, that He would judge this kind of corruption, yet their sense of entitlement because they were Abraham's children, made them believe that they where exempt from consequences. (ie. I am a Jew: the chosen ones! , or "I am a Lutheran", or "I am a Catholic", or "I am a member of CLF".. "I am a good person",).

So they blamed God for their sufferings in judgement, professing that He was unjust for causing them to suffer...that He is the cause of their suffering!

Ezekiel 33:17/20 NLT says...

[17] "Your people are saying, 'The Lord isn't doing what's right,' but it is they who are not doing what's right.... [20] O people of Israel, you are saying, 'The Lord isn't doing what's right.' But I judge each of you according to your deeds."

These priests **and** the people who followed them were driven from their homes and from their land during the exile, because they didn't believe and trust God's Word!

But even after going into exile, many still refused to repent. Then they had the shameless audacity to blame God, **seething with anger** against God's judgments, but **never repenting**. The Pharisees had this attitude towards Jesus. This anger response is a Satanic demonstration in a corrupted soul.

Isaiah 8:20-21 says...

[20] Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict his word are completely in the dark. [21] They will go from one place to another, weary and hungry. And because they are hungry, they will rage and curse their king and their God.

Today, millions rage at God for the suffering in the world because they don't understand that the **sin of man**, and the **sins of man** today, is the first cause of pain and suffering we see in the world, not God's **vindictiveness**.

***It is dangerous for us **not** go to God for our help, and then **not** give Him the credit when our needs are met! . Some of us don't tithe because we don't believe that God as our Creator, has given us the ability to make our wealth. We believe it's ours. We believe that our own abilities are the source of our blessings, and that we have a right to all that we produce and possess. But that is an error in thinking. He is the source of everything, and He deserves the gift of our respect and our tithe as commanded. If we don't trust Him meet our needs like He wants to, we will find somebody or something else who we think will. That's the pathway to **idolatry**. Today, in the West, our most common idolatries are **relativism** (*that there is no divine law or **absolute truth**, which makes us like a sailboat without rudder*) and **materialism**. (*when our minds and our purpose is **controlled and directed** by our pursuit of wealth or possessions*)

The call to faithfulness

God is calling us to not looking to the left, nor to the right but **look up to Him** and live above the “**din**” of the world! This our call. It is to **right thinking, holiness, and the fear of God!**.

(The "Din" means a loud, continuous noise or commotion. It can also suggest a chaotic or overwhelming sound, like a “din” of voices in a crowded room.)

Isaiah writes in ****Isaiah 8:11-22 NLT...**

[11] The LORD has given me a strong warning not to think like everyone else does. He said, [12] "Don't call everything a conspiracy, like they do, and don't live in dread of what frightens them.

Much of the news we hear and watch today is one rumor or conspiracy after another. One lie after another. It keeps us in a constant state of unrest. God is calling us so look away, to Him. Later in these verses God gives Isaiah a warning to give to the people about listening to other sources, except God Himself... **Isaiah** says in **Vs19, “But shouldn't people ask God for guidance?...Vs [20, as was mentioned earlier, Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict His Word are completely in the dark.**

In Vs [13], **“Make the LORD of Heaven's Armies holy in your life. He is the one you should fear. He is the one who should make you tremble. [14] He will keep you safe....vs[16] then Isaiah says to the faithful around him... “Preserve the teaching of God; entrust his instructions to those who follow me. (to the faithful) [17] he says, I will wait for the LORD, who has turned away from the descendants of Jacob. I will put my hope in him.”**

God is telling us to separate Him out and apart from everything else in your mind. To do this, we make Him our first and last thought each day. We are to make **Him sacred** (set apart, of highest priority) above all things in your life. Make his **Word absolute truth** in your intellect. **Obey** the Holy Spirit, and **repent** when we grieve Him. Make loving him be your first motivation for every act, then cling to Him! This is very simple, but not easy! Faithful and devoted.

Personally, I pray everyday that the Lord will give me strength to be faithful till the end...to finish strong!

The apostle Paul says “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the **faith**”

Jesus said... **“Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”** Luke 18:8