

"GOD'S FAITHFULNESS"

1 Thessalonians 5:24

Theme: Our struggle in sanctification is to remain reliant on the Lord to do what He has promised.

Introduction ...

I. THE CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S CREDIBILITY - *"Faithful is He ..."*

A. The Expectation of God's Faithfulness

1. As Paul has expressed his great "wish" through the His prayer for God's work in sanctifying the saints in Thessalonica, he goes further and provides what serves as the basis for his expectation that God will follow through - *"Faithful is He ..."*

2. Elsewhere Paul has expressed the grounds for this expectation:

Philippians 1:6 – *"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."*

1 Corinthians 1:9 – *"God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."*

2 Thessalonians 3:3 - *"But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one."*

3. If God is faithful to us during our temptations, He will certainly be faithful to His purpose of perfecting us through the process of sanctification:

1 Corinthians 10:13 – *"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."*

B. The Evidence of God's Faithfulness

1. He keeps His **Commitments** - that is, He will never renege on what He promises to do.

Genesis 28:15 - *"Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."*

2. He keeps His **Covenants** - that is, He will always fulfill His purposes without relenting.

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;”*

3. He keeps His **Credibility** - that is, He will never mislead or lack authenticity and integrity.

Numbers 23:19 - *“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”*

Titus 1:2 - *“... in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,”*

Hebrews 6:17-18 - *“In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.”*

II. THE CERTAINTY OF GOD’S CALL - *“... who calls you ...”*

A. The Focus of God’s Call

1. Paul’s statement here is literally **“Faithful [is] the One Who is calling you”** - a (Pres. Act. Part.) indicating that the same call that was originally issued remains a constant calling incumbent upon us by God.

2. It references the expectation and focus of God for us in saving us.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 - *“... so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”*

3. Yet it goes even further and refers to the focus of salvation - that of sanctifying us according to His eternal purpose of bringing us into conformity to Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:7 - *“For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.”*

4. The consummation of this call is the outcome of eternal life that belongs to all those who are sanctified by the power of God.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 - *“But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

B. The Fulfillment of God's Call

1. There is both a positive and a negative aspect to this call of God - resulting in certain activities in the believer.
2. In a positive sense - we are brought into conformity to Christ through the power and grace of God operating in our lives causing us to be attracted to the righteousness that exists in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:12-13 - *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

Romans 12:2 - *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*

3. In a negative sense - we are brought out of the works of darkness and into the light, causing the believer to desire to put off the old man and escape the lusts of the flesh.

Romans 6:6 - *"knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;"*

Ephesians 4:22 - *"that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,"*

2 Peter 1:4 - *"For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust."*

4. Of course, both the positive and negative aspects will be fully and finally realized when we see Christ.

1 John 3:2-3 - *"Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."*

III. THE COMPETENCE OF GOD'S CAPABILITIES - *"... and He will also bring it to pass."*

A. The Ability of God to Sanctify

1. There is no question that God can bring to pass what He has purposed in our sanctification.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 - *"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."*

Hebrews 7:25 - *"Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."*

2. The work that He began in us He is committed to performing until such a day as we are conformed to Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6 - *"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."*

3. The "finishing" of our faith is something that Jesus Himself claims as His own accomplishment.

Hebrews 12:2 - *"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

B. The Agenda of God in Sanctifying

1. Clearly God's ultimate commitment to completing our sanctification is His own glory - that all might know that He has done what only God could do all to the praise of the glory of His grace.

Ephesians 1:3-6 - *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."*

2. Having begun the work through predestination, He completes it by bringing us to glory.

Romans 8:29-30 - *"For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified."*

We are to intentionally avoid evil.