

Series: **God is...So What?**
Today's Title: **"God is Truthful & Faithful"**
October 23, 2022 – *Select Passages* – Sermon 10 of 16

Objective: To help people know God is truth – He is faithful – and why this matters in life.

Day after FF 2023 – pics?

Opening prayer

There is something missing in our world today.

There is a breakdown in integrity – across the board – throughout society.

Trust has become a risky endeavor – because integrity is an uncommon trait.

- A handshake is no longer considered currency to seal an agreement.
- A person's word is no longer seen as binding.
- Marital infidelity is rampant.
- Searching for a church has always been a difficult task. But now you have to dig deep to find out if the pastor preaches the truth of the Bible – or if he preaches his own version of the truth.
- News – reporting on the day's events – must be viewed critically due to the reporter's and/or network's bias.

In some ways none of these things should shock us.

They certainly disappoint us. We wish things were different.

But these things:

- A lack of integrity...
- A lack of trust...
- Being unfaithful to our commitments or vows...

These have always been true due to the human condition – the fallen state of our humanity.

In fact, this was true of Israel – all of it – a lack of integrity – declining trust – unfaithful to their commitments and vows.

Hosea was a prophet in the O.T. – and he lived in a very dark time in Israel’s history – one of the most turbulent times in their history.

In the opening chapter of Hosea, God called Israel a harlot – unfaithful – and He told the prophet Hosea...

“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.”

Hosea 1:2

This is not just an ancient Israel problem. Our unfaithfulness to God started in the garden – and every generation since has been unfaithful to Him time, and time again.

But the good news is that even though we are unfaithful and untruthful, God is the opposite.

“God is Truthful and Faithful”

God is truthful and faithful.

Let’s first define what these things mean – and then we’ll discuss why this is important – why this matters.

What does it mean when we say God is truthful?

In Basic Theology, Ryrie states:

“To say that God is true is to say, in the most comprehensive sense, that He is consistent with Himself, that He is all that He should be, that He has revealed Himself as He really is, and that He and His revelation are completely reliable.”

(Basic Theology, by Charles C. Ryrie, p. 49)

Wayne Grudem in his Systematic Theology says:

“God's truthfulness means that He is the true God, and that all His knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.”

(Systematic Theology, by Wayne Grudem, p. 195)

Here are 2 aspects of God's truthfulness.

Jeremiah 10:10 (Also John 17:3; 1 John 5:20)

“But the LORD is the true God, He is the living God and the everlasting King.”

John 3:33

“God is true...”

Aspect #1: (Jeremiah 10:10) God is the only God that exists.

There are no other gods – only 1 God.

Aspect #2: (John 3:33) The 1 God is a truthful God.

Truth and faithfulness are not the same, but they are related.

One leads to the other.

If a person speaks and values truth – then they will be faithful to what they say.

They will not be deceptive but will be honest and clear.

However, in people this will sometimes fail because a person who values truth – who aspires to be truthful – may succumb to lying and deceit – or not live up to their promises.

But with God, He not only is truthful, He embodies truth – He is the standard of what is true.

“God's words are not simply true in the sense that they conform to some standard of truthfulness outside of God. Rather, they are truth itself; They are the final standard and definition of truth.”

(Systematic Theology, by Wayne Grudem, p. 196)

This is why Jesus can truthfully say in His prayer to the Father in **John 17:17**,

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

This is ‘true’ because God is omniscient – all-knowing - He is omnisapient – all-wise – so, He can’t be mistaken or speak in ignorance - and He is also truthful.

Therefore, what He says is always true.

What does it mean when we say God is faithful?

“God's faithfulness means that God will always do what He has said and fulfill what He has promised.”

(Systematic Theology, by Wayne Grudem, p. 195)

But when we're talking about God – and what makes up His divine nature and being, we have a God who is true and truthful – and thereby faithful – and this is His very nature.

He cannot do anything which violates His nature.

Titus 1:2 (*Hebrews 6:18*)

“...in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began...”

Our hope in God – in our salvation and eternity in heaven - is based in what He has said – His promises. But in reality, our hope is based in His perfections of His truthfulness and faithfulness – which forms the solid rock foundation on which His promises sit.

In the Bible, the Hebrew word for faithful (*‘amon*) means *to be firm or certain*.

It pictures the strong arms of a parent holding a small child to keep him / her safe, protected.

In the N.T. the Greek word for faithful (*pistos*) focuses on *what is trustworthy, dependable, and reliable*.

“God is faithful means He never **forgets**, never **fails**, never **falters**, and never **forfeits** His word.

To every declaration of promise or prophecy the Lord has exactly adhered; every engagement of covenant or threatening He will make good, for -

“God is not man, that He should lie, or a son of man, that He should change His mind. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not fulfill it?” – Numbers 23:19

(The Nature of God, by Arthur Pink, p. 60, quoting Numbers 23:19)

The faithfulness of God is seen in the rhythms of creation – in the pattern of the seasons.

Genesis 8:22

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

We see His Faithfulness in His promises kept – in the fulfillment of prophecy.

Isaiah 7:14

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

John 17:3

“And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

God is truth – and He is truthful - He cannot lie.

God is faithful – so He is always reliable – dependable.

Apply it... So What?

But why does this matter?

So what?

Talking of these things sounds theoretical - academic.

How does this connect with life – does it make a difference?

ABSOLUTELY!!! 4 things...

1. Since God is true / truthful, when we have “the mind of Christ” we are thinking truthfully.

The Apostle Paul tells us that believers in Jesus have “the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16).

Instead of only human wisdom and thoughts, we have spiritual wisdom and thoughts through the Spirit.

Paul is referring here to the indwelling Holy Spirit in each believer and the Spirit’s presence in our life helps us in many ways.

One of the ways is how we think – how we understand spiritual truths.

This gives believers – Christians – an advantage when it comes to truth – knowing the truth – recognizing the truth.

This is because of the Bible – and the help we receive from the Spirit when we read the Bible – which theologians call the Spirit’s illumination.

The Spirit ‘illuminates’ – lights up – the Word of God – so we can understand the spiritual truths it holds.

Since we have “the mind of Christ” – we can know God’s truth more easily than a non-believer – and when we are thinking or speaking accurately what

the Bible says, we are thinking and speaking God's truth.

In our current culture – there is a lot of talk about 'misinformation'.

As Christians – we have an advantage here.

We know what is true.

A lot of what's called or labeled 'misinformation' today is really what is politically incorrect – or what those in power don't want people to hear.

Knowing God's truth – helps us know what is true and can guide us when it seems the truth is in short supply.

2. Since God is faithful, your salvation is secure.

1 Corinthians 1:9

"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

God will forgive your sins – because of your faith in Jesus – just as He said He would.

His promise of forgiveness and salvation is not based on your faithfulness – **but on His**.

2 Timothy 2:13

"...if we are faithless, He remains faithful--for He cannot deny Himself."

Our belief in eternal security is rooted – in part – in the faithfulness of God.

We can be confident in our standing before Him – not because we are good enough – but because He promised to forgive us.

Just like His covenant with Abraham in **Genesis 15** – where God was the only one to walk through the altars – which made His covenant with Abraham solely dependent on Himself – not on Abraham’s obedience or faithfulness.

Hebrews 6:13-14

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He (God) swore by Himself, saying, “Surely I will bless you (Abraham) and multiply you.”

This doesn’t mean what we do – or don’t do - doesn’t matter.

Our works don’t save us. They don’t guarantee our salvation - but they do reveal our faith.

A lack of works reveals a potential lack of faith.

Hebrews 10:23

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”

3. Since God is truthful, you can trust the Bible.

The Bible - the self-revelation of God – is trustworthy – worthy of our belief – because the ultimate author, God, is truthful.

What He wrote – was / is true.

It will always be true.

In the Bible, God told us the good news of Christ – His love and forgiveness of our sins when we put our faith in Jesus.

Deuteronomy 7:9

“Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps His covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes His unfailing love on those who love Him and obey His commands.”

But He also told us the bad news – the worst news. He is honest and truthful about the negative things – not only the corruption and depravity of our own soul, but of the future judgment that awaits those who deny Jesus – those who do not come to faith in Christ.

Deuteronomy 7:10

“But He does not hesitate to punish and destroy those who reject Him.”

John 3:18

“Whoever believes in Him (Jesus) is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

Revelation 20:15

“...if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

God is truthful in telling us the full story.

He hasn't hidden anything from our sight that we need to know for salvation.

He has told us the good news of His love for us and the salvation available to each and every person who comes to Him in faith.

He has told us the bad news – horrific news of the judgment that awaits those who refuse to put their faith in Jesus.

He has laid all His cards on the table!

Hebrews 12:28-29

“...let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.”

4. Since God is truthful and faithful, you can trust Him in painful times.

The most difficult and faith crushing experience can be when bad things happen in life.

Sometimes bad news keeps coming – it doesn't stop – and we exist for years in misery and pain.

I have found the painful times of life are often the most challenging for a Christian to stay faithful to God.

In times like this many will give up on their faith – because it feels like God is absent – ignoring them or just doesn't care.

When all we hear from heaven is silence, it can be discouraging.

But these are the times we need to remind ourselves that God is faithful.

John 14:1 – Jesus would be leaving soon...

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me.”

2 Peter 1:4

“...He has granted to us His precious and very great promises...”

God is true – and what He has said is not only true, but He will be faithful to what He has said – the promises He has made to us.

Isaiah 50:10

“Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.”

Isaiah 30:18

“...blessed are all those who wait for Him.”

I texted back and forth a bit this week with someone in the devotional group I’m a part of – and in the comment / journaling section of the devotional they commented when life is painful and feels like everything is pushing against them, they said, *“That’s where I struggle so much with faith.”*

I understand it can be difficult to remain positive and hopeful, but it’s during those times we need to remember that God is truthful and faithful.

I told this person that in those times I often look to the O.T. saints, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, David, Jeremiah, etc. They endured much hardship and often many years of uncertainty and God's timing was often years and years longer or slower than they expected.

Yet, they remained faithful and trusted God.

How did they remain faithful?

They didn't have the Bible like we do – and they didn't have 3,500 years of Biblical history to look back on and see God's faithfulness throughout those 3,500+ years.

They had a small amount of truth - and they simply believed – and trusted – that God was truthful and what he said – promised – was true.

They believed God was faithful and He would keep His Word – be faithful to what He promised.

Then - they acted on this belief.

Don't miss this!

What they knew to be true of God – they acted according to the truth. (Rom. 12:2 – “be transformed by the renewal of your mind”)

They didn't act on the truth perfectly! They stumbled here and there.

But overall, they held onto the truthfulness and faithfulness of God's character – and they lived accordingly.

How about you...

Do you live according to your theology?

What does your life – your thoughts and attitudes – reveal about your theology?

- Do you live in a place of worry and anxiety – fearful of what the future holds?
- If you do...why?
- Does your anxiety reveal your trust in things other than God?

Belief is not a theoretical concept / idea.

Belief feeds and forms our attitudes, feelings, and actions.

And the counter is true – our attitudes, feelings, and actions reveal our beliefs.

1 Peter 4:19

“Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.”

“The sooner we trustfully resign ourselves and all our affairs into God's hands, fully persuaded of His love and faithfulness, the sooner we will be satisfied with His providences...”

(The Nature of God, by Arthur Pink, p. 64)

Psalm 62:7-8

“On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock,
my refuge is God.

Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before
Him; God is a refuge for us.”

When we understand God is truthful and faithful.
When we know He is all-knowing, all-wise, and all-
powerful – sovereign over all things.

Only then can we rest in Him.

Only then can we “Trust in Him at all times...”

One pastor said it this way:

*“God’s faithfulness today is not dependent on the
absence of problems in life, but on the presence of God
in your life.”*

(Source: <https://www.life.church/media/god-is/living-without-worry/>)

The presence of God – the only true God – who is
truthful and faithful.

Close in prayer