

03 | God is Always Faithful

THE PROMISES OF GOD Series

Welcome back to Walks with God, I'm Caleb Tyler, and we are going to be looking into this next teaching, which is called "God is Always Faithful." Now, if you've been in church very long, part of that could seem like, "well, duh, yeah, God's always faithful." But when we start thinking about these sorts of things in our lives, sometimes our experience gets in there, like, "Did God answer that time? Was He faithful that time?" You see, these are thoughts that we have, but we never say them out loud because that wouldn't be the religious thing to do. Well, I want to convince us today, based on Scripture, that God actually is always faithful. Knowing that, believing that, and confessing that out of our mouths is a key to God's faithfulness. Also, it's a key to having promises come to pass in our lives.

You know, believing God like this is a different kind of faith. You start thinking differently about God, and even about yourself. You start to reject certain types of thinking that sound like religious kind of talk, but it's really saying that God will not do what He promised He would do, or at least maybe not for you. Maybe you're just so special that God has made this big promise, but not for you. Well, let's let the

Scripture speak to this. First of all, God's promises are something called covenant. They are based on the fact that God Himself raises His hands and says, "So help Me, Me, I will do such a thing." And so let's look at it in Deuteronomy chapter seven versus seven through nine. He's speaking to the children of Israel, and this is what He says, "The Lord did not make you His beloved, nor choose you because you were greater in number than any of the people since you were the fewest of all peoples. But because the Lord loved you," There's that theme picking up from our previous teachings, "because the Lord loved you and kept the oath." Some of you would remember something called Promise Keepers. God is the original promise keeper. "He kept the oath which he swore to your forefathers." That means He made promises to the forefathers, He swore an oath, and He's kept it. "The Lord brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery. From the hand of Pharaoh, King of Egypt." And now check out this command that He's giving, "Know therefore," pay attention, acknowledge this, not just intellectually, but even down into your soul. "Know therefore, because of the promise keeping." Because that's what He was just talking about previously in the Scripture, because of all this oath. So that's what the "therefore" is therefore, "Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God." Now check this out, "the faithful God." It's like if you were to walk into God's office and there was a little name plaque there on His desk, it would say, "God," comma, "the faithful God," God through

His own Scripture, is letting us know, "This is My job title, this is My position. What do you need to know about Me? I am God, the faithful God." And what does God base this job title on? This assertion? Where does that come from? It comes from the fact that He fulfilled the oath, He kept the promise. And so now He's saying, do you want to look at my resume? The creator of the universe, the great God of covenant who makes a covenant with His creation? Isn't that crazy? The one who created everything, comes down to these little human beings who are full of sin and rebellion and makes an agreement with them. And He's obligated Himself in some of that agreement. I've got to tell you, that's just incredible. The scope of it is breathtaking. And what was that? What was the oath even based on? He said it wasn't because you were so great. Wasn't because you were the biggest or the smartest or any number of things. He said it's because I love you. You know, I guess I'm Gen Z, and so part of this is going to leak out right now. I just want to say, "Dude, dude, can you believe it? Can you believe that we have a God like this?" But listen to what I just said. Do you believe that we have a God? This is the entryway to all the promises. So you've really got to believe it so that it can come to pass for you.

"Know therefore, that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God." And He goes on to describe what a faithful God does. Check it out. "Who keeps His covenant and His faithfulness," now check this out, just in

case you think God gets tired, "He keeps His faithfulness to a thousand generations, for those who love Him and keep His commandments." Now, I don't know if you felt the other shoe drop there. Because when we come into covenant with God, there are requirements on both sides. So not only is He the God who keeps faithfulness to a thousand generations, but it's for those who love Him and keep His commandments. That sounds like Romans 8:28 to me, "That God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose." That's when you really know something is true. Throughout the Bible, it is said both Old Testament, New Testament, it shows us the character of our God and that God is, "The people I love, I've got their back. I'm making promises they did not even ask me to make, and I will fulfill them to a thousand generations, to those who love me and keep my commandments." Let me talk to you for a minute, about the certainty of God's words of promise in Isaiah 55:11. Check out this verse, it is incredible. "So shall my word be that goes out from My mouth, it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Now, how many of you have ever said something, and then didn't end up doing it? Oh, yeah. I'm going to be there early for this appointment, and you missed the appointment? Aw, yeah. I'm really going to get out there and mow the yard, and you didn't. There are all kinds of ways that you and I are not as consistent as our God. And

that's a problem sometimes when we try to map our humanity on to God Himself and make Him as wishy washy as you and I can be. He said, "Look, when words come out of my mouth, they go out with purpose, on purpose, and they cannot fail. They will absolutely accomplish the purpose for which they were sent. Those words," the Father says, "never return to Me without the product and the success for which I sent them." These are the Scriptures, brothers and sisters, that you and I are reading, that we are ingesting. They are becoming a life and breath to us. They are becoming the seed ground for a harvest of fulfilled promises, if we will believe that when God says something, that that's what's going to happen.

In Numbers 23:19, this is a very interesting contrast as well. Look at it with me. "God is not a man." Message received. "God is not a man." And now He's going to tell us what man is like, "that He should lie. Nor is He a son of man." Just another way to say man that He should change His mind. You see what God's doing here? He's like, "I'm not like you people." As a matter of fact, if you look back on Isaiah 55 in the context of that scripture, you're going to find one where God says, "For your thoughts are not My thoughts and your ways are not My ways." So in other words, God is saying we don't even think alike. And because we don't think alike, we don't do alike. God over here in Numbers 23:19 is telling us, "Look, you guys are wishy washy. You guys change your mind on stuff and sometimes you even lie about it. I

am not like that. I'm not like, what? I don't change my mind. When I've said something, I'm not calling it back." You see, when God speaks a word, it's not like He thinks about it after he said and goes, "Oh, I overstated that. Oh, maybe that's a little more than I want to to commit to." He is all powerful. He is all knowing. He knows the end from the beginning, nothing is getting outside of His purview. It's not as if he leaned over to the Holy Spirit and said, "Oh, I wish I hadn't said that, because now I got to..." No, no, no, no, no. There's not even such a thing in God's mind as forethought. It is like thinking ahead of time. He just speaks it out of the abundance of the love of His heart, and it will accomplish that purpose. And check out how He continues here in this verse in the middle of 19. "Has He said it, and will He not do it?" This is what we call a rhetorical question. He's not actually looking for an answer. The answer is in this, "Has God said it and will He not do it, or has he spoken it and will He not fulfill it?" The obvious answer is, well, "Of course not. What He says He will do." And what's interesting here is that this is in the context of Balam, and there's a king who's wanting Balam to pronounce judgment as a prophet against the children of Israel, and Balam's like, "No, no, no. If God has blessed something, then I can't reverse it." And that's exactly what he says here in verse 20, "Behold, I received a command to bless. He has blessed and I cannot revoke it because what God said is true and He doesn't change his mind.".

You know, Jesus had a lot to tell us about this with words like "ask, seek, knock," and results of those things. In Matthew, chapter seven, verse seven, it says, Jesus speaking, "Ask and it will be given to you." Now, listen, you might have been in a lot of church settings, maybe you're new to it, but this is not generally the way that we present God to people, even though it's right here in Scripture. It's almost as if because of the way we approach in faith, it's asking, you know, God might do it if it His will, He might give it to you. Jesus did not give us that option. Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you." Well, do you think that seems like an overstatement? Check this out, "Seek, and you will find." Period. Just, that's the way it is. How about this one? "Knock, and it will be opened." "Well, Jesus, don't you understand that sometimes people knock and the door's not open, and sometimes people are looking for something?" If Jesus wanted to make any caveat, if He wanted to make any way for Him to wiggle out of it, don't you think He would have? Don't you think that if the New Testament writers were such brilliant theologians and they knew that God doesn't really do it like this, that they might have modified it? No, they let the words of Jesus just stand there. Remember what I said about Psalm 119:89? "Forever, oh, Lord, Your word is settled in heaven." It's trying to be settled in our hearts. Jesus is trying to settle the word in our hearts right here, by telling us, "If you ask, you will receive. Looking for something? You seek, and you're

going to find it. Knock, and that door will be opened." And as if that wasn't enough, look at verse eight, "For every one who asks receives." You know, I'm chuckling a little bit here because in the flesh, this is like, crazy talk. "Everyone who asks receives." Jesus, don't You understand that sometimes people ask and they don't receive? Jesus did not even give that option, for "Everyone who asked receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, it will be opened.". Notice how He continues in the Scripture, "Or what person is there among you, when his son asks for a loaf of bread will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish or give him a snake? Will he will he not give him a snake? So if you, despite being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father, who is in heaven, give good gifts to those who ask Him?" Do you see how both God the Father and God the Son speak differently than we do about them?

There's a scripture, I believe it's in Malachi where God says, "Your words about me have been harsh." How are we talking about God? Are we talking about God that He is always faithful? That He is God, the faithful God? Even when I may not understand something, or something seems delayed or whatever, or I'm in the middle of a big storm. God is always faithful. God is always faithful. God is always faithful. God the Father and God the Son have a different version of Themselves than many Christians do today. They say "When you ask Us, bam! Going

to happen! When you seek Us out, when you ask Us to provide, we're going to provide." They're trying to convince us. Do you see it all throughout these scriptures, trying to convince us? One day Jesus was telling the people that they shouldn't worry like people with no covenant worry. Things like food and clothing and stuff that you and I worry about on a daily or weekly basis and listen to what He says in Luke 12:31-32, "Instead seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Fear not little flock." Don't you love the tenderness of Jesus right there? "Fear not little flock. For it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." You know, I suppose that many Christians spend a lot of their time praying for the kinds of needs that Jesus said, "If you just seek the Kingdom of God, it's your father's good pleasure to give you everything that you need." You know why the kingdom of God has no lack? It doesn't. There's nothing lacking in the Kingdom of God. So, for seeking the Kingdom of God, we can be assured there will be no lack. And listen to the Father's good pleasure here again, a loving God has made promises to people and says, "I'm God, the faithful God, and I'm going to take care of your needs. You seek me, and you won't have to worry about clothing, you won't have to worry about food. You won't have to worry about anything." Trust in your good Father, even right now. It is His pleasure to give us, to give you the kingdom, and in that kingdom, there's no lack. Psalm 65:11 says that "His paths drip with abundance." Doesn't that sound like a kingdom you want to be in,

with a God who responds to the asking, the seeking, and the knocking of the people who love Him? So do I. I'll see you in the next session.