

GOD IS FAITHFUL

Sunday, November 26, 2023

GOD: INTRODUCTION

1. The more we learn about who God is, the more we realize how amazing He is. God is one big “WOW” after another!

ONE SOURCE – THE BIBLE

1. In this series, we’ve gone to one source to learn about who God is and what He’s like: The Bible. God’s word.
 - a. You might have heard what God is like from a person: Pastor, teacher, family member, coworker, neighbor, someone at school, TV, internet, social media, celebrity, well-known religious person, well-known atheist...
 - b. Only when we go to the Bible, the book God wrote about Himself – God’s only authorized autobiography – do we get the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

BIBLICAL PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO KNOW HIM

1. There were many people in the Bible who had a passion for knowing God. One of them was the Apostle Paul, who wrote...

Philippians 3:10 NIV

I want to know Christ...

2. The OT prophet Jeremiah wrote about knowing God; God spoke through Jeremiah...

Jeremiah 24:7 NKJV

I will give them a heart to know Me...

3. Jesus prayed a prayer about us, His followers, knowing the Father and the Son...

John 17:3 NKJV

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

NOT A LUKEWARM PURSUIT

Revelation 3:15-16 NLT

¹⁵ I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! ¹⁶ But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!

1. When Jesus said, "I want you hot or cold" He was saying: "I want you to be extreme."
 - a. If God is real, and if all that the Bible says about God is real, it seems we would want to get in or get out...get WAY in, or get WAY out! Let's get WAY IN!!

GOD IS FAITHFUL

1. Other words that would describe our Faithful God: Dependable; reliable; loyal; steadfast; constant; trustworthy.

1 Corinthians 1:9 ESV

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

1 Thessalonians 5:24 NKJV

He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 NIV

...the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

Hebrews 10:23 ESV

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

2 Chronicles 5:13 NLT

The trumpeters and singers performed together in unison to praise and give thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, they raised their voices and praised the LORD with these words: "He is good! His faithful love endures forever!"

2. You may see two attributes of God listed here: He is good and He is love. But there's a 3rd attribute: "...His FAITHFUL love endures forever!"
 - a. If we know God is good...but only some of time; Or God is loving...most of the time – that brings us a very limited understanding of God.

- b. 100% of the time, without exception, God will be faithful in all the good things He has promised.

1 John 1:9 NKJV

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- 3. In His faithfulness He forgives, He loves, He gives grace.
- 4. Think of the most faithful person you know...then realize God is on a level that no person can come close to approaching.
 - a. Ex: If some people are at a zero on the faithfulness scale, and another person who is the most faithful person you know is at a 99 on the scale...God is like at 10 trillion! There's no comparison between any person and God when it comes to faithfulness.

2 Timothy 2:13 NLT

If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful...

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE

- 1. God showed Himself faithful to NOAH.
 - a. God said, "Build a very large boat, it's going to rain." Noah said, "I don't know what rain is, but I'll trust my God."
 - b. GOD IS FAITHFUL! And God's word to Noah was fulfilled.
- 2. God showed Himself faithful to ABRAHAM & SARAH.
 - a. God said, "You don't have any kids and you're way too old to have any...but you're going to have them anyway. I'll make sure of it."
 - b. Abraham & Sarah believed God...mostly!
 - 1. At different times both of them laughed when God said they'd have children.
 - 2. At one point Abraham started doubting and forgot about God's faithfulness. Abraham made a plan B and tried to fulfill God's plan on his own. That didn't work.

3. GOD IS FAITHFUL! God fulfilled all that He promised to them.

3. God showed Himself faithful to JOSEPH.

- a. Joseph was left for dead, sold into slavery, lied about and accused of a crime he didn't commit, ended up in prison.
- b. GOD IS FAITHFUL! Joseph trusted in God's faithfulness. In the end, God blessed him greatly and brought him to a place that only God could bring him to.

4. God showed Himself faithful to MOSES.

- a. Moses, the guy who couldn't talk well, who had huge self-doubts, didn't think God could use him.
- b. GOD IS FAITHFUL! God ended up using Moses to change many lives, and literally change the history of mankind.

5. God showed Himself faithful to GIDEON.

- a. Gideon was a scared, insecure guy who didn't think God could do anything in his life.
- b. GOD IS FAITHFUL! He used Gideon to bring freedom to many people.

6. God showed Himself faithful to RUTH.

- a. Things were going well for Ruth. Then her husband died and other family members died. Now she's a widow, struggling, poor, no social standing.
 - 1. Ruth got out her picket sign and protested that life isn't fair! No, she didn't do that. She trusted God.
- b. GOD IS FAITHFUL! He came through in a life-changing way for her.

7. God showed Himself faithful to DAVID.

- a. God made a promise to David. Many times it seemed like what God promised was not going to take place, including when David made horrific choices, totally contrary to what God wanted.
- b. GOD IS FAITHFUL! He fulfilled all that He promised to David.

8. God showed Himself faithful to JOB.

- a. Job had lost everything. People around him said, “Give up! You’re done!” But Job chose to trust God, and guess what...
- b. GOD IS FAITHFUL! God restored to Job all that he had lost, and so much more.

9. God showed Himself faithful to PETER.

- a. Peter first deserted Jesus, and then denied he even knew Jesus.
- b. GOD IS FAITHFUL! Jesus came to Peter after His resurrection, and in a very personal way let Peter know He was still committed to His work in Peter.
- c. God is so committed to His work in you. He isn’t looking at how you’ve let Him down – your level of faithfulness – He’s responding to you in His level of faithfulness.

10. God showed Himself faithful to PAUL.

- a. As he followed God’s will, Paul faced difficulty after difficulty. He was abused and attacked in ways that were far beyond anything any of us have face.
- b. GOD IS FAITHFUL! Many of the scriptures we read earlier that spoke of God’s faithfulness were written by Paul.
- c. At one point in his letters, Paul wrote about the many challenges he had faced, then he ended with: “...out of them all the Lord delivered me.”

11. God showed Himself faithful to JESUS.

- a. In all that Jesus went through, all that He faced, every temptation, accusation, abuse, trial, God was faithful. We see the Father’s faithfulness to His Son – Jesus – all throughout His life...until...
 - 1. Jesus was on the cross, near death. At that point Jesus cried out: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”
 - 2. At that moment, for the only time in history, the Father turned His back on someone who was calling out to Him for help.

3. There was one reason why that eternity-changing event took place: because GOD IS FAITHFUL! The Father knew – and Jesus knew – that in order for God to be faithful to all of us, our relationship with Him had to be restored.
 - a. The Father & Son knew that only by Jesus taking on our sin, and paying the sacrifice for our sin, would we have the relationship we needed to have with God.
4. When Jesus spoke those words – “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” – He knew the answer to the question.
 - a. Jesus knew that He had just taken on all the sin of mankind, and the Father had to turn away from Him. God and sin cannot abide together.
 - b. But the pain of separation from God was so great, He was crying out in anguish.
 - c. Because the Father turn His back on His Son, we can know that Father will never turn His back on us. He will always be Faithful.

Romans 3:4 NKJV

...let God be true but every man a liar...

1. The truth about God is not found in our experiences; it is found in in the truth of God, the Bible.

John 17:17

...Your word is truth.

Revelation 19:11 NKJV

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful...

1. John sees Jesus in all His glory, honor & magnificence, and John doesn't first write that Jesus is called Love or Truth or Power or Might...He's called Faithful!!
2. The Lord is faithful! His is a faithfulness unlike any other. Only He can attain His level of faithfulness. It never changes, it lasts forever, we can count on Him. Thank God for His faithfulness!