



DAY 3

SUSIE PALA

Hello everyone. I'm so glad to be sharing this devotional with you today. This week we are focusing on the faithfulness of God, and oh how thankful we are for it!

It is ultimately His faithfulness that allows His will to manifest on the earth, gives us safety and deliverance from evil, and brings about the fulfillment of His promises to us. His faithfulness is sure.

Because of His love for us, He lets us in on His good plans for our lives and our world, but it is His faithfulness that assures us these plans will come to pass. As much as He loves us, if He was not always and forever faithful, how could we trust Him? Truly there would be no hope.

Let's look at Psalm 89 that was written by Ethan the Ezrahite, who was known for his wisdom. He may have written many Psalms, but this is the one and only to make it into the Bible. The sub-heading of Psalm 89, and other Psalms of lament, is translated as, "for instruction" or "to understand, to be prudent, give attention to, teach, and to give insight".

Psalms of lament are reminders that there are lessons to be learned in our sufferings. After all, many of us first entered into our relationship with the Lord during a time of suffering, through which we finally gave up living life our own way and said, "God, if You're real, help me!" He revealed Himself and began to heal and transform us from the inside, and we began our journey of understanding and insight. We desired to seek truth, and we found it in Jesus.

I love reading the Psalms in The Passion Translation. Let's see what we can learn from Psalm 89, which declares the faithfulness of God in several verses. Here are some of the declarations:

**"This forever-song I sing of the gentle love of God! Young and old alike will hear about Your faithful, steadfast love- never failing! Here's my chorus: 'Your mercy grows through the ages. Your faithfulness is firm, rising up to the skies.'"
(Psalm 89:1-2 TPT)**

“So awesome are You, O Yahweh, Lord God of Angel Armies! Where could we find anyone as glorious as You? Your faithfulness shines all around You!” (Psalm 89:8 TPT)

And the Lord says of King David, “Because I love him and treasure him, My faithfulness will always protect him.” (Psalm 89:24 TPT)

Psalm 89:30–35 (TPT) says, “But if his children turn from Me and forsake My words, refusing to walk in My truth, renouncing and violating My laws, then I will surely punish them for their sins with My stern discipline until they regret it. But I will never, no never, lift My faithful love from off their lives. My kindness will prevail and I will never disown them. How could I revoke My covenant of love that I promised David? For I have given him My word, My holy, irrevocable word. How could I lie to My loving servant David?”

He is faithful because of His covenant.

We’re grateful for the times we can easily declare Psalm 89:16 (TPT) that says, “We can do nothing but leap for joy all day long, for we know who You are and what You do, and You’ve exalted us on high.”

But then, in between seasons of our beautiful adoration of the Lord, our joyful shouts and amazing worship, there are times when painful or tragic events occur, we feel afraid, discouraged or just plain weary, and the Lord seems somehow delayed. We may or may not say it aloud, but our laments (the nice word for complaints) begin to sound like the Psalmist Ethan when he wrote, “Why have You rejected me?” (Psalm 89:38), “You’re no longer helping me in this battle” (Psalm 89:43), and “How long will You hide your love from me? Have You left me for good? How long will Your anger continue to burn against me?” (Psalm 89:46). And my personal favorite is verse Psalm 89:47, “Is this all You’ve created us for? For nothing but this?” (TPT)

In our suffering, the Lord takes the opportunity to sanctify us. There is nothing like some difficulty to show us what’s on the inside of us. What kind of fruit do we have? Do we really trust Him? Have we learned not to worry? How long will we sulk or complain? I personally appreciate that the Lord has been gracious with my grumbling for as long as He has.

He stays in fellowship with us. In First Corinthians 1:9 in the Amplified Bible it says, “God is faithful [He is reliable, trustworthy and ever true to His promise – He can be depended on], and through Him you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” Staying in fellowship with Him allows for that pruning we need for our transformation. It becomes impossible to become bitter and unbelieving when we stay connected to the Vine (see John 15:2–4).

First Thessalonians 5:23–24 says, “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.” (NKJV)

Similar to many other Psalms, Psalm 89 takes a sharp turn from lamentation to words of faith at the very end. The Psalmist Ethan asks the Lord where His love and kindness has gone. It seems God has forgotten His covenant. God doesn’t even see what they are going through (see Psalm 89:49–51). Then suddenly in verse 52 in The Passion Translation it states, “Nevertheless, blessed be our God forever and ever. Amen. Faithful is our King!” How abrupt this is! Did Ethan suddenly run out of parchment? Or did he decide, “Enough of my whining! Let’s get back to the reality of God’s faithfulness. THIS is the FINAL WORD!”

Sometimes we need a brother or sister in Christ to speak words of life that can help us make that shift back to faith within literally one minute. With a real friend, we can express our lament and compare laments about our situations, and then speak scripture to one another, declaring the promises God has spoken and share some testimonies. As we focus on Him, our faith increases and we are again absolutely assured of His faithfulness, because yes, of course He is worthy of our trust.

My husband and I recently were in distress over something we’ve been praying about for a long time. We believed God will do what He said He will do, but the situation had only worsened. After one particularly sleepless night for both of us, we sat at the breakfast table early the next morning holding our coffees, silently nodding to one another as if to say, “Yup, this is bad, but the Lord sees us.” After a nice, long sip of coffee, I proposed we make blueberry pancakes (his favorite). With a loud “clink!” of his coffee cup on the table he enthusiastically declared, “YES! Let’s CELEBRATE!” And just like that, the celebration of our victory began!

The Bible says, “Let us seize and hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is reliable and trustworthy and faithful [to His word].” (Hebrews 10:23 AMP) He has not left us. He sees us. He is doing a work in us. Through these difficult seasons, He is building up our spirit-man. Our spiritual muscles are going through such resistance training. We are becoming super fit! He is building our character as we wait on His timing, and we are people with increasing faith. We will persevere, and we will keep our gaze towards our Father. This is the final word: Faithful is our King!

Let's Pray. Father, You are the faithful God who keeps His covenant of love to us, and to our generations to come, because we love You and keep Your commandments. We thank You for this covenant of love. You strengthen our spirits as we fast, and You heal our bodies. Your love and faithfulness always protect us from the evil one. Though the days we are living in have many evils, through Your mercies we are not consumed because Your compassion towards us never fails. Your mercies are new every morning; so great is Your faithfulness! You have given us wonderful promises that we will be part of what You are doing in our time, and we know You to be reliable and true to Your word. You alone are completely trustworthy. I pray that You would bless every person hearing this devotional today with a spiritual family that knows how to speak the truth of Your love and faithfulness to them, lifting them up into a celebration of Your faithful love. We celebrate who You are and what You are doing. We celebrate our ultimate victory. We thank You in advance for the fulfillment of all Your promises. We trust You, Lord. You alone are worthy of all our praise. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.